



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

OCT-DEC'23

...kosten), inclusief een
kop koffie, zijn online verkrijgbaar via
www.oelbroeck.nl onder de knop
tickets, of te koop bij de receptie.
Onder de 16 jaar is de entree gratis!
Er zijn twee shows gepland: één op
zaterdagavond 30 april om 20.00
uur en één op zondagmiddag 1 mei
om 14.30 uur.

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PUBLIC
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ASSOCIATION
OF PAKISTAN

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QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER - DECEMBER '23

MESSAGE OF THE CHAIRPERSON:
SAAD AMANULLAH KHAN

Dear PILAP Members and Supporters,

I am happy to share with you that despite multiple challenges, PILAP is ending the year on a positive note. We are on our way to becoming sustainable and meeting our vision of being present in Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad.

We now have two regular sources of revenue in addition to direct donations, i.e., from memberships, and with the registration with i-Care, from Pakistani diaspora in USA. On the latter front, we are creating a detailed strategy led by our new Diaspora Committee on creating PILAP ambassadors in few key cities of United States and also preparing material to help define our impact and our vision and focus areas.

We continue to work on other areas such as Right to Information, legal activities as well as engagement sessions via zoom on various topics close to our members' interests. This quarter we did a session with Ayesha Chundrigar the visionary CEO of Ayesha Chundrigar Foundation (ACF) on a talk about animal welfare and various challenges animals face in our society.

Happy New Year and wishing you all and specially citizens of Pakistan a country that gets its economic growth on track, a strong focus on rule of law and see improvement in the life and health of our grassroots. PILAP will continue its journey of promoting and protecting the fundamental rights of its citizens and helping to create checks and balances in the functioning of government departments and agencies.

We have also agreed to create more board committees and becoming more active across the top 3 cities of Pakistan by visiting universities and colleges and driving a more effective communication strategy as well as reviewing our strategies by the new board that will take charge as of Jan 1, 2024.

Best regards,
Saad Amanullah Khan
Chairperson, PILAP

i-Care Registration

We are very happy to inform you, that PILAP is now formally registered under i-Care Foundation, this marks a big step towards cementing PILAP's position as an institution that is sustainable and reliable.

The i-Care Foundation Pakistan is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt trust, established in 2008 as Pakistan's first donor advised fund. As a donor-advised fund, it provides professionally managed services for directing and administering donations by donors to non-governmental organizations (NGOs), non-profit organizations (NPOs) and charities in Pakistan. The purpose of this foundation is to provide a platform for organized and intelligent giving for donors of all levels – individuals, corporations, aid agencies and other non-profit organizations with the goal of maximizing the impact and effectiveness of their donations.

In addition to channeling donations, i-Care works with its partner organizations to improve their financial controls, governance, and program delivery. PILAP's registration under i-Care set-up is extremely promising in terms of building up its internal resources and hopefully giving this institution much needed sustainability in carrying out its goals and objectives.

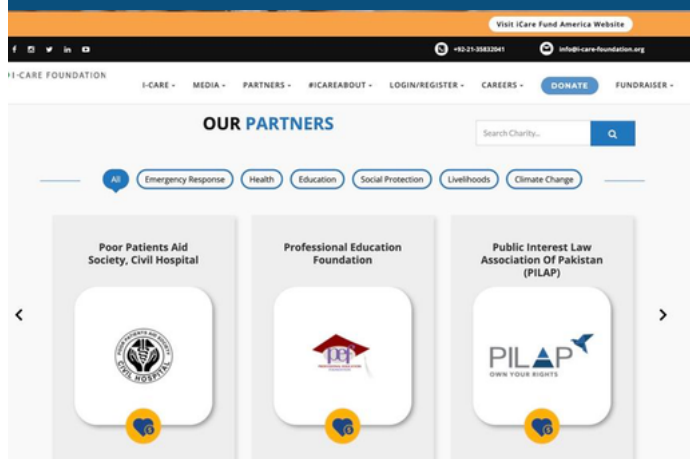
Diaspora Committee

PILAP formally created a Diaspora Committee to help benefit from the i-Care Foundation registration and to single-mindedly focus on the Pakistani diaspora to help make PILAP sustainable.



Chairman, Diaspora Committee

This committee is headed by Maroof A. Syed, member of PILAP's Citizens Assembly. PILAP Diaspora Committee's objective is to create awareness of its activities and efforts for the vast Pakistani expatriate population living in USA and get them actively involved in furthering PILAP's vision and goals. This ensures that our vast diaspora also gets an opportunity to play a proactive role in tackling the public interest related issues of Pakistan and help in the development and progress of the country.



