Society for Human Rights & Prisoners' Aid

SERVING HUMANITY - PROTECTING RIGHTS - BUILDING PEACE



Monthly NEWSLETTER

November 2025

Violence Against Women is a Violation of Human Rights



16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

Against Gender-Based Violence

#NoExcuse for Online Abuse

SHARP's Concerns on the Forced Return of Afghan Refugees

The ongoing deportation of Afghan refugees has created a complex humanitarian and protection crisis on both sides of the border. In the current tense political climate between Pakistan and Afghanistan, Afghan refugees who have lived in Pakistan peacefully for decades have become extremely vulnerable group. Many are being compelled to return not by choice but due to strict enforcement measures, leaving behind what had become their home and restarting life from zero in a country they left more than forty years ago. During this period, Afghanistan has endured continuous instability, conflict, and economic collapse, making reintegration an immense challenge for both the Afghan authorities and the international community.

Recent incidents highlight the severity of the situation wherein 1.8 million refugees deported in two years. On 25 November, a group of approximately 450 refugees mostly women and children who were evicted by landlords following official instructions and forced to camp in a public park under extremely difficult conditions. They were later detained by LEAs and deported by the same evening. One woman, Fatima, shared a desperate appeal on social media from the holding center, expressing fear of persecution upon return. Despite these concerns, deportations continued under the government directives.

This raises critical questions about monitoring, safety and protection of forcibly deported returnees inside Afghanistan. Reports reaching SHARP indicate harassment, intimidation, and human rights violations against returnees. There is currently no structured mechanism to document these grievances, verify incidents, or provide any form of sustained protection oversight. This vacuum leaves returnees exposed and without a voice.

Two years ago, SHARP- Afghanistan had proposed the establishment of a dedicated Protection and Reintegration Support Center inside Afghanistan to monitor the situation of returnees, document rights violations, provide psychosocial support, and coordinate referrals with service providers. Unfortunately, the proposal did not receive the required attention at that time. Today, as fears expressed by refugees prior to deportation become a reality, this need is more urgent than ever.

SHARP calls upon all relevant stakeholders including UN agencies, international partners, and humanitarian organizations to urgently support the establishment of well-resourced Protection and Reintegration Centers in Kabul, Jalalabad, and Kandahar.

These centers should focus on:

- Registration of grievances and protection incidents, ensuring returnees have a channel to register their concerns
- Independent monitoring of human rights violations against deported families
- Robust referral pathways for health, shelter, legal, livelihood, and psychosocial support
- Assistance with reintegration, especially as most returnees receive no financial or social support upon arrival
- Preventing cycles of re-migration, which expose families to further exploitation and harm

In the absence of such mechanisms, thousands of vulnerable women, children, and men will remain at risk, and many may attempt to return to Pakistan irregularly facing even greater dangers. Proactive investment now will not only uphold humanitarian principles but also contribute to long-term regional stability and protection of human life and dignity.

SHARP remains committed to advocating for the rights of migrants/refugees and standing with them at every critical moment.

SHARP Marks 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

"Creating Safer Digital Spaces"







SHARP launched the global 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence at its Islamabad Head Office, reaffirming its commitment to fostering safer, respectful, and inclusive digital environments for women and girls.

This year's theme, UNiTE to End Digital Violence Against All Women and Girls, emphasizes the urgent need to combat online harassment, cyberstalking, non-consensual image sharing, and other harmful digital behaviors affecting millions worldwide.

The interactive session, facilitated by Project Director Mr. Aatif Afzal, Media & Communications Coordinator Ms. Hina Saleem, Psychosocial Counsellor Ms. Maham Raja, and Protection Counsellor Ms. Saman Aman, engaged staff with real-life scenarios drawn from common communication channels, including WhatsApp and Facebook. Participants explored practical strategies to recognize, respond to, and prevent digital abuse, strengthening their awareness of online safety and responsible digital conduct.

The session not only reinforced SHARP's commitment to the UNiTE campaign but also provided a replicable model for promoting safer digital spaces across all SHARP offices, empowering staff to champion digital safety in their communities.













Protecting Yourself: What You Can Do

Secure your accounts: Use strong passwords and enable two-step verification to prevent unauthorized access.

Don't engage with a blackmailer: Avoid responding, arguing, or sending money—engagement usually escalates the abuse.

Keep evidence: Save screenshots, messages, and links in a secure folder; this is crucial for reporting.

Report immediately: Use platform reporting tools and contact your local cybercrime unit, FIA or helpline.

Seek support: Speak to someone you trust—no one should face digital

Legal Protections in Pakistan

Pakistan has several laws addressing gender-based and digital violence:

Protection Against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act (2010) – Safeguards women from workplace harassment.

Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act (2012) – Provides protection for women, children, and vulnerable individuals.

