

## Activity Report

1	Partner	AwazCDS-Pakistan & PDA																						
2	Name of activity /event/session:	Introductory Session on International Human Rights System & UN Human Rights Mechanisms																						
3	Date of activity/event/session:	30 <sup>th</sup> Oct, 2023																						
4	Location:	Islamabad Hotel																						
5	Objective(s) of the activity/event/session:	To provide participants with an understanding of international human rights and UN human rights mechanisms, empowering them to engage in human rights advocacy and fostering collaboration among participants.																						
6	Number of participants during the activity/event/session:	<table><tr><td rowspan="2">Category</td><td>Male</td><td>Female</td><td>Transgender</td><td>Total</td></tr><tr><td>19</td><td>9</td><td></td><td>28</td></tr><tr><td rowspan="2">Out of total</td><td>No. of Minority</td><td>No. of PLWDs</td><td>Any other</td><td>Total</td></tr><tr><td>-</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>					Category	Male	Female	Transgender	Total	19	9		28	Out of total	No. of Minority	No. of PLWDs	Any other	Total	-			
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Out of total	No. of Minority	No. of PLWDs	Any other	Total																				
	-																							
7	<b>Detailed description of the activity/event/session:</b> <p>This training event is made possible with the generous financial support of JANIC. JANIC is a dedicated organization that actively works on democracy projects and initiatives, striving to foster and strengthen democratic values across various communities. We are grateful for their commitment to human rights and democracy, which has made this event a reality.</p> <p>As the event began, Mr. Zia ur Rehman, Chief Executive of AwazCDS-Pakistan, set the stage by providing a warm welcome and context for the session. He stressed the importance of understanding international human rights mechanisms and their relevance to Pakistan. Now moving forward to the introductory session,</p> <p><b>Overview of Human Rights:</b> Christine Chung, South Asia Team Leader at OHCHR, delved into the fundamental concepts of human rights and the international framework that upholds them. She highlighted the universality and inalienability of human rights, emphasizing that they apply to every individual everywhere.</p> <p><b>UN Mechanisms: Treaty Bodies:</b> Christine Chung continued her presentation, explaining the role and significance of UN Treaty Bodies. She detailed how these committees monitor the implementation of international human rights treaties and help hold states accountable for their human rights obligations.</p> <p><b>UN Mechanisms: Special Procedures:</b> David Murphy, an expert in human rights, shed light on UN Special Procedures, elucidating their importance in the protection and promotion of human rights. He explained that Special Procedures include independent experts and working groups that address various human rights issues.</p> <p><b>Q&amp;A Session and Discussion:</b> The session saw active participation from many attendees, leading to insightful discussions. Notable questions and answers included: Qudsia (Aga Khan Foundation): Asked, "How to write a report? Are there any set rules and guidelines? Can any research report be submitted, and if so, where?"</p>																							

Answer: Ms. Chung explained that there are set rules and guidelines in the UN reporting system that need to be followed when writing a report. Reports following these guidelines are assessed and publicly published on the UN portal, accessible to the public.

Ms. Mehwish: Inquired, "Why doesn't OHCHR have an office in Pakistan? Can we access online training materials to learn better?"

Answer: Ms. Chung clarified that establishing an OHCHR office in Pakistan depends on government approval. She mentioned that training materials and resources are accessible online, allowing everyone to learn about human rights mechanisms.

Mr. Zia ur Rehman (AwazCDS-Pakistan): Asked, "What is the procedure to become a member of the Committees for Treaty Bodies?"

Answer: Ms. Chung confirmed that there is a proper evaluation process in which the most eligible and expert candidates are selected. It's a tough and competitive process.

Sobia Khateeb: Inquired, "Can we submit a report or document to voice our concerns for the people of Gaza? How long does it take to process such cases?"

Answer: It was explained that reports can be submitted, but it's important to focus on presenting fresh, research-based information that requires attention. The time taken to process cases can vary from one week to even a year. Hence, it's more relevant for NGOs and organizations to submit cases, as they are given higher priority.