RTI-Workshop

Karachi University - RTI workshop on 2nd Nov 2023: PILAP held a presentation at Karachi University, for a class in the journalism school at the invitation of Mr. Kamal Siddiqui. Speaking on behalf of PILAP, Mr. Saad Amanullah Khan (Chairperson) and Haider Naqvi (Head Researcher) presented on the topics of public interest and right to information, going over PILAP's contribution in these areas.

The presentation was well-received by students who participated enthusiastically in discussion and expressed interest in PILAP activities. This workshop furthers PILAP's mission of public outreach and public education on issues of fundamental constitutional rights.



NCRRC Domestic Child Labour Draft Bill Consultation

The National Commission on the Rights of Child (NCRC) has been established by the Government of Pakistan as an independent statutory body for the promotion, protection, and fulfilment of children's rights. The NCRC has the mandate to examine and review laws and inquire into violations of child rights and advise the Government on legislative and policy matters by virtue of the National Commission on the Rights of Child Act, 2017.

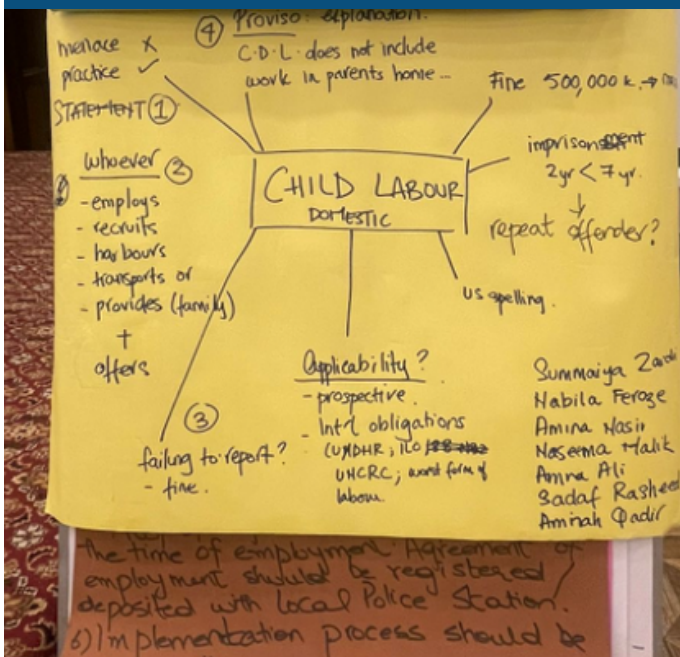
PILAP's Legal Advisor Summaiya Ziadi accompanied by PILAP's Manager of Legal Affairs, Amna Ali participated in this consultation as it tackled an issue that is not only central to PILAP's mission but rampant all across Pakistan. The main objective of the said consultation is to engage in meaningful dialogues, share insights, and propose solutions to address this issue as well as to ensure that viewpoints of all key stakeholders are integrated into a strategy for change.

The consultation took place on 20th December 2023 at Lahore. This consultation meeting consisted of experts from various fields well versed on the issue of domestic child labour and the law dealing with it, in particular lawyers, NGO representatives, journalists, legal advisors and experts on policy making all actively participated in this discussion.

It also marked as a good opportunity for PILAP to put forth its name and purpose by spreading awareness about PILAP as an institution. Ms. Summaiya Zaidi shared some very important insights on the proposed enactments regarding domestic child labour and what more can be done for effective implementation of this law. Her suggestions and recommendations were very well received by everyone present in this meeting.

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PILAP'S Speaker's Series Public Engagement for Rights.

PILAP Speaker Series brings to you conversations about issues of public concern by engaging with experts. The aim of the series is to raise awareness by educating the public about citizen rights.

ACF Foundation- Animal Rights

PILAP hosted a session on November 11, 2023, of its speaker series dedicated towards understanding and spreading awareness on animal rights and animal welfare with the founder and CEO of Ayesha Chundrigar Foundation (ACF) animal rescue, Ayesha Chundrigar.

PILAP SPEAKER SERIES PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT FOR RIGHTS



JOIN US FOR A DISCUSSION ON THE
IMPORTANCE OF **ANIMAL WELFARE**
IN PAKISTAN



ACF
ANIMAL RESCUE



AYESHA
CHUNDRIGAR
FOUNDER

THURSDAY, NOV 16
6-7 PM PKT

- Citizen Assembly Members of PILAP need to RSVP to Nawazish at 0300 3603352
- Concerned citizens outside PILAP can register through the following link to attend: <https://forms.gle/pFmeKJnsmvITdBB16>

ACF is home to the first-of-its-kind animal shelter in Pakistan, based in Karachi for injured and ill stray animals such as dogs, cats, birds and working animals such as donkeys, horses, camels etc. The aim of this foundation is to not only rehabilitate animals and work for animal rights through advocacy, litigation and policy making, but ACF also believes animals are the best medium for one to understand empathy and once you can tap into your empathetic nature, it creates compassion in all facets of life.