Pakistan Penal Code (PPC):
- Sections 375 & 376 – Rape and penalties
- Section 509 – Sexual harassment
- Section 498-B – Forced marriages

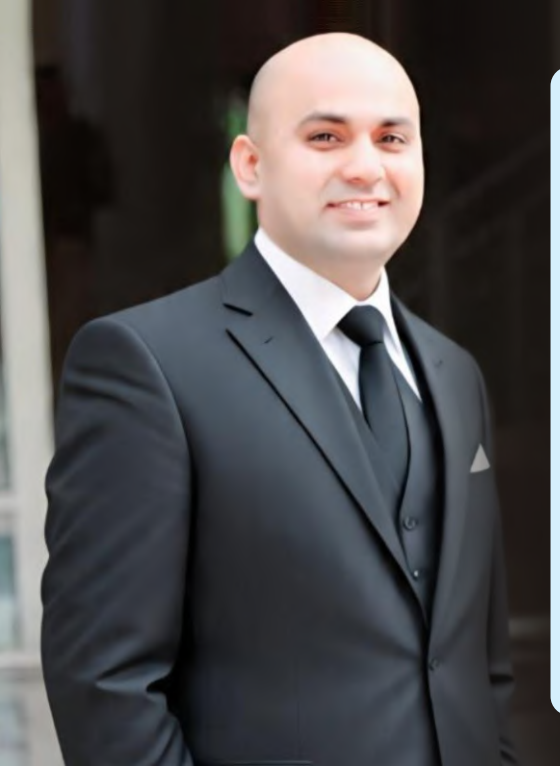
Acid Control and Acid Crime Prevention Act (2011) / PPC 336-A & B – Strict penalties for acid-related violence

Anti-Rape (Investigation and Trial) Act (2021) – Fast-track justice for sexual violence survivors

Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA 2016):
- Section 18 – Online defamation
- Section 19 – Cyber harassment and non-consensual content
- Section 21 – Cyber stalking
- Additional provisions address hacking, identity theft, and misuse of private data.

“Penalties include up to 7 years' imprisonment and/or heavy fines.”





SHARP proudly announces the nomination of our CEO, Mr. Muhammad Mudassar Javed, by ICVA as a National NGO Representative to the IASC Humanitarian Working Group (HWG). This recognition reflects SHARP's leadership in humanitarian action, refugee protection, and migration governance in Pakistan. Through this platform, Mr. Mudassar will contribute to shaping global humanitarian policies, advancing localization, strengthening civil society representation, and fostering collaboration with UN agencies, NGOs, and international partners.

Congratulations to Mr. Mudassar on this remarkable achievement. SHARP remains steadfast in its commitment to principled humanitarian action and the protection of vulnerable communities at national, regional, and global levels.

SHARP Celebrates 26 Years of Partnership with UNHCR
A Journey of Service, Trust, and Shared Commitment



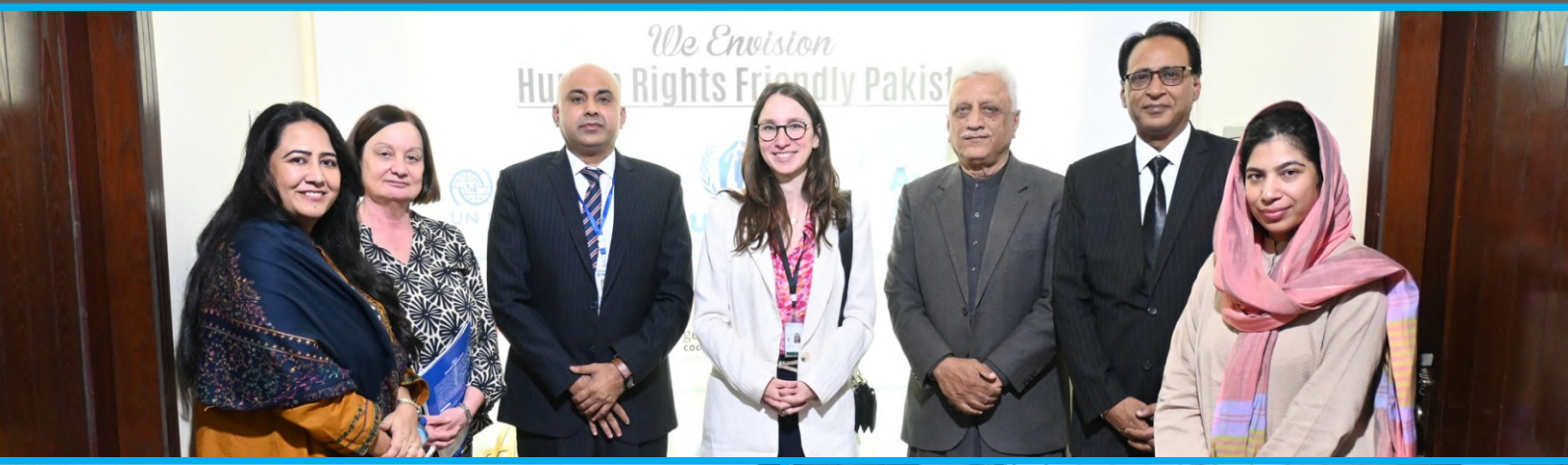
This November marks 26 years of SHARP-Pakistan's enduring partnership with UNHCR—a journey defined by resilience, integrity, and unwavering dedication to refugee protection. Through evolving humanitarian challenges, our commitment to serving with professionalism, compassion, and accountability has remained steadfast. As we celebrate this milestone, we also reflect with pride on last year's 25-year celebrations—honoring not only the impact of our partnership but also the tireless dedication of SHARP's teams who make this mission possible every day.