Omer Imran (SPARC): Suggested, "Can we arrange more training sessions for better understanding? There should be a master training afterward for spreading knowledge to other sectors and stakeholders."

Answer: The suggestion was noted and considered for future training sessions. Participants discussed the need for additional training to enhance their understanding and better educate others in their relevant fields.

Ms. Qudisa (Aga Khan Foundation): Asked, "Is it necessary for only organizations to submit a report or case, or can an individual victim also submits a case? How long does it take to process individual cases?"

Answer: It was explained that an individual can also submit a case. Processing time can vary, taking anywhere from one week to a year. However, cases submitted by individuals might have a longer processing time. Therefore, it is more highlighted for NGOs and organizations to submit cases.

Ms. Maryam: Inquired, "If an institute submits a case against any unlawful situation involving the government, how does the UN respond to such cases?"

Answer: The UN accepts the report and engages in negotiations with the relevant government. A timeframe of 6 months is typically given to settle the matter. Experts follow up on the case and work to resolve the situation on the ground.

Mr. Zia ur Rehman (AwazCDS-Pakistan): Asked, "Are human rights activists provided any sort of protection if they submit a case that could endanger their lives?"

Additionally, questions were posed regarding individual vs. organizational report submissions, processing times, UN responses to reports against governments, and the protection of human rights activists. These discussions enriched the participants' understanding of the challenges and opportunities in the realm of human rights.

**UN Mechanisms: UPR and Others:** The session covered the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and other UN mechanisms used to assess and improve the human rights situations in various countries. Participants gained insights into the process of evaluating a country's human rights record.

**Launch of the PCSM Monitor:** Mr. Zia ur Rehman launched the PCSM (Pakistan Civic Space Monitor) monitor for the second round in 2023 and beyond. The monitor serves as a tool to track and improve the implementation of Pakistan's international human rights commitments.

The PCSM provides a crucial assessment of the civic rights and spaces in Pakistan, allowing for an

immediate status score of the country and its regions. This tool is essential as it sheds light on the state of civic spaces and human rights, which have faced increasing challenges over the last decade and have worsened in recent times.

### Survey on Shrinking Spaces for Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Pakistan

<https://surveymonkey.com/r/pcsm-survey>

**Conclusion and Discussion:** Mr. M Ali Kemal, Chief SDGs at M/o PD&SI, emphasized the need to bridge the information gap and strengthen institutions' knowledge. He noted that many professionals were unaware of fundamental terms like "UPR" and called for a more informed and connected approach. Mr. Ali Kemal encouraged the inclusion of lessons learned, success stories, and reforms in reports, highlighting the importance of shared knowledge and collaboration.

This activity provided a thorough understanding of international human rights and UN mechanisms, facilitating meaningful discussions and fostering a stronger connection between stakeholders and government entities. It underscored the necessity for improved knowledge sharing and collaboration to advance human rights in Pakistan.

Answer: It was emphasized that the names of individuals or organizations that submit cases are kept confidential. However, due to limitations, it's essential to prioritize personal safety and consider the potential risks associated with submitting certain cases.

Mr. Gillani (UGOOD): Highlighted, "There is a GAP between the government and CSOs, which creates hindrances to discuss such topics and get more involved with UN procedures."

## 8 Decided Way Forward and Commitments:-

Participants committed to further training and awareness-raising efforts, utilizing online resources for learning, adhering to transparent reporting procedures, advocating for improved collaboration between government and Civil Society Organizations, focusing on priority areas for reporting, and enhancing their qualifications to engage more effectively with human rights mechanisms. These commitments demonstrate their dedication to actively promote human rights and drive meaningful change at various levels.

