



YOUTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INVESTIGATION & PROSECUTION OF GENDER BASED CRIMES



YGA LEGAL FORUM
A Project of Youth General Assembly



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Youth General Assembly is an autonomous assembly that has been formed in order to provide a credible platform that instigates a true sense of policy & strategy making, equitable administration and non-customary legislative, public speaking and social issues by empowering enthusiasm in youth for being the future ambassadors and democrats.

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ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE ON INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF GENDER-BASED CRIMES

Youth General Assembly (YGA) organized a round table conference on July 28th 2022 at IVY College of Management Sciences to deliberate upon the shortcomings and the ways to improve “**Investigation and Prosecution of Gender Based Crimes**” with a special emphasis on Domestic Violence (DV). The conference brought together public officials and civil society stakeholders from a variety of fields and after an in-depth consultation, the following joint policy recommendations are being proposed from the platform of the Youth General Assembly.

RECOMMENDATIONS:-

Category	Recommendations
Investigation of Gender-based Crime (GBC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Police response time to GBC crime scenes needs to be enhanced for the preservation and collection of crucial evidence.• Every visible detail of the crime scene must be captured in photographs.• Investigation under all circumstances must follow due process and be in accordance with Article 173 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.• Investigation by GBC specialized cells needs to be gender sensitive and responsive for which there is a need for training.• Interrogation net needs to include the immediate family of the victim to ensure a thorough investigation.• Police should not exert unreasonable pressure on the victim for the purpose of obtaining evidence.• Investigation involving postmortem must not be delayed owing to the archaic practice of summoning each relative for body identification.• The privacy and security of the victim must be protected at all costs.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Departmental action should be taken against any mishandling of evidence. • The role of police must be clearly explained to avoid ultra vires actions. • The police must only collect the evidence and not comment on or decide the importance of evidence.
<p>Prosecution and Trial of GBC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital evidence such as photographs of the crime scene and the victim’s body showing the bruises must be deemed admissible. • Modern scientific evidence must also be considered. • In cases involving GBC, child testimony and must not be neglected and the child must be protected by judicial authorities from insensitive and irrelevant cross-examination. • There needs to be increased and effective cooperation between police and prosecution departments for improving conviction rates. • Frequent adjournments negatively impact the outcome of a GBC case, daily hearings in such cases can ensure speedy justice.
<p>Domestic Violence Investigation and Trial</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A complete medical examination by the MLO needs to be conducted in line with scientific and technological advancements. • DNA samples and photographs should be focused upon as evidence. • Evidence should be submitted and reported digitally. • The threshold of evidence must not be unnecessarily high in cases where women are beaten by their husbands. • Police must not turn down medical reports on the basis of familial relations between the victim and the perpetrator.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police must appreciate that some cases cannot be settled out of court and should not exert pressure on the victim to reach a compromise. • Police should not be authorized to decide whether to file an FIR or not in domestic violence cases. • The police need to be trained to implement the Domestic Violence Act 2016 in true letter and spirit. <p>There has to be a coordinated societal and governmental effort to promote reporting and convictions in domestic violence cases.</p>
Reporting of GBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The online complaint systems need to be integrated and updated for safe and convenient reporting. • Immediate medical assistance must be provided in acid attacks. • A single national helpline for reporting GBC must be established to avoid confusion. • Improvement in police behavior in GBC investigations can help build public trust in the police investigation. • Awareness at the mass level through consistent efforts by the government can help improve knowledge and understanding of current GBC laws.

Guest Speakers

- Mr. Fahad Shahbaz
- Barrister Salman Safdar
- Barrister Ambreen Qureshi
- Barrister Muhammad Ahmad Pansota
- Ms. Sehar Amir Tarrar
- Ms. Ayesha Taslim
- Ms. Aqsa Javed
- Mr. Shabbir Hussain
- Ms. Valerie Khan
- Mr. Zain Ali Qureshi
- Ms. Ramma Altaf Baig
- Ms. Zahra Hamad Naqvi
- Ms. Alizeh Akbar Meer
- Ms. Maheen Gul Malik

- Ms. Fatima Razaq
- Ms. Aminah Qadir
- Ms. Ghazal Khan
- Ms. Anam Rehmat – In-charge GBV City Division
- Ms. Salma Bano – In-charge Anti Women Harassment and Violence Cell
- Ms. Farzana Mushtaq, In-charge GBV Iqbal Town

The recommendations were given by the above-mentioned professionals on the basis of their years of experience in the field and on the concerned subject.



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