

15<sup>th</sup> May 2015**Press Briefing****Aisha Case History**

SPEAK AND CHANGE

Domestic torture and abuse is a widespread issue in Pakistan and victims include women belonging to all sections of society. They are beaten, mutilated and even burnt by their relatives often on quite petty issues. Often the women in houses are less aware of their rights and that is why they do not think that this is in fact violence against them or even if they can understand that they do not have so much strength in their voices to raise them against the male chauvinist approach.

Here in Madadgaar's office we have received one more case of pity women named Ayesha, 28 years old lady .Her father named Jawed Iqbal is a supplier by profession who supplies goods to local shop keepers and in this way he fulfills his house hold expenses. Jawed has 7 daughters and two sons. Ayesha is the elder one. Ayesha's mother has been died in 2001. Since then Jawed Iqbal is supporting his family being a single parent, even though he is not financially well settled. He decided to married his daughter Ayesha with Mansoor who was a Tailor. Ayesha married with Mansoor S/O Manzoor Ahmed two years ago on 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept 2013 and has a nine months old baby boy. She suffered extreme domestic violence and abuse from soon after her marriage. She faced an inhuman behavior of her husband and her in laws. More over, few days later after marriage she came to know that her husband was already married but nobody informed Ayesha's family regarding this marriage.

Her in laws used to taunt her that she is not efficient in house hold affairs. Her husband forbids her to meet with her parents and family members. She didn't have phone or any other source of contact with her family. Ayesha said she had to bear or face hunger in her in laws home because they did not give her food. Poor Ayesha was suffering all these inhuman activities just to remain stable her marital life. Mansoor was a tailor by profession but most of the time he did not have work and remained workless. Aisha used to do some work in leisure time at home and earned some money for her daily expenses. Whenever Mansoor needed money he demanded from Aisha and if she refused to give him money then he used to beat her brutally .More over Mansoor's mother Najma also encouraged and supported him in this brutality.

On 30<sup>th</sup> March 2015 her husband and mother in law crossed all the limits of bestiality. They not only beaten her badly but Mansoor cut her hairs and her mother shaved Aisha's head with razor to embarrass her and to stop her to go to her parent's home. Further they snatched her 9 months old son , now his son is in her in laws custody. Her parents didn't know about the incident till two months. One day when her husband and mother in law



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was not at home she managed to escape from home and by somehow reached to her parents' home and told them the entire story how she was suffering from extreme domestic violence and abuse since last two years.

The helpless father brought her daughter to police station Liaquat Abad and submitted application against her husband for conducting inhuman attitude with her. She told the whole story of these savager mother and son to SHO Liaquat Abad. Aisha also reached to court to seek justice for her, where someone told her about Madadgaar and she along with her sister managed to reach Madadgaar National helpline for support and access to justice. At Madadgaar Aisha told her story of grievance in detail to Madadgaar staff. After providing psychosocial support the counselor of Madadgaar referred her to LHRLA for legal aid. At LHRLA Mr Zia Awan listened her case carefully and ensured her full support of his organization to access to justice and custody of her 9 months old son.

It is not only Ayesha who suffered domestic violence but there is also a large number of women and young girls who are suffering the same. According to Madadgaar National Helpline news paper data base ranging from 1st January to 31st December 2014 regarding violence against women at least **314** women and girls were raped in different parts of the country in 2014, whereas **173** suffered gang rape. Number of women and girls tortured in 2014 are **2569** in which **930** women were tortured by police. At least **595** women and girls kidnapped last year and **329** women fell prey to forced marriages including **133** cases of Vani.

A total number of **6338** cases of women abuse reported nationwide in year 2014 out of which Punjab had the highest number of cases recorded of **2564**, followed by **1864** in Sind, **1092** in Khyber Pakhtunkhawa and **818** in Baluchistan.

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