



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

SINDH BAR COUNCIL

and

SOCIETY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS & PRISONERS' AID (SHARP)

On Collaboration for Legal Capacity Building, Professional Development and Access to Justice

This Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as the "MOU") is made and entered into at Karachi on this 01st day of October, 2026 (the "Effective Date"), by and between:

Society for Human Rights & Prisoners' Aid (SHARP), a registered non-governmental humanitarian and human rights organization, having its head office at Sector I-11/3, Islamabad, and operational offices across Pakistan (hereinafter referred to as "SHARP", which expression shall, where the context so admits, include its successors and permitted assigns) of the ONE PART;

AND

The Sindh Bar Council, the statutory body established under the Legal Practitioners and Bar Councils Act, 1973, regulating the legal profession in the Province of Sindh, having its office at the Sindh High Court Building (Annexe), Karachi (hereinafter referred to as the "SBC" or the "Council", which expression shall, where the context so admits, include its successors) of the OTHER PART.

SHARP and the SBC are hereinafter referred to individually as a "Party" and collectively as the "Parties".

RECITALS

WHEREAS SHARP is a humanitarian and human rights organization committed to promoting human rights, legal protection, gender-responsive justice, the prevention of gender-based violence, and the capacity building of legal and justice-sector actors;

WHEREAS the SBC is the apex statutory body responsible for the regulation, welfare and professional development of the legal fraternity in the Province of Sindh;

WHEREAS the Parties share a common commitment to strengthening the professional capacity of lawyers, advancing access to justice, and promoting a rights-based and gender-responsive legal culture;

WHEREAS the Parties successfully collaborated in organizing a five-day comprehensive capacity-building programme for young female lawyers on Human Rights, Gender-Responsive Justice and

Prevention of Gender-Based Violence, held at the Sindh Judicial Academy, Karachi, from 29th June to 3rd July 2026;

WHEREAS, encouraged by the success of the said programme, the Parties are desirous of consolidating and expanding their cooperation through a structured, longer-term partnership;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and understandings set forth herein, the Parties hereby agree as follows:

ARTICLE 1 — PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

1.1 The purpose of this MOU is to establish a framework of cooperation between the Parties for the joint planning and delivery of legal training, capacity building, legal literacy and access-to-justice initiatives for the benefit of the legal community and the people of the Province of Sindh.

1.2 The specific objectives of this MOU are to:

- enhance the professional knowledge and skills of lawyers, with particular attention to young and female lawyers;
- promote human rights, gender-responsive justice and the prevention of gender-based violence within the legal profession and the justice system;
- strengthen advocacy, legal drafting and litigation skills among lawyers across Sindh, including at the Circuit Benches;
- expand access to justice for vulnerable and marginalized groups; and
- foster institutional collaboration, knowledge exchange and joint learning between the Parties.

ARTICLE 2 — SCOPE AND AREAS OF COOPERATION

2.1 Subject to the availability of resources and mutual agreement, the Parties shall cooperate in the following areas:

- design and delivery of capacity-building and continuing legal education programmes for lawyers, including specialized programmes for female lawyers;
- training on human rights, gender-responsive justice and prevention of gender-based violence;
- training on advocacy and legal drafting for both male and female lawyers, including at the Circuit Benches in Hyderabad, Sukkur, Larkana and other locations as may be agreed;
- development of training curricula, handbooks, manuals and related resource materials;
- organization of seminars, workshops, moot exercises, awareness sessions and legal-literacy activities;
- joint research, knowledge products and policy engagement on access to justice and rule-of-law themes; and
- such other activities of mutual interest as the Parties may agree in writing.

2.2 Specific programmes and activities undertaken under this MOU shall be elaborated in separate written activity plans, agreed and signed by the Parties, setting out the objectives, schedule, course outline, number of sessions, expected number of participants, respective responsibilities and agreed budget for each activity (each an "Activity Plan"). Each Activity Plan shall, upon signature, be deemed to form part of this MOU.

ARTICLE 3 — RESPONSIBILITIES OF SHARP

Subject to the availability of funds and in coordination with the SBC, SHARP shall:

- lead the technical design and development of training content, curricula and resource materials;
- identify, engage and, where applicable, remunerate qualified resource persons, lecturers and facilitators;
- provide programme management, coordination, monitoring, evaluation and reporting for jointly agreed activities;
- mobilize, to the extent possible, financial and technical resources from its donors and partners in support of agreed activities;
- ensure that all activities are conducted in accordance with humanitarian principles, safeguarding standards and applicable laws; and
- share with the SBC the estimated budget and proposed schedule for each activity in advance, for review and agreement.

ARTICLE 4 — RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SINDH BAR COUNCIL

In coordination with SHARP, the SBC shall:

- facilitate access to and, where available, provide suitable venues and training facilities, including at the Sindh Judicial Academy and the Circuit Benches;
- mobilize, nominate and encourage the participation of lawyers, including female lawyers, in the agreed programmes;
- extend institutional endorsement, coordination and liaison with the relevant bar associations, the judiciary and other stakeholders;
- support the certification and recognition of participants, where applicable; and
- contribute, on a mutually agreed basis, to the costs and logistical arrangements of the programmes.

ARTICLE 5 — JOINT RESPONSIBILITIES

The Parties shall jointly:

- prepare and agree Activity Plans and schedules for each programme;
- promote the visibility of the collaboration in a manner consistent with Article 8;
- review progress and address operational matters through the coordination mechanism established under Article 6; and
- uphold the highest standards of integrity, professionalism and mutual respect in the implementation of this MOU.

ARTICLE 6 — COORDINATION AND GOVERNANCE

6.1 Each Party shall designate a Focal Person to serve as the principal point of contact for the coordination and implementation of this MOU.

