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Aurat Foundation

Blue Veins Vision

Blue Veins has a vision of a world where women lives healthy educated, free and safe lives. Where equality and dignity is a right not a privilege. Where women spend their life creating and thriving, rather than surviving victimization and recovering from atrocities.

Blue Veins Mission

The mission of Blue Veins is to work together in harmony with a higher spirit to improve the quality of life of women and children and establish a people-centered framework for empowerment, sustainable health, and a social development to guide, to build up a culture of cooperation and partnership and to respond to the immediate needs of those who are vulnerable. Blue Veins empowers women to articulate demand and access their rights by enhancing women's leadership and building networks.

BLUE VEINS

December - February 2017

NEWSLETTER Vol. 4

UNDER GENDER EQUITY PROGRAM

Dear Readers,
Greetings!

After fifteen fruitful months of dynamic activities, Gender Equity Program is now undergoing its last month of the project. GEP Cycle-8 started in December 2015 and ending in February 2017, meeting its core objectives of strengthening district bar association, Peshawar and legal assistance to women gender based violence survivors. This is the last quarter newsletter, published under Gender Equity Program by the support of United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in collaboration with Aurat Foundation, where in our previous volumes we aimed to keep you updated about the activities and progress of the Project "Strengthening District Bar Association and Setting Up Facilitation Kiosk in Courts" implementing by Blue Veins. This edition features the coordination meeting with district bar association, overview of district courts up gradation, research and key findings of the research on trend analysis, gender based violence cases general overview and Blue Veins participation in the regional dialogue on pro-women laws. You can get more information about Blue Veins from our website <http://blueveins.org/>, via our Facebook and Twitter accounts @BlueVeinsPak will harness you to the in-depth information about the activities of our organization. Additionally, the updates about the activities in progress can be reached through Facebook page "access2justiceKP". We really do hope that you will enjoy our final newsletter issue. We would like to thank you all for being a part of an exciting project which connected civil society, service providers and legal fraternity all together for making access to justice possible for women gender based violence survivors.

Kindest regards,

Tahira Kaleem (Project Manager - Gender Equity Program)



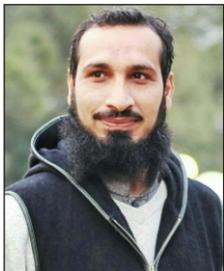
Acknowledging Blue Veins-GEP Staff for their efforts to complete the project successfully:



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Kiosk Facilitator Officer



Kazim Jan
Consultant-Researcher- Trend Analysis of pro-women legislation in KP

Activities at a Glance:

Quarter Meeting:

On 23rd December 2017, Blue Veins conducted its 4th Quarter meeting with District Bar Association Peshawar which was attended by the members from District Bar Association and GEP staff of Blue Veins.

Ms. Tahira Kaleem (Project Manager-GEP/ Blue Veins) briefed the participants about the project activities and with mutual collaboration of the President and Cabinet Members of the District Bar Association, planned the Jail visit for taking cases. The remaining activities and their schedule was shared with the cabinet members. The president district bar association Peshawar extended his appreciation to Blue Veins team for engaging and accommodating lawyers of district bars in capacity building trainings.

Later after the meeting, the resource material provided to DBA and Kiosk had been tagged with USAID logos at District Bar Association, Peshawar.

Case Management:

GEP extended its free legal aid through Blue Veins to hundred female gender based violence survivors, where the target has been successfully achieved by engaging more than forty five pro-bono lawyers in these cases. The nature of cases received and trailed varied from case to case but overall categorized as follows:

S#	Number	Nature of Case
1	31	Dissolution of Marriage (on the basis of divorce)
2	5	Dissolution of Marriage (on the basis of khula)
3	1	Shelter
4	46	Dower, Dowry article recovery and Maintenance
5	9	Criminal
6	3	Civil Case
7	1	Conjugal Rights
8	4	Custody of Child

Trend Analysis and Seminar:

Under the project, a research was conducted to analyze the judicial precedents regarding pro-women laws in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa from 2008-2015. Case law books and Pakistan Law site was used as source of data for conducting this research. A very competent and learned researcher and lawyer conducted the research by categorizing the cases into progressive and regressive in terms of legal proceedings and the relief to the victim.

The research key findings have been share with multi stakeholders at a district level seminar which held at SS Club Peshawar on 9th February 2017. The seminar was attended by lawyers, civil society members and media persons. Summary of the key findings of the research has been provided to all the participants of the seminar for thorough study and comments during the open discussion forum.

Bar Upgradation:

After the situational analysis of district bar, Peshawar the required resources were delivered on October 17th, 2017. The district bar association arranged a meeting of lawyers to highlight the success of the milestone and thanked Blue Veins while appreciating GEP-Blue Veins efforts in strengthening district bar. Beside other required material library of district bar has been provided with the latest law books which will help lawyers in the case preparations, identified by the lawyers during situational analysis.

On the same day the event was followed by establishing a resource center at district bar association Peshawar library, for female lawyers with latest IT equipment's and required material for resources.



SUCCESS STORY

Ms. Sumera, case was referred by Human Right Cell of high court to Peshawar bar association cabinet, which was further referred to Kiosk established under Gender Equity Program at district courts, for free legal aid. Litigant was survivor of gender based violence, who reached out the desk where kiosk facilitator extended her grievance to a pro-bono lawyer who took up the case whole heartedly.

Lawyer filed the suit in the month of November 2016 for custody of children against her husband Mr. Rafiq along with a case for dissolution of marriage. Ms. Sumera's husband is Afghan Nationality holder who was under the pressure of repatriation of Afghan refugees to Afghanistan. Litigant was forced by husband to move to Afghanistan against her will. On refusal, the litigant husband forced her going to her parent's house after severe physical abuse and took her 5 minor children. Sumera's husband wanted to take children along with him. Within two months of the case filing for recovery of minor children, the litigant successfully took her children to her father's house. Pressurized by the dissolution of marriage case against litigant's husband, where she demanded her dower and dowry articles along with maintenance of children Mr. Rafiq agreed to out of court settlement. After some hearings, her husband agreed to not force his wife for leaving Pakistan and will arrange separate home for her and children and gave the written statements to the court. Both the parties agreed on that compromise. The case has been resolved on the third month of the trial and the litigant has given statement that she has been shifted to her separate house with her husband with a relief.

**"This newsletter is made possible by the support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents are the sole responsibility of the Blue Veins and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID/ United States Government or Aurat Foundation.*