SHARP had the honor of hosting Ms. Violetta Kuzmova-Anand, First Secretary, and Ms. Petra Schmidt, Program Officer from the Embassy of Germany in Islamabad. They were welcomed by SHARP's leadership, including Chairman Mr. Liaqat Banori, CEO Mr. Mudassar Javed, Project Director Mr. Aatif Afzal, and team members.

The delegation received an overview of SHARP's mission, programs, and operational framework, followed by a visit to the Reception Desk Center (RDC) to observe frontline refugee services. Discussions focused on the deportation situation, border challenges, gaps in legal pathways, and SHARP's long-standing efforts to strengthen awareness and capacities on human and refugee rights.

During the meeting, Mr. Liaqat Banori discussed the ongoing deportation situation, border challenges, and lack of legal pathways for repatriation. He reaffirmed SHARP's 26-year commitment to raising awareness and building capacity on human and refugee rights among law enforcement, the judiciary, and government institutions, and emphasized women's empowerment within the legal sector.

The meeting also highlighted SHARP's work on youth engagement, prevention of child trafficking, and women's empowerment within both organizational and legal sectors. The delegation appreciated SHARP's contributions to legal aid, humanitarian services, and inclusive program approaches. Both sides expressed interest in continued collaboration to advance human rights, protection mechanisms, and support for vulnerable communities.

SHARP and the EU held an inaugural meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's prison officials to discuss their upcoming joint intervention. The session brought together Ms. Una Kelly, First Secretary (Rule of Law), EU Delegation to Pakistan; Mr. Muhammad c, Inspector General of Prisons; and Mr. Amin Shoaib, DIG Prisons. SHARP was represented by CEO Mr. Mudassar Javed, Project Director Ms. Memoona Batool, and Manager Legal Mr. Manzoor Ali.



The discussion centered on the upcoming project, Enhancing Access to Justice and Protection for Vulnerable Detainees in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, focusing on legal aid, protection mechanisms, and improved access to justice. Both sides also explored collaborative capacity-building initiatives, rights-based interventions, and strengthened support systems for detainee welfare.







SHARP, under the protection project, conducted two impactful training sessions at the Capital Police College, Islamabad. These sessions focused on enhancing the capacity of Police and Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) officials on National and International Human Rights Frameworks.

Facilitated by Ms. Aneela Sarfaraz (Senior Legal Protection Expert) and Mr. Muhammad Tariq (Protection Lawyer), the trainings equipped participants with essential knowledge and practical insights to support a more rights-sensitive approach in law enforcement.

Project Director Mr. Aatif Afzal expressed gratitude to the Police Department for their active engagement, reaffirming SHARP's commitment to continued collaboration and capacity building. The Chief Guest, Mr. Malik Jamil Zafar, DIG Law & Order and Training/Commandant Capital Police College, commended SHARP's efforts and acknowledged its consistent support. In his closing remarks, Mr. Shamsul Haq Durrani, Director Special Initiative, appreciated the initiative and underscored the need for ongoing partnership.

A dedicated session with CTD Islamabad enabled participants to share real field experiences and challenges in handling vulnerable groups, reinforcing the importance of integrating human rights standards in all operations. To honor collaboration, shields of recognition were exchanged between SHARP, the Capital Police College, and CTD Islamabad, marking a strong and enduring partnership for justice and protection.

Driving impactful social change through innovative communication, SHARP CEO Mr. Mudassar Javed participated in a three-day Social and Behavioral Change Communication (SBCC) training organized by IOM Pakistan in Murree. The interactive sessions covered storytelling, stakeholder mapping, behavior change models, empathy mapping, intervention design, and campaign development using the EAST Model and Hero's Journey approach. Hands-on activities, including role plays, prototyping labs, and reflection circles, equipped participants with practical tools to design human-centered communication strategies. Mr. Mudassar highlighted the value of the training in enhancing SHARP's efforts to raise awareness, foster empathy, and drive positive change. The program concluded with a certificate ceremony, reinforcing a shared commitment to transformative communication.









