



Regional Conference on Empowerment and Rights of Communities:

Lessons & Best Practices from the Region



Speaker Profiles



Shandana Khan
Chief Executive Officer,
Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN)

Shandana Khan has over eighteen years of extensive grassroots and policy level experience in rural development, mainly in the Rural Support Programmes. Her strengths are in project management, their design and social assessment. Her work at the RSPN has involved undertaking policy advocacy with donors as well as with the highest levels of government and associated institutions (e.g. the National Reconstruction Bureau and the Devolution Trust for Community Empowerment). She contributed strategic insights and inputs into the Pakistan Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, the Local Government Ordinance 2001, gender mainstreaming policies, and inclusion of social mobilisation in government programmes at all levels. She has been an advocate for meaningful, result-oriented partnerships between the poor communities and the government and private sector.

Shandana Khan is a strong team player and leader, managing a team of over 100 multidisciplinary professionals at RSPN. She has a social sciences background, with a Masters degree in the Social and Political Sciences from Pembroke College, University of Cambridge as well as a Masters in International Public Policy from the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), Johns Hopkins University. She is widely travelled and comfortable in multi-cultural settings. She is fluent in English, Urdu and Pushto and functional in French.



Kamran Arif
Legal Advisor,
Foundation Open Society Institute (FOSI)

Kamran Arif is Legal Advisor at the Foundation Open Society Institute Pakistan (FOSIP) and is the Co-Chair of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP).



Ms. Khawar Mumtaz

Chairperson

National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW)

Ms. Khawar Mumtaz brings almost 30 years of experience of working on women's rights and development issues. She is an activist who was associated with Shirkat Gah- Women's Resource Centre since 1988 and was its CEO till she joined NCSW as its Chair in January 2013. Ms. Mumtaz brings a multi-sectoral approach to women's issues with specific expertise in the areas of women and development, women's movement and political participation, poverty and environment, women's legal, reproductive health and rights.

Ms. Mumtaz has served on the governing bodies of several national and international organisations and has been active in various networks and platforms including the Pakistan NGO Forum as its Convenor/General Secretary, Pakistan Reproductive Health network, WAF. She is a recipient of Sitara-e-Imtiaz (23 March 2006) and PM's award for co-authored book, Women of Pakistan; Two Steps Forward One Step Back? 1989. She was one of the 1,000 women worldwide nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize 2005. Ms. Mumtaz has over 60 research reports and publications on women's issues to her credit. She has lectured at the Pakistan Administrative Staff College, NIPA, Civil Services Academy, Population Training Institute and was the resource person/trainer for UNDP Gender Mainstreaming Project in Punjab (2005-06).



Lotta Teale

Project Manager, Global Legal Empowerment Programme
Open Society Justice Initiative (OSJI)

Lotta Teale manages a series of pilot legal empowerment projects around the world, leads a team providing technical advice on designing and implementing high quality community-based justice services, works to integrate legal empowerment into broader development agendas, and to bring together a global network of practitioners. Her particular areas of specialism include Ukraine, Sierra Leone, Pakistan, Egypt, Roma, and the scale-up of services nationwide. Prior to this, Lotta managed the Justice Initiative Legal Empowerment work in Sierra Leone, setting up a nationwide paralegal network recognised by the Government in a new legal aid law, across several organisations.

Prior to coming to the Open Society Foundations, Lotta worked in Sierra Leone as gender-based violence legal program manager with the International Rescue Committee, as a consultant with the International Centre for Transitional Justice focusing on access to justice for women, and as special assistant to the registrar at the Special Court for Sierra Leone. She worked with a group of women activists to draft, lobby for and facilitate the passage of legislation improving the position of women through the Sierra Leone Parliament, which became law in 2007, and subsequently assisted the Government of Sierra Leone in implementing that legislation. Lotta is qualified as a barrister in England specializing in family law.





Leanne Mackay
Consultant,
Open Society Foundations (OSF)

Leanne is a rule of law specialist with specific experience designing and managing rule of law programs in fragile and conflict-affected states, including Pakistan, the West Bank and Gaza, Yemen, Somalia, Sudan and Indonesia. She has worked on a range of UN and INGO access to justice and legal empowerment projects including establishing legal aid and paralegal networks and centres in North Darfur, Gaza, the West Bank and Somalia; initiating mobile courts projects in Indonesia and North Darfur; and advising the Somaliland Ministry of Justice on the establishment of a national legal aid system.

Leanne is a qualified barrister and solicitor and holds a Masters degree in Public and International Law. She has been providing technical assistance to the Open Society Justice Initiative and Sarhad Rural Support Program since 2011 in the design, development and implementation of a pilot community paralegal project in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province.