6.2 The Focal Persons shall meet as often as necessary, and at least once every six (6) months, to review progress, plan activities and resolve operational matters.

6.3 The Parties may, by mutual consent, constitute a Joint Coordination Committee to oversee the implementation of this MOU.

ARTICLE 7 — FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

7.1 This MOU is a framework for cooperation and does not, of itself, create any financial obligation on either Party.

7.2 The financial arrangements, including any cost-sharing, for each activity shall be set out in the relevant Activity Plan and agreed in writing prior to implementation.

7.3 Any funding provided by SHARP shall be subject to the availability of resources and to the terms and conditions of its respective donors and partners.

7.4 Neither Party shall incur any expenditure on behalf of the other without prior written agreement.

ARTICLE 8 — VISIBILITY, BRANDING AND COMMUNICATIONS

8.1 The Parties shall acknowledge each other's contribution in all materials, publications and public communications relating to jointly implemented activities.

8.2 Neither Party shall use the name, logo or emblem of the other, or issue any public statement on behalf of the other, without prior written consent.

ARTICLE 9 — INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND TRAINING MATERIALS

9.1 Training materials, curricula and resource products developed jointly under this MOU may be used by both Parties for non-commercial, educational and capacity-building purposes, with due acknowledgement of authorship.

9.2 Any pre-existing intellectual property of a Party shall remain the sole property of that Party.

ARTICLE 10 — SAFEGUARDING, DO-NO-HARM AND PSEAH

10.1 The Parties are committed to protecting participants and beneficiaries from all forms of harm, exploitation and abuse.

10.2 All activities under this MOU shall be conducted in accordance with the principles of do-no-harm, safeguarding, and the prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (PSEAH), and any applicable codes of conduct.

ARTICLE 11 — NON-DISCRIMINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY

The Parties shall ensure that all activities under this MOU are conducted on the basis of equality and non-discrimination, and shall promote the meaningful participation and inclusion of women and marginalized groups.

ARTICLE 12 — INTEGRITY AND ANTI-CORRUPTION

The Parties shall observe the highest standards of integrity and shall not engage in any corrupt, fraudulent, coercive or collusive practice in connection with any activity under this MOU.

ARTICLE 13 — CONFIDENTIALITY AND DATA PROTECTION

13.1 Each Party shall treat as confidential any non-public information received from the other Party in the course of implementing this MOU and shall not disclose it without prior written consent, save as required by law.

13.2 The Parties shall handle any personal data of participants in accordance with applicable data-protection principles and solely for the purposes of the agreed activities.

ARTICLE 14 — MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REPORTING

The Parties shall cooperate in the monitoring and evaluation of activities implemented under this MOU, and SHARP shall share appropriate progress and completion reports with the SBC for jointly agreed activities.

ARTICLE 15 — DURATION, RENEWAL AND REVIEW

15.1 This MOU shall come into effect on the Effective Date and shall remain in force for a period of three (3) years, unless terminated earlier in accordance with Article 17.

15.2 This MOU may be renewed or extended for a further term by mutual agreement of the Parties, expressed in writing prior to its expiry.

15.3 The Parties may review this MOU at any time by mutual consent.

ARTICLE 16 — AMENDMENT

Any amendment or modification to this MOU shall be made in writing and signed by the duly authorized representatives of both Parties.

ARTICLE 17 — TERMINATION

17.1 Either Party may terminate this MOU by giving the other Party not less than sixty (60) days' prior written notice.

17.2 In the event of termination, the Parties shall take all reasonable steps to complete any ongoing activity in an orderly manner and to honour commitments already made to participants and third parties.

17.3 The provisions relating to confidentiality, intellectual property and safeguarding shall survive the termination or expiry of this MOU.

ARTICLE 18 — DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Any difference or dispute arising out of or in connection with this MOU shall be resolved amicably through mutual consultation and good-faith negotiation between the Parties.

ARTICLE 19 — STATUS OF THE MOU

19.1 This MOU represents a statement of intent and a framework for cooperation between the Parties. It is not intended to create any legally binding or enforceable obligations, nor any partnership, agency, joint venture or employment relationship between the Parties.

19.2 Each specific activity shall be governed by the relevant Activity Plan and, where required, by a separate written agreement.

ARTICLE 20 — NOTICES

Any notice under this MOU shall be in writing and delivered to the following addresses, or such other address as a Party may notify in writing:

For SHARP: Project Director, Society for Human Rights & Prisoners' Aid (SHARP), Sector I-11/3, Islamabad.

For the SBC: The Secretary, Sindh Bar Council, Sindh High Court Building (Annexe), Karachi.

ARTICLE 21 — GOVERNING LAW

This MOU shall be governed by / construed in accordance with the laws of Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

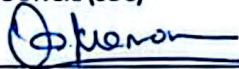
ARTICLE 22 — ENTIRE UNDERSTANDING

This MOU, together with any Activity Plans agreed hereunder, constitutes the entire understanding between the Parties with respect to its subject matter and supersedes all prior discussions and communications relating thereto.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have caused this MOU to be signed by their duly authorized representatives on the date first above written.

For and on behalf of

SINDH BAR COUNCIL (SBC)

Signature: 

Name: BARRISTER ISHTIAQ A. MEMON

Designation: Vice Chairman Sindh Bar Council

Date: _____

For and on behalf of

SOCIETY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS & PRISONERS' AID (SHARP)

Signature: 

Name: Mr. MUDASSAR JAVED

Designation: CEO - Society For Human Rights & Prisoner's Aid (SHARP Pakistan)
& Co-Chair of the Civil Society Alliance on Migration (C-SAM)

Date: _____

Witnesses:

1. _____

2. _____