

Word from President CrossEdge

‘All Citizens are equal before the law and are entitled to equal protection of the law’, under Article 25(1) of the Constitution of Pakistan 1973. What measures need to be taken in order to make justice expeditious and affordable in Pakistan? This is the most pressing question for CrossEdge as we move forward to advocate for change so that justice in Pakistan is no longer expensive, delayed or denied.



CrossEdge Pakistan is a non-political/non-partisan organisation that works in the areas of human rights law, international law, and consumer law, with a specific interest in the rights of minorities and transgenders.

I would like to warmly welcome you all to the very first edition of the CrossEdge Newsletter. The aim is to keep you informed about our latest initiatives, legal developments, and thought-provoking commentaries, thereby creating a more inclusive and equitable society. We are excited to share this journey with you and invite you to engage with our content, share your insights, and contribute to a growing community of individuals passionate about transformative justice.



Warm regards,
Barrister Haaris Ramzan
President & Founder, CrossEdge Pakistan

Recognition by Honourable Judges of the Lahore High Court, Lahore: Honourable Justice Ali Baqar Najafi and Justice Muzammil Akhtar Shabbir lauded the efforts of Team CrossEdge for their services at various forums by recognising the unwavering commitment to promote justice, legal reform, and social equity. Team CrossEdge appreciated the patronage and support of the esteemed Judges.



ADVOCACY SESSIONS

Reforms in the Criminal Justice System:

The 1st Session on “Reforms in Criminal Justice System” was arranged by CrossEdge in August 2024 with the focus on the ‘**Miseries for the Common Man**’. Lawyers, academics, professionals, and individuals from diverse backgrounds engaged in a meaningful dialogue. Amongst the speakers were actual victims of the system along with legal experts. The discussion highlighted the urgent need for accessible and humane reforms. The session fostered a collaborative exchange of ideas and set the tone for similar sessions.



2nd Session on Criminal Justice System Reforms:

The 2nd session on Reforms in the Criminal Justice system was held at Hassan and Hassan (Advocates) titled “**Miseries faced by a common man inside a police station**”. The keynote speakers were DSP Mr. Zikera Yosaf and Mr. Mian Irfan Akram, Advocate, Supreme Court. The challenges faced by ordinary citizens when visiting police stations were discussed, placing a distinction between modernised infrastructure and the actual delivery of justice. It was observed that, despite being public spaces, police stations often feel inaccessible to the very people they are meant to serve. The event saw a diverse audience, with participation of students from GCU, KCWU, PCL, UCP and UMT. Members of the media, including journalists from Dawn and Risala Today, along with notable professionals from diverse fields, attended the program.



L to R: Barrister Haaris Ramzan, Mr Mian Irfan Akram, DSP Zikeria Yousaf and Mr. Asad Ghani.

Session on Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and Bonded Labour by United States Embassy, Islamabad:

A conference was organised by the United States Embassy in Islamabad on Trafficking in Persons and Bonded Labour to build the capacity of stakeholders. On behalf of CrossEdge, Barrister Haaris Ramzan highlighted the understanding gaps faced by law enforcement agencies and stressed the need to fill the divide. He suggested that it was important to develop a better understanding of the socio-economic challenges linked to illegal travelling, such as a lack of income opportunities. Public-private partnerships were recommended as the need of the hour to address the matter, and mass-scale capacity-building sessions should be conducted at union council levels across the provinces between relevant private stakeholders and state agencies.



President CrossEdge with US Consulate General and other esteemed participants.

US consultative session on Trafficking In Persons (TIP):

The US Consulate General, Christian Hawkins, invited President CrossEdge to participate in a critical discussion held on the issue of TIP, affecting Pakistan. With a lack of compliance at the international level and Pakistan being on the verge of entering the grey list, the US Government is taking particular interest in developing a robust mechanism for criminal prosecution of those involved in TIP to eliminate this social evil. The participants hailed from law enforcement agencies, the legal fraternity and relevant state departments.

Consumer Rights Session at LCCI on the impact of drugs on the poultry Industry:

As part of ongoing Consumer Rights Awareness Advocacy, stake-holders including poultry producers, veterinary doctors, and scientists from the poultry industry were invited at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (“LCCI”) to discuss the generic misconception about the drug infected chicken that is consumed by general public. Mr Arif Ansari, a notable professional and the Patron of CrossEdge, was instrumental in bringing all the stakeholders together. The representatives from the poultry industry dispelled all misinformation through scientific evidence and ensured the audience that the broiler chicken is healthy for human consumption and challenged to counter any contrary deposition. The audience consisted of professionals from all walks of life.



Team CrossEdge accompanied with President, Barrister Haaris Ramzan.

TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING/POLICY ADVOCACY



Barrister Amrat Ahmed Sheikh and Barrister Haaris Ramzan addressing the audience.