SHARP successfully hosted a two-day consultative workshop with Public Prosecutors under the UNHCR Protection Project, enhancing coordination and understanding of legal and protection frameworks for displaced Afghan nationals. The workshop reinforced SHARP and UNHCR's mandates, human rights principles, the Foreigners Act, and prosecutorial duties, while updating the stakeholder directory to improve collaboration and rights-based access to justice. Opening remarks by Mr. Ibad ur Rehman (Director Monitoring Prosecution KP) highlighted SHARP's dedication to refugee rights.

Technical sessions were led by SHARP and UNHCR experts, including Ms. Memoona Batool Khan, Mr. Manzoor Ali, Mr. Sahibzada Younis, Mr. Jehanzeb Khan, Mr. Asad Khan Afridi, and Prof. Nadeem Fareed. In his closing, CEO Mr. Mudassar Javed emphasized the importance of legal partnerships to ensure fair, rights-based protection. The workshop concluded with a shared commitment to strengthen legal support, prosecutorial coordination, and timely access to justice for displaced communities.









SHARP continues to strengthen its collaboration with UNODC in combating organized crime. Ms. Arooj Un Nissa, SHARP Team Lead Lahore, participated in the National Strategy Against Organized Crimes conference in Punjab, engaging with key stakeholders. Discussions cantered on improving coordination, response mechanisms, and collective action to tackle emerging challenges. SHARP remains committed to supporting national efforts and promoting a safer, more resilient society.



SHARP CEO, Mr. Mudassar Javed, and the program team met with Ms. Kehkashan Jibran, Impact Analyst at Relative Impact Global, to explore potential collaboration for enhancing impact management and measurement.

The discussion focused on innovative tools and approaches to improve social, economic, and environmental outcomes. This exploratory engagement underscores a shared commitment to strengthening impact assessment and reporting frameworks.

Under the Protection Project in Attock, SHARP's Protection Community Mobilizer team successfully conducted two Community-Based Committee (CBC) formation meetings with displaced Afghan men and women in People's Colony. The sessions, led by Mujahid Din and Irum Gul, introduced SHARP's mandate, the purpose of CBCs, and the role of Community Outreach Volunteers (COVs) under IFRP-III. Mr. Zahid Usman and Ms. Mashal discussed the challenges faced by displaced Afghan nationals and highlighted the importance of the referral mechanism. These newly formed CBCs will act as vital links between SHARP and the community, enhancing coordination, support, and protection for vulnerable populations.





SHARP convened a coordination meeting at its Karachi office with Mr. Adeel Ahmed, newly appointed Protection Field Coordinator, and Ms. Jamal Khatoon, Sr. Program Assistant from the donor agency, joined by Ms. Quratulain (RDC In-charge) and Mr. Ilam Uddin (Area Coordinator, SHARP–IOM Karachi).

The discussion centered on enhancing collaboration, streamlining referral mechanisms, and addressing asylum registration under the UNHCR mandate, while reviewing SHARP's protection interventions, ongoing challenges, and strategies to strengthen support for asylum seekers and refugees.



SHARP continues to advance youth engagement and academic partnerships to foster community development and informed leadership. Advocate Qurat-ul-Ain, In-charge RDC Karachi, recently visited the Department of Chemical Engineering at the University of Karachi and met with Chairperson Prof. Dr. Shagufta Ishtiyaque. The discussion highlighted SHARP's mandate, ongoing initiatives, and its focus on climate resilience and community awareness. Advocate Qurat-ul-Ain also engaged female students through SHARP's Youth Awareness Sessions on empowerment, safety, and academic development. The visit strengthened academic linkages and laid the groundwork for joint awareness activities, youth-led environmental initiatives, and enhanced collaboration for a more informed, climate-resilient society.



Empowering refugee youth to build sustainable futures, SHARP, in collaboration with the Mafkoora Research & Development Organization and with support from UNHCR, successfully conducted an outreach session in Peshawar under the Talent Beyond Boundaries (TBB) program. This initiative aimed to enhance the skills and readiness of youth from refugee communities for international employment and connect them with global opportunities.

The event brought together 60 male and female participants, providing practical guidance on international job pathways, CV development, interview preparation, and navigating the global job market. Opening remarks were delivered by Nadeem Ahmad (Livelihood Assistant) and Ms. Naheed (Interpreter) from SHARP, followed by a warm welcome from Mr. Hayat Roghani, Director of Mafkoora.

Facilitated by Ms. Rukhsana Jaffar, Senior Livelihood Assistant from SHARP Islamabad, and observed by Ms. Frida Olofsson, Resettlement Expert at UNHCR, the session underscored SHARP's ongoing dedication to creating meaningful livelihood opportunities and empowering refugee communities toward self-reliance and sustainable futures.