### Additional Information shared by Christine Chung:

1. ICCPR concluding observations: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G17/246/36/PDF/G1724636.pdf?OpenElement> (if unable to open, try through this link to find English version: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/concluding-observations/ccprpakco1-human-rights-committee-concluding-observations>)
2. CESC Urdu version concluding observations: <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/1318562>
3. <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gld=27980>
4. <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gld=27734>  
<https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gld=26205>
5. The main link to start searching for Pakistan relevant information: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/countries/pakistan>
6. For Special Procedures submissions, the following information would be useful to provide. Here is a link to the website: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures-human-rights-council>
  - Who is sending the information?
  - Provide contact details
  - Is the situation urgent?
  - What is/are the name, age, gender, place of origin and/or residence of victims?
  - If the allegation concerns a large group then provide information about that body
  - What happened? Include dates and locations. If it concerns a law or policy, provide the document in an

	<p>annex</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Who are the perpetrators? If possible, give names, titles/functions, and any possible motive</li> <li>What is the context? E.g. legal framework – particularly important for submissions concerning a general situation</li> <li>What action has been taken? At the national or international level, and include remedies already sought</li> <li>What action should the SP take? Suggest steps or measures the experts could take to best address the situation.</li> </ul> <p>7. The link to the database: <a href="https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/tbsearch.aspx">https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/tbsearch.aspx</a></p> <p><b>Upcoming Treaty Body review dates for Pakistan</b></p> <p><b>CERD</b> (racial discrimination) dialogue: 5-23 August 2024</p> <p><b>CRC OPSC</b> (sale of children) dialogue: 6-24 May 2024</p> <p><b>ICCPR</b> (civil and political rights): sometime 2024</p> <p><b>CESCR</b> pre-session for List of Issues (LoI): 4-8 March 2024</p> <p><b>CRPD</b> (disabilities) pre-session LoI: 25-28 March 2024, stakeholder deadline 3 weeks before scheduled dialogue March 2027</p>
9	<p><b>Discuss any problems, challenges and lessons learned from this activity:</b></p> <p>The activity encountered several challenges and lessons during its course. First, a notable challenge was the lack of awareness among participants and even some government officials about important human rights terminologies like UPR, highlighting the need for improved education and awareness programs. The question-and-answer session unveiled another challenge: the gap between the government and civil society, which hinders open communication about important issues and limits their engagement with UN procedures.</p> <p>However, the session offered valuable lessons. It emphasized the importance of strengthening institutes and knowledge about international human rights mechanisms, fostering collaboration between government sectors and civil society, and sharing not only concerns but also lessons learned and success stories in reports. This session illuminated the necessity for on-going education and dialogue, illustrating that while challenges persist, dedicated individuals and organizations can make a substantial impact by working collaboratively to advance human rights in the community.</p>
10	<p><b>Pictures (5-6)</b></p> 









11 Press Coverage (1-2)

INTERNATIONAL  
**THE NEWS**

**Awareness raising session held on human rights system**

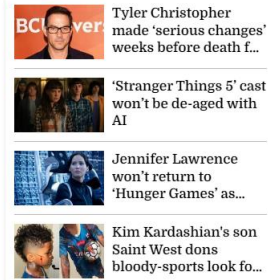
By Our Correspondent | November 01, 2023



A representational image shows people during a protest. — AFP/File

Islamabad: In order to enhance awareness of international human rights systems and mechanism, AwazCDS-Pakistan and Pakistan Development Alliance jointly organized an event titled "Exploring the Global Framework for Human Rights and Its Operational Mechanisms" in Islamabad.

This event gave participants a valuable opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of international human rights systems and mechanism with the context of human rights situation in Pakistan. Speakers and experts in the field guided participants through a series of discussions, enabling participants to gain a deeper understanding of this important topic



<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1124733-awareness-raising-session-held-on-human-rights-system>



**Experts stress society's role in creating awareness on HR**

Reporter — November 01, 2023

Regional, Islamabad, Newspaper



ISLAMABAD - Experts at a discussion event have highlighted the International Human Rights System and Mechanism and called for civil society organizations' vibrant role in creating awareness on this subject.

The event titled "Exploring the Global Framework for Human Rights and Its Operational Mechanisms" was jointly organized by AwazCDS-Pakistan and Pakistan Development Alliance here on Tuesday in order to enhance awareness of international human rights systems and mechanism.