Training and Capacity Building: A training session was held at Police College Sihala, Islamabad, on “Access to Justice and Rule of Law” for mid-career police officers. The session revolved around the understanding of law and the need for the police service to provide justice at the grassroots level. The difficulties faced by the common man and the bureaucratic hurdles faced by the force were also highlighted. It was unanimously agreed that a mass scale revamp of the department is the need of the hour, and with better public-private partnership, the service level can be better enhanced. Mr. Ashfaq Khan (DIG) commandant of the college, appreciated the efforts of CrossEdge.



Police officers actively participating in Q&A.



DIG Ashfaq Khan and commandant of the Sihala College presenting shields to President CrossEdge, Barrister Haaris Ramzan and Barrister Amrat Ahmad.

Social Welfare Policy Dissemination at LUMS:

The Punjab Social Welfare Department arranged a session in Lahore University of Management and Sciences (“LUMS”) with academia, legal practitioners and organisations to introduce its first social welfare policy. Preside CrossEdge, critically analysed the working of the entire department and highlighted the shortcomings because of which the department has been unable to resolve the issues of the common man. The suggestions were well taken by the Director General himself, and he vowed to incorporate them in the policy document.



President CrossEdge, Barrister Haaris Ramzan at LUMS

PARTNERSHIPS AND LINKAGES

Meeting with Director District Consumer Protection Council (DCPC):

Team CrossEdge visited the office of the Director of the Consumer Protection Council (“DCPC”). The meeting revolved around effective strategies and legal recourse that the office of the DCPC must follow for effective consumer rights protection. Several amendments in the Punjab Consumer Act 2005 were also suggested, and it was agreed by all the participants that an executive force with magisterial powers must be enacted in line with the Punjab Food Authority so that effective checks and balances on the manufacturers and service providers can be established from the very outset.



L to R: Barrister Haaris Ramzan, Mr. Anees Hashmi, Mr. Arif Ansari, Director DCPC, Mian Irfan Akram, , Barrister Amrat Ahmed Sheikh

Focus Group Session with U.S. Consulate:

As part of the Focus Group of the U.S. Consulate, Lahore, representatives of the Pakistan US Alumni Network attended an engaging session with the newly appointed Public Diplomacy Officer to discuss initiatives taken by the new U.S. administration and to explore avenues for collaborative efforts aimed at creating positive change in Punjab. The meeting took place at the newly developed Lincoln Corner at Quaid-e-Azam Library, Lawrence Garden, Lahore. Participants appreciated the commendable efforts of the U.S. Consulate in establishing this resourceful space, which is expected to provide young professionals with access to the latest research tools and academic resources from U.S. institutions.



President CrossEdge and Prof. Dr. Aatir Rizvi

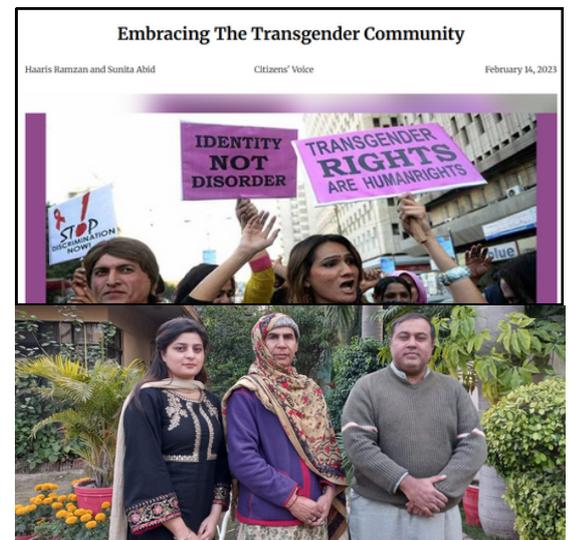
MoU Signing between CrossEdge and Superior University:

The Superior College of Law, Superior University and CrossEdge Pakistan signed an MoU to work jointly in the areas of human rights, international law, minority rights and consumer law. This MoU will be beneficial for research, training and capacity building of young legal professionals and to encourage specialised consultative and opinion work in the legal field. Barrister Haaris Ramzan, on behalf of CrossEdge Pakistan and Prof. Dr. Aatir Rizvi, on behalf of Superior College of Law, signed the MoU.

PUBLICATIONS

Publications on Transgender Rights: The team and associates at CrossEdge regularly contribute written work in The Friday Times regarding pressing legal and social issues that reflect our core values and advocacy goals. President CrossEdge, Barrister Haaris Ramzan, and Research Associate Ms. Sunita Abid co-authored an article addressing the challenges, systemic discrimination, and legal hurdles faced by the transgender community in Pakistan. The article was written in alignment with CrossEdge's commitment to inclusive human rights and legal reform and serves as a call to action for greater protection and dignity for marginalised communities.