PILAP wished to continue its engagement with ACF to explore possibilities of overlap in missions, especially as it may concern promoting 'public interest' and upholding fundamental rights.

Legal Updates

Margalla Hills National Park Petition

A petition was filed in collaboration with PILAP by Advocate Natalya Kamal to challenge the construction of Alexander Road in the environmentally sensitive area of Margalla Hills National Park, which is in violation of Islamabad Wildlife (Protection, Preservation, Conservation & Management) Ordinance 1979, Pakistan Environmental Protection Act 1997 and failure of Capital Development Authority and its agents in fulfilling their statutory duties and implementing the law by way of commencing projects causing substantial environmental damage to Islamabad.

The Honorable Islamabad High Court took cognizance of this matter and through its Order dated 31.10.2023 noted that the orders passed by the Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are being violated by the CDA and therefore, ordered that the construction activity be stopped immediately. The Additional Director (Legal and Enforcement) and EPA shall ensure that the project site is visited periodically in order to determine as to whether the instant order is being complied with or not.



At the hearing held on 02.11.2023, Deputy Director Pak-EPA submitted that he had visited the site today where no construction activity was going on. With regards to the construction activity, after the passing of the order dated 15.09.2023 by the Pak-EPA, if at all such activity is carried out, the same may be dealt with in accordance with the law. Islamabad High Court, vide order dated 31.10.2023, directed in unequivocal terms that no construction activity shall take place on the site in question. The said order shall continue until the approval of the Environmental Impact Assessment.

Moreover, on the hearing held on 19.12.2023, Mr. Muhammad Ramzan, Assistant Director (Legal & Enforcement) has tendered appearance on behalf of the Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency and submits that the review process for the issuance of the Environmental Impact Assessment is presently under process. He further submitted the said process is likely to be completed in the near future. The case is relisted for 12-02-2024.

Legal MOU with Akbar Sarki Ali & Co

PILAP has agreed to sign a legal MOU with a law firm namely Akbar Sarki Ali & Co for future collaborations regarding Public Interest Litigations. This is a great opportunity to have more legal resources on board



Capabilities



Civil Litigation



Criminal Litigation



Transactional Work & Projects



Corporate Advisory Work



Start-Up Advisory



Arbitration



Mediation

RTI Updates

DHA Budget 2019-20: Hearing was held in the Pakistan Information Commission, on 9th Oct 2023, regarding RTI for disclosure of DHA Karachi Budget 2019-20. The respondent DHA continued as it has for months to evade and refuse to provide budget details as requested. The commission gave final opportunity to DHA to provide the information. If DHA does not submit the information before the next hearing, the PIC will proceed for contempt of court and deduction of 50-days salaries.

DHA Storm Water Drain Project: Hearing was held in the Pakistan Information Commission, on 9th Oct 2023, regarding RTI for disclosure of details of the Storm Water Drain project. The respondent had provided a reply in the previous hearing but PILAP had found it to be an incomplete and unsatisfactory response. They did not provide any further reply at this hearing. The commission gave final opportunity to DHA to provide the information. If DHA does not submit the information before the next hearing, the PIC will proceed for contempt of court and deduction of 50-days salaries.

Malir Expressway: Hearing was held in the Sindh Information Commission, on 11th Oct 2023, regarding RTI for disclosure of details of the Malir Expressway Project. Only two of the four respondents showed up to the hearing (Finance Dept. and Local Govt. Dept.) – notices were issued to the other two (KMC and P&D) – whereas the respondents present did not provide satisfactory replies and were instructed to do so within ten days. The subsequent hearing was on 25th Oct 2023, and neither of the respondents showed up – a show cause notice was thus issued to them.

Subsequently PILAP succeeded in extracting information from the Local Government Department using this RTI request. Hearing was held in the Sindh Information Commission, on 7th Nov 2023, regarding RTI for disclosure of details of the Malir Expressway Project (MEX). The Project Director of MEX was present on behalf of the Local Govt dept. PILAP went through their detailed response submitted in October and received clarification on various questions – some outstanding questions required separate RTIs which PILAP has subsequently filed in November; specifically, a copy of the third-party agreement of the project has been requested. Having received the extent of the information they were willing to divulge given our petition, the Sindh Information Commission is now moving to dispose the RTI, completing the cycle.