Masood ul Mulk
Chief Executive Officer,
Sarhad Rural Support Programme (SRSP)

Masood ul Mulk is the Chief Executive of Sarhad Rural Support Programme, a position he has held since 2001. SRSP is the largest non-government organization working for poverty reduction in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA regions of Pakistan. It has over a thousand people on its staff and works with over twenty one thousand community organizations. Earlier to this, Masood was the Regional Head of Aga Khan Rural Support Programme in Chitral District of Pakistan for thirteen years. He has worked in the NGO sector since 1986.

A few examples of Masood's accomplishments include; 1) In the earthquake of 2005, Masood led SRSP to build over 62 000 houses in a community driven programme acknowledged by international standards; 2) In 2010, led SRSP in a partnership with UNHCR to deliver non food items to thinly dispersed 300,000 households; 3) In nineties he led AKRSP to establish a community run micro hydro programme, which reached over 18,000 household; 4) As head of SRSP, he led a major transformation of the organization in terms financial and human resources.

Mr. Masood ul Mulk holds an MBA degree from Quaid e Azam University, Islamabad and accomplished a one year Professional Development Programme under Hubert Humphrey Fellowship LBJ School of Public Affair at Austin Texas, USA. He has been a speaker on national and international circuit; and represented civil society. He has worked with multi lateral and national agencies as a consultant.



Inayat Ullah
Research Manager,
Democratic Commission for Human Development (DCHD)

Based within Democratic Commission for Human Development (DCHD), Mr. Inayat Ullah is currently managing and leading the impact evaluation of Sarhad Rural Support Programme's (SRSP's) Legal Empowerment Project (LEP) on behalf of Open Society Foundations (OSF) and Foundation Open Society Institute Pakistan (FOSIP). He has previously done field work on microfinance in Chitral, Pakistan and has been associated with research at the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Institute of Ismaili Studies (IIS), London and a self initiated project, Vijana FM which focuses on entrepreneurship for youth, advocacy and research. He holds a Master's degree in Development Economics from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London.



Sohail Manzoor
Programme Manager Social Protection and Human Resource Development,
National Rural Support Programme (NRSP)

Mr. Sohail has 17 years of working experience in the field of Management and Development; he has implemented many large and small scale projects across the country. His specific focus is on child and women protection, women entrepreneurship development, capacity building, livelihood development, research and governance. Mr. Sohail is author of many valuable training Manuals, Modules, Handbooks, and research reports, research papers. His recent publications are 1) Training Manual on "Community Based Disaster Risk Management" published by RSPN/USAID. 2) Baseline Research, IEC Material and Training Manuals on "End Honor Crimes in Pakistan for Public Officials and Community Members published by National Commission on the Status of Women/UNIFEM. Recently he has represented Pakistan in International congress "Rural women, partner of the development process" held at Rabat, Morocco.

Mr. Sohail Manzoor is associated with NRSP as a Programme Manager Social Protection and Human Resource Development at Head Office Islamabad, he has experience to work with different national and international institutions with different capacities such as UNDP, Unicef, USAID, GEP, NDMA, Diokoni, WFP, MI Canada, NCSW, Asia Foundation, UNIFEM, EDC USA, JBIC, JICA, EU, WWF, CIDA etc. Mr. Sohail Manzoor has Master's degree in Sociology and Statistics.





Ms. Farah Huq
 Consultant
 Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust, Bangladesh

Ms Farah Huq currently holds the position of a Research Associate at Dr Kamal Hossain & Associates, a law chambers, and a Consultant (Advocacy and Communications) at Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), a leading specialist legal services organisation. At BLAST, Farah undertakes legal research, and is contributing to the development of an effective communications strategy, including through assistance with BLAST publications and maintaining its social media presence. She also works closely with the Monitoring and Evaluation Cell, in development of indicators for effective tracking of BLAST's legal interventions. She coordinates the BLAST Internship and Fellowship Programme, which regularly hosts both national and international interns.

Farah obtained her BA (Hons) in English Literature from Queen Mary, University of London (2009). In 2011, she completed her LL.B (Hons) and the Bar Professional Training Course from the University of Law (formerly known as The College of Law), London. She was Called to the Bar at the Honourable Society of Lincolns Inn in October 2011.



Dr. Margarita Khagai
 Project Coordinator, League of Women Lawyers, Tajikistan

Dr. Khagai has been a member of the NGO "League of Women Lawyers of Tajikistan" since 2005 and has participated in the LWL's activity as a gender consultant, a researcher and a design developer.