Link to Article: <https://thefridaytimes.com/14-Feb-2023/embracing-the-transgender-community>



Research Associate Sunita Abid and President CrossEdge, Barrister Haaris Ramzan with the member of the Transgender Community.



Publication on Consumer Law: At CrossEdge, we constantly advocate for bridging the gap in the understanding and implementation of law. The legal blackhole in Pakistani Consumer Law regarding the lack of digitalisation was excellently highlighted in the recently published article, which was authored by our Research Associate, Ms. Rameen Habib. The piece emphasises the need for modern, tech-forward legislative reforms to ensure meaningful protection for consumers in an increasingly digital marketplace.

Link to Article: <https://thefridaytimes.com/02-May-2025/legal-blackhole-in-pakistani-consumer-law-digital-consumerism-and-liability-of-digital-platforms>

Publication on Justice Delayed is Justice Denied: In another article, Barrister Haaris Ramzan critically examined the deep-rooted disparities in the criminal justice system, with a focus on how delayed proceedings erode public trust and deny justice to the most vulnerable. The article underscores the urgent need for institutional reform, judicial efficiency, and greater accountability, reinforcing the principle that true justice must be both fair and prompt.

Link to Article: <https://thefridaytimes.com/23-Feb-2022/access-to-justice-denied-how-a-common-citizen-experiences-our-failure-to-reform-the-system>



ONLINE PODCAST

CrossEdge strongly believes that the emancipation of women does not revolve around mere processions and statements; rather, it would begin by recognising all those women who are achievers and are serving the country in significant positions. The podcast was aired to mark International Women's Day and to identify the women achievers. The title of 'Women to Substance' was awarded to these brilliant individuals. Guests on the panel were Dr. Amber Dar, a notable Barrister and Professor of Law at Manchester University, Ms. Beelam Ramzan, Collector of Pakistan Customs, Ms. Maryam Khan, Secretary to the Government of Punjab and Ms. Iqra Haris, an eminent media personality. The podcast was moderated by Ms. Sara Ali and Barrister Amrat Ahmad. CrossEdge will continue to highlight similar achievements till the majority of the population of our country realises the potential of women as the leading workforce. The podcast is available on YouTube for viewing.

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gDJ3LJTMK0g>

LAW LINKS

Celebrating International Women Day
as
"THE WOMEN OF SUBSTANCE"

IN CONVERSATION WITH

Dr. Amber Darr
Eminent Barrister/
Professor of Law,
Manchester University

Beelam Ramzan
Collector
Pakistan Customs

Maryam Khan
Secretary
Government of Punjab

Iqra Haris
Eminent Media
Personality

MODERATORS

March 8, 2023

Barrister Amrat
Ahmad

Sara Ali

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PRO-BONO WORK

CrossEdge is deeply committed to pro bono work, consistently taking on cases that support marginalised communities and challenge systemic injustices. Through these efforts, we aim to use the law as a tool for real, lasting change.

Case of Muhammad Shehroz:



The case of Mr. Muhammad Shehroz is both unusual and deeply troubling. Being a humble worker at a motorcycle puncture shop, Mr. Shehroz was falsely implicated in 32 baseless criminal cases filed by the police. The extent of misconduct and fabrication in this matter has been astounding, as many of the FIRs allege that he committed multiple offences simultaneously on the same day. Moreover, a striking pattern had emerged across these FIRs: the accused is never identified by any witnesses, and several of the alleged crimes are reported to have occurred at the exact same time. Given the severity of this injustice, CrossEdge has taken up the matter to ensure that Mr. Shehroz receives the justice he deserves.



Case of Ms. Iqra:

In a tragic case of domestic abuse, Ms. Iqra had endured severe physical and emotional violence at the hands of her husband, resulting in a permanent injury to her right leg. Despite her condition, she was forcibly separated from her infant daughters, aged three and six months, who were illegally dispossessed from her. In these dire and heartbreaking circumstances, CrossEdge rose to the occasion and filed a Habeas Corpus petition before the court, seeking justice and the immediate recovery of the children. The scenes of the reunion of the children with their mother were both astounding and heart-wrenching as the kids were kept in the most deplorable and unhygienic conditions.

SPECIAL THANKS

We would like to appreciate **Mr. Asad Ahmad Ghani**, Managing Partner, Hassan & Hassan (Advocates), for providing us the logistical support in organising our events and conducting seminars and awareness programs.

HASSAN & HASSAN
(ADVOCATES)

SUPPORT US

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SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR FOUNDING MEMBERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND PATRONAGE



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Akram**



Mr. Arif Ansari



**Ms. Misbah
Ghafour**



**Mr. Abbas Ali
Sheikh**



**Mr. Qaiser Abbas
Bhatti**