This event gave participants a valuable opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of international human rights systems and mechanism with the context of human rights situation in Pakistan. Speakers and experts in the field guided participants through a series of discussions, enabling participants to gain a deeper understanding of this important topic whose importance has been increased manifolds in recent times.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/01-Nov-2023/experts-stress-society-s-role-in-creating-awareness-on-hr>



# Daily Times

## Session held on Int'l human rights system and mechanism

News Desk

NOVEMBER 1, 2023



In order to enhance awareness of international human rights systems and mechanism, AwazCDS-Pakistan and Pakistan Development Alliance jointly organized an event titled "Exploring the Global Framework for Human Rights and Its Operational Mechanisms" in Islamabad.

This event gave participants a valuable opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of international human rights systems and mechanism with the context of human rights situation in Pakistan. Speakers and experts in the field guided participants through a series of discussions, enabling participants to gain a deeper understanding of this important topic whose importance has been increased manifolds in recent times.

Zia ur Rehman, Chief Executive Awaz CDS Pakistan welcomed the audience and shared the context of the introductory session on International Human Rights System & Mechanism. He shared that the purpose of such kind of initiative is to bring the civil society back to the human rights based approaches and agendas while imparting their services to the people of Pakistan and across the globe. He highlighted that according to the Pakistan Civic Space Monitor 2022 the civic spaces, freedom of expressions and opinion are critically obstructed and emphasized the CSOs to join hands together for civic rights and freedoms.

Christine Chung, South Asia Team Leader, OHCHR, thanked Awaz CDS for this opportunity of knowledge sharing and engagement. While overviewing human rights and international frameworks, she educated the audience on the terms, procedures and treaty bodies of UN agencies and how they carry out the systems for United Nations countries to ensure the protection of human rights. She highlighted the reporting role of

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1144596/session-held-on-intl-human-rights-system-and-mechanism/>



Member CPNE, Member Pakistan Press Foundation

# Daily The Spokesman

Islamabad/Lahore/Multan

## Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi attends Al Kaabi and Al Ketbi weddings

Spokesman Report

ABU DHABI: His Highness Sheikh Khalid bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Governor of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, attended the wedding ceremony of his daughter, Princess Al Kaabi, and his son-in-law, Sheikh Al Ketbi, in a grand ceremony held at the Al Kaabi Palace in Abu Dhabi.



## His Excellency Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahayan Inaugurates Bank Alfalah Branch in Dubai, UAE

Spokesman Report

DUBAI: His Excellency Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahayan, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Bank Alfalah, inaugurated the new branch of the bank in Dubai, UAE, on Monday.



## TIME Hotels to showcase sustainability initiatives, to visiting COP28 delegates

Spokesman Report

DUBAI: UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: UAE-headquartered hospitality company TIME Hotels will showcase its latest sustainability initiatives to drive positive change in the industry sector to visiting delegates participating in the COP28 climate summit in Dubai, UAE, from November 13 to 18.



## Awareness Raising Session Held on International Human Rights System and Mechanism

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: In order to enhance awareness of international human rights system and mechanism, a session titled "Working for Human Rights" was held in Islamabad.

## Embassy celebrates 100th Anniversary of Proclamation of Republic of Türkiye

Governor Sindh paid special tribute to Mustafa Kemal Atatürk

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A special tribute was paid by the Governor of Sindh, Mr. Saeed Anjum, to the 100th anniversary of the proclamation of the Republic of Türkiye.



Daily  
**National Courier**

## Awareness raising session on Int'l Human Rights System, Mechanism held

Pakistan 1 day ago



Islamabad: In order to enhance awareness of international human rights systems and mechanism, AwazCDS-Pakistan and Pakistan Development Alliance jointly organised an event titled 'Exploring Global Framework for Human Rights and Its Operational Mechanisms' here.