Dr. Khagai has a Ph.D. in Economics (1989), was a Fulbright Visiting Scholar (2011-2012), a Gender Expert and the author of a number of researches and publications on Gender Issues in Tajikistan. She has participated in preparing of a number of National reports on HDR (1999, 2009), CEDAW (2006), Gender Reports (2000, 2003) etc.



Mandira Sharma
Chairperson,
Advocacy Forum, Nepal

Mandira Sharma is a human rights lawyer and activist. She is the founder of Advocacy Forum-Nepal, a human rights organization, which conducts investigations and files cases on behalf of thousands victims of Nepal's 10-year civil war, which began in the mid- 1990s. She received her BA in Law degree from Tribhuwan University in Kathmandu and with a grant from the British Council Mandira gained a Master of Laws (L.L.M.) in International Human Rights degree in 2000 from the University of Essex in Colchester, England. For courage and tenacity, Mandira Sharma received the Human Rights Watch award in 2006, one of the most prestigious honors in the field of human rights.



Nagina Jan
Chairperson, Local Support Organization (LSO)
Karnal Sher Killi (KSK), Swabi

Miss Nagina is involved in Social Organization and mobilization of women village organizations. She has conducted training of women entrepreneurs on Micro Enterprises Development and skill trainings and also developed Linkages for Micro Credit.

Gender and Development also remains the main focus of her efforts including specific work on violence against women white ribbon campaigns, Child Labour, Girls Education, Resolving local disputes.



Yasmeen Bibi
Information Secretary, Local Support Organization (LSO),
Falahi Organization MusaKhel, Mianwali

Yasmeen is an activist and the Information Secretary in the Local Support Organization called Falahi Organization Musakhel in Mianwali District, Punjab. She has been working as a social worker to organize women Community Organizations and for the welfare of women and children in the area, working especially with orphans. She has also worked with health and education and has conducted awareness sessions on Rights Based Approach such as early marriages and violence against women.





Hina Jillani

Director, AGHS Legal Aid Cell, Lahore

Hina Jillani is a lawyer practicing in the Supreme Court of Pakistan, and is the Director of AGHS Legal Aid Cell, a legal aid and human rights NGO in Pakistan.

She established Pakistan's first all-women's law firm in 1980, and cases she has conducted have on numerous occasions become landmarks for setting standards for human rights in Pakistan. Special areas of concern in her work have been the rights of women, minorities, children and prisoners, including political prisoners. Her activity in these areas include legal aid, advocacy for rights, proposing and preparing legislative drafts for law reform, and designing and conducting projects for the protection, promotion and implementation of the human rights of disadvantaged groups and their social, political and economic development.

She served as the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Human Rights Defenders from 2000 to 2008. She is a member of the council and founding board of several international human rights institutions. She was elected as the Chair of South Asians for Human Rights (SAHR) in December 2010. She co-founded the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan and the Women's Action Forum in 1986 and 1980, respectively.

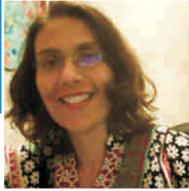


Waseem Hashmi

Manager Coordination and Outreach,
Consumer Rights Commission of Pakistan (CRCP)

Mr. Waseem Hashmi is an experienced trainer and writer with extensive experience of project management, research and conducting of trainings in development sector. He served for 25 years in Pakistan Army and remained actively engaged in research and development, instructional and legal assignments, besides various command and staff appointments, before retiring in 2002 as a Lieutenant Colonel.

Mr. Hashmi has been working in Development Sector since 2005 in different capacities which include; (i) As Manager Consumer Complaints and Redress Forum, he has been effectively handling consumer complaints regarding goods and services, besides rendering necessary legal advice. (ii) An active member of CRCP's Right to Information (RTI) Campaign and has played an instrumental role in implementation of RTI Laws through Procedural Activism. He represented CRCP/ Consumers at different forums like OGRA, NEPRA and different Ministries and voiced Consumer concerns. (iii) Chairman of Certification Bodies' Accreditation Committee (CBAC), working under Pakistan National Accreditation Council (PNAC), Ministry of Science and Technology and still holds the post. (iv) as a member of National Drugs Pricing Committee, In this capacity, he has been asserting himself to ensure availability of affordable quality drugs to consumers.



Dr. Ayesha Khan
Chief Executive Officer,
Research and Development Solutions (RADS)

Dr. Khan is an Infectious Disease specialist with public health training. She has worked 8 years in the National HIV Program and Health Policy Unit of the Ministry of Health and has extensive experience in population and health issues and research.

She is currently the CEO Research and Development Solutions. RADS is a Islamabad based research organization that is working on a Grant Initiative promoting Evidence use for informed decision making in Family Planning and Childhood Immunization in collaboration with Punjab and Sindh governments, print media and communities.



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