PILAP filed two follow-up RTIs on the Malir Expressway Project: firstly, requesting the third-party agreement of the project and; secondly, requesting details of the MEX Project Director's employment contract. In December, PILAP received the third-party agreement from the Local Government department. PILAP is in appeals process to receive the MEX Project Director's employment details.

Gujjar Nallah: Hearing was held in the Sindh Information Commission, on 31st Oct 2023, regarding RTI for disclosure of details of the Project Implementation Unit for the resettlement of affectees of the Gujjar, Orangi & Mehmoodabad Nallah evictions. The respondents (Commissioner Khi & Local Govt. Dept.) did not show up to the hearing and were thus issued show cause notices.

Hearing was held in the Sindh Information Commission, on 1st Nov 2023, regarding RTI for disclosure of details of the Project Implementation Unit for the resettlement of affectees of the Gujjar, Orangi & Mehmoodabad Nallah evictions. The respondent (Commissioner Khi) did not appear for the hearing and was therefore issued show cause notice. Another hearing has not been scheduled by the Sindh Information Commission in December yet.

Hearing was held in the Sindh Information Commission, on 1st Nov 2023, regarding RTI for disclosure of details of the Project Implementation Unit for the resettlement of affectees of the Gujjar, Orangi & Mehmoodabad Nallah evictions. The respondent (Commissioner Khi) did not appear for the hearing and was therefore issued show cause notice. Another hearing has not been scheduled by the Sindh Information Commission in December yet.

Election Updates for the year 2024

The election of the executive committee for the year 2024 was held in November 2023. The following candidates have been elected as the member of the Executive Committee of PILAP for the year 2024.

Sr. #	Name of EC Member
1.	Mr. Saad Amanullah Khan - Chairperson
2.	Mr. Maroof Ali Syed - Vice Chairperson
3.	Ms. Maleeha Mimi Bangash
4.	Mr. Raheel Qamar Ahmad
5.	Dr. Athar Osama
6.	Mr. Ahmed Rafay Alam
7.	Ms. Ayesha Khan
8.	Ms. Afia Salam
9.	Mr. Syed Adeel Azhar

All current eight members had opted to stand again and we have one new board member, Mr. Adeel Azher. Adeel Azher is a famous RJ (radio Jockey), pakistani broadcaster, training enthusiast, former business executive and a passionate Pakistani. He is very interested in touching lives and making a positive impact on the development of Pakistan. Adeel has a huge following and will be one of our youngest board members.

In the AGM held December 29, 2023, Saad Amanullah Khan was re-elected as Chairman for 2024. Maroof Syed was nominated as Vice Chairperson. We would like to thank Maleeha Bangash our out-going Vice Chairperson for her active participation and for helping to deliver the vision and goals of PILAP.

The new executive committee will take charge from January 01, 2024.

PILAP BOARD



Saad Amanullah Khan
Chairman



Maroof Ali Syed
Vice Chairman



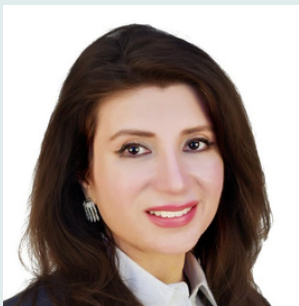
Raheel Qamar Ahmad
EC Member



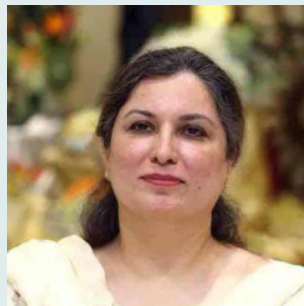
Athar Osama
EC Member



Ahmed Rafay Alam
EC Member



Maleeha Mimi Bangash
EC Member



Ayesha Khan
EC Member



Afia Salam
EC Member



Syed Adeel Azhar
EC Member

• VISION

Pakistan where fundamental rights are enjoyed by all.

• MISSION

To work for the promotion & protection of fundamental rights of all Pakistanis through research, advocacy,

• VALUES

- 1) Transparency
- 2) Inclusion and Diversity
- 3) Accountability
- 4) Sensitivity
- 5) Commitment

CALL FOR ACTION

Join PILAP as we work towards
protecting the fundamental rights
of the Citizens of Pakistan

**Become a member of the
Citizens' Assembly of Pakistan
-PKR 100,000 annual fees**

CONTACT US



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www.pilap.pk



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