Event gave participants valuable opportunity to gain deeper understanding of international human rights systems and mechanism with context of human rights situation in Pakistan. Speakers and experts

<https://www.dailynationalcourier.com/news/awareness-raising-session-on-intl-human-rights-system-mechanism-held>



## Attendance:

Awaz Foundation Pakistan  
Centre for Development Services

pda  
For Governance and Accountability

**Registration/Attendance Sheet**

Title of the Activity: Introductory Session on Information Human Rights & UN HR Mechanisms Date: 30<sup>th</sup> Oct, 2023

Venue/Locality: Islamabad Hotel Facilitator(s): Awaz CDS - Pakistan & PDA

Sr. #	Name	Organization	Designation	Contact Detail (Contact #/ Email)	Signature	Picture Consent (yes/no)
1	Za ur Rehman	Awaz/PDA	C.E./NC	03226301215	[Signature]	✓
2	David Murphy	OHCHR	HRU		[Signature]	
3	Imran AHaf	TV Lab Punjab	Program officer	neehbrajanpre@gmail.com 0320 5243472	[Signature]	✓
4	OMER IMRAN	SPARC	Program Dev	03335105923	[Signature]	✓
5	Hina Kayani	Taskforce 4 protection	Project Manager	0335-5538815	[Signature]	✓
6	Sudni Mahlab	Agakhan Foundation	Gender Specialist	03455572741	[Signature]	✓

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Awaz Foundation Pakistan  
Centre for Development Services

pda  
For Governance and Accountability

Sr.#	Name	Organization	Designation	Contact Detail (Contact #/ Email)	Signature	Picture Consent (yes/no)
7	Mehwish Kayani	UGOOD/CRM	Program Manager	0300-5000774 mehwish.kayani95@gmail.com	[Signature]	YES
8	PSY Solbi Khateeb	SKO/CRM	Director Clinical PSY	0336105733 solbi.khateeb@gmail.com	[Signature]	Yes
9	Ahmed Hussain	Tameer-e-Hayat Foundation	P.O.-HR	HRHaf@smriti.com	[Signature]	Yes
10	Azeem Muhammad	Tameer-e-Hayat Foundation	Director Operation	pmtameer-e-Hayat@gmail.com	[Signature]	Yes
11	Abdul Malik	THCF	Manager President	P.M. Abdul Malik	[Signature]	Yes
12	Amyad Hussain	DHEWA org.	President	0313-5476950 amyad20ap@gmail.com	[Signature]	Yes
13	Yaseeb Syed	Peace & Education Foundation (PEF) Islamabad	Program Manager	03006848260 yaseeb.syed60@gmail.com	[Signature]	Yes
14	Qurbain	Sindh Deset Development Org. S.D.D.O	Board of Director	0300-0209629 qurbainulaini@live.com	[Signature]	Yes

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15	Mahnoor Khan	Awaz CDS - Pakistan	Program Associate	mahnoorkhan726@gmail.com		Yes
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17	Noorur-Rehman	Joint Learning Initiative (JLI)	EPCC Coordinator	noorkur2011@gmail.com		Yes
18	MUHAMMAD NABEEL	SUKKAR WELFARE ORGANIZATION	COORDINATOR	muhammadnabeel14@gmail.com		Yes
19	Muhammad Zahid	Alisal development organization	Executive Director	allaiderog@gmail.com Zachir.adeem@gmail.com		✓
20	Hina Azeel	Hashoo Foundation	Program officer	hinaazalibukhat@hashoofoundation.org		✓
21	Aiman Fatima	Hashoo Foundation	YPF-SSU	aimanfatima03@gmail.com		✓
22	Muhammad Nazeem	National Commission on the Rights of Children	Member JCT	Muhammad.Nazeem.2012@gmail.com		✓

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23	Syed Daryum Shah	Shah Fannuon	CEO	0334-8887888		
		Action org.				
24	M. Ali Kemal	M/O PDS1	SDGs.	0321 533 357 8		Yes
25	Shafiqullahi	AWAZ CDS	Manager HR & Operations	051-2305233		✓
26	Syed Ishfaq Gitan	UGOOD	CEO	4300505989		Yes
27	Ishfaq	AWAZ	IT	0554917722		Yes

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Report composed by:

Name: Mahnoor khan

Organization: AwazCDS- Pakistan

Signature: