



# ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Peace and Justice for All

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## Abbreviation used in the Annual Report 2025

<b>CEDAW</b>	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
<b>FCCI</b>	Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and industry
<b>FoRB</b>	Freedom of Religion or Belief
<b>HFO</b>	Human Friends Organization
<b>ICCPR</b>	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
<b>ICESCR</b>	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
<b>ICERD</b>	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
<b>SAI</b>	Stefanus Alliance International
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme



## Message from the President

As we reflect on the year 2025, we do so against a backdrop of profound challenges, both nationally and globally. The year tested our collective resilience through conflict, human rights violations, climate-induced disasters, and deepening social inequalities. Yet, it was also a year that reaffirmed the enduring strength of solidarity, compassion, and unwavering commitment to human dignity.

Pakistan witnessed moments of national uncertainty and hardship, while vulnerable communities, particularly religious minorities, women, children, and bonded labourers, continued to face discrimination, violence, and systemic injustice. In parallel, devastating floods displaced families, destroyed livelihoods, and deepened poverty across multiple regions. In the midst of these realities, Human Friends Organization stood firmly with those most affected, providing relief, protection, advocacy, and hope.

Throughout the year, HFO advanced its mission to promote Freedom of Religion or Belief, interfaith harmony, and social inclusion through sustained advocacy, legal aid, psychosocial support, education, and community-based interventions. From facilitating the release of victims of false accusations and bonded labour, to supporting trauma-affected families in Jaranwala, to responding swiftly to flood emergencies in Punjab and

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, our work remained grounded in dignity, justice, and empathy.

Our partnerships with UNDP, the Government of Punjab, international allies, faith leaders, civil society, and local communities, enabled us to amplify impact and bridge dialogue between institutions and marginalized voices. The recognition awarded to HFO by the Government of Punjab in 2025 is a testament not only to our work, but to the courage of the communities we serve and the dedication of our team.

As we move forward, HFO remains steadfast in its resolve to defend human rights, nurture peaceful coexistence, and empower future generations through education and ethical leadership. On behalf of the Board and management, I extend my deepest gratitude to our partners, donors, volunteers, and staff whose commitment continues to transform adversity into hope.

Together, we will continue building a Pakistan rooted in justice, inclusion, and shared humanity.

Long live Pakistan!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sajid Christopher'.

**Sajid Christopher**

President

Human Friends Organization (HFO)

## Introduction

Human Friends Organization – 22nd Years of Advocacy, Hope, and Human Dignity being in solidarity with those who are in urgency of human relief in need of saving assistance to people in crisis, such as those affected by natural disasters.

Human Friends Organization (HFO) marks 22nd years of tireless commitment for promoting human rights, religious freedom, interfaith harmony, mitigation in crisis, providing counselling to the victims of trauma. Educating the underprivileged children and youth to play an active role as responsible citizens in society. The annual report of 2025 presents the glimpse of the some (HFO) activities of empowering the minorities advocating and sporting the victims of falls accusation of religious allegation. Promoting interfaith harmony, creating an environment of coherence and tolerance in society. From advocacy sessions on inclusion and economic reintegration of minorities, providing trauma counselling and legal aid every initiative underscores our mission; to restore dignity, empower the marginalized, and build peaceful, resilient communities. Through partnerships with UNDP, the Human Rights & Minorities Affairs Department, and civil society actors, HFO continues to strengthen bridges between government institutions, business communities, and vulnerable groups. Our work with bonded labourers, youth, women and orphans reflects the power of empathy in action, transforming stories of despair into those of freedom and hope.

# Executive Summary

The year 2025 unfolded in a complex and volatile global and national environment marked by conflict, political uncertainty, climate emergencies, and persistent human rights violations. Against this challenging backdrop, Human Friends Organization (HFO) sustained and strengthened its role as a trusted advocate for human dignity, religious freedom, and social justice in Pakistan.

Throughout the year, HFO focused on advancing Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB), promoting interfaith harmony, and protecting the rights of religious minorities through advocacy, capacity-building, and institutional engagement. In partnership with UNDP Pakistan and the Government of Punjab, HFO convened high-level advocacy forums, business community dialogues, and capacity-building workshops that brought together government officials, civil society, religious leaders, and private-sector stakeholders. These initiatives resulted in concrete commitments toward inclusive employment, non-discrimination, and peaceful coexistence.

Legal aid and protection remained central to HFO's work. In 2025, the organization supported victims of false accusations and bonded labour, contributing to landmark acquittals and the release of multiple families from exploitative conditions. These interventions restored freedom, dignity, and livelihoods, while reinforcing the importance of due process and justice for marginalized communities.

HFO also prioritized psychosocial care and healing. Trauma counselling and mental health support were extended to families affected by mob violence in Jaranwala, addressing deep emotional scars and fostering resilience at both individual and community levels. Simultaneously, legal awareness and community education sessions empowered citizens to better understand and claim their rights.

Climate-related emergencies further shaped HFO's response in 2025. Unprecedented monsoon rains and flooding displaced families across Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. In collaboration with UNDP and international partners, HFO delivered emergency relief, food, hygiene kits, and early recovery support—meeting immediate humanitarian needs while contributing to longer-term recovery.

Education and child protection remained pillars of HFO's mission. Through Allama Paul Higher Secondary School, the organization promoted quality education, digital learning, environmental awareness, and interfaith values. The Kinship House continued to provide holistic care to orphaned and vulnerable children, offering shelter, education, psychosocial support, and a nurturing environment rooted in dignity and hope.

Despite an environment of instability and rising challenges, 2025 marked a year of deepened impact, strengthened partnerships, and enhanced organizational credibility for Human Friends Organization. The recognition received from the Government of Punjab underscores HFO's growing role as a principled, effective, and compassionate actor in Pakistan's human rights landscape.

As HFO looks ahead, it remains committed to transforming injustice into opportunity, fear into resilience and exclusion into belonging—working alongside communities and partners to build a more just, peaceful and inclusive society for all.

## 1. Implementation Performance:

Human Friends Organization in collaboration with UNDP Pakistan, the Government of Punjab and Faisalabad Local Government has undertaken a conflict prevention and resolution project to protect the rights of minorities in Faisalabad, in the wake of violence against and attacks on Christian communities' residences and places of worship in Jaranwala, Faisalabad on 16th August 2023. The initiative outlines a comprehensive strategy for conflict assessment, conflict resolution, and mediation, to proactively address the issues of interfaith violence – through capacity building trainings of key stakeholders, advocacy and community engagement. The project aimed to promote minority rights, social cohesion, and conflict resolution through a series of capacity-building, advocacy, and mediation initiatives.

Key objectives included enhancing psychosocial support services, increasing legal awareness among minority communities, and building local capacities for insider mediation.

The project successfully delivered 13 planned deliverables, including capacity building workshops, support network strengthening, development and dissemination of final reports on psychosocial support, legal awareness, insider mediation, and advocacy campaigns. The initiative aligned with SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) and national priorities around social cohesion, inclusive governance, and access to justice.



### A. Capacity Building & Community Engagement:

HFO - UNDP conducted a one-day capacity-building workshop for key stakeholders from Faisalabad's district administration, local government departments, interfaith committees, civil society organizations, and human rights defenders on Effective Community Engagement. The training emphasized Pakistan's national and international human rights obligations, with particular focus on the rights of religious minorities and gender equality.

Facilitated by expert trainer Ms. Sobia Batool Shah, the workshop featured sessions on constitutional safeguards, international commitments including (International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

(ICESCR), Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), the impact of hate crimes on minority women, and departmental overview from the Human Rights and Minority Affairs



Department, Government of Punjab and Social Welfare Department, Faisalabad. Interactive group work further explored practical recommendations to overcome systemic barriers and promote inclusive governance. In Phase I, 59 participants were trained, including 52 men and 7 women. Phase II trained 58 participants, with 23 men and 35 women. In total, 117 participants were trained across both phases—75 men and 42 women. The event concluded with a shared commitment to institutionalize practices that protect religious minorities and uphold democratic values. Participants acknowledged the importance of sustained engagement, capacity building, and ethical responsibility to promote a peaceful, pluralistic society.

## **B. Mapping Study:**

Aligned with Pakistan's International, constitutional, and provincial human rights and religious minorities' rights, the UNDP Pakistan and Human Friends Organization (HFO) surveyed Jaranwala and Faisalabad residents, to report on socio-economic impact of the hate campaign and mob vandalism against Pakistani Christian communities in Jaranwala town of Faisalabad district. It can be argued that a near-proportional representation of province wide demographics was represented despite only collecting 127 surveys.

The objectives of the study were to document the financial and employment impact of the August 16, 2023 incident on religious minority communities, use the findings for advocacy on inclusive economic opportunities, and strengthen conflict prevention and interfaith harmony through multi-stakeholder collaboration and community-based peacebuilding efforts. The survey—37% women and 63% men revealed the severe socio-economic impact of the August 16 incident. Among 127 respondents, 81.9% reported their employment was affected, with 66.4% losing their jobs either permanently or temporarily. Only 9.6% reported no impact. None of those who lost jobs received formal termination notices; most were simply turned away, with two cases explicitly citing replacement by Muslim workers. Nearly 75% of affected individuals have not secured stable employment since, and 52.8% did not reach out to former employers due to filled positions, unwillingness to rehire, or the trauma of the incident. The responses from the participants highlight the profound impact of the incident on their sense of security and well-being. A considerable number of respondents stated that they did not return to their employers due to fear and terror, indicating the psychological distress and insecurity they experienced.

## **C. Advocacy Session with the Business Community Faisalabad on Inclusion**

It aims to deepen understanding of workplace discrimination and exclusion, while strengthening the ability of employers and duty bearers to develop effective, sustainable solutions to address these challenges. The advocacy session was held with the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FCCI) and Faisalabad Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry, employers and some local business owners from shoe/ textile factories and looms, in Jaranwala town of district Faisalabad as well as with the local and Punjab government officials like Social Welfare and Bait-ul-Mall Department Faisalabad, representative from Deputy Commissioner office for affirmative inclusion of and non-discrimination against the local Christian community in accessing sustained decent employments. In Phase I, a total of 120 participants were engaged, including 101 men and 19 women. In Phase II, the focus shifted specifically to the business community, with 61 participants—54 men and 7 women—attending the session. Drawing from the lessons learned in the Phase I advocacy session, where peace.



and interfaith committee members were included, this time it was decided to shift the focus towards employers, governance structures, and civil society members, excluding peace committee members to ensure that discussions remained concentrated on labour rights, workplace inclusion, and economic empowerment. This adjustment allowed for deeper, more focused dialogue on practical ways to create equitable workplaces for marginalized communities, particularly religious minorities, and fostered a more targeted and solutions-driven approach during the session.

The advocacy and capacity-building session concluded on a highly positive note, receiving widespread appreciation from all participating local institutions, including the Social Welfare Department, Department of Human Rights and Minority Affairs, Faisalabad District Administration, and business chambers. Stakeholders unanimously recognized the importance of such inclusive platforms in promoting dialogue, understanding, and actionable change. The event was acknowledged as a pioneering initiative, with many key influencers and thought leaders praising it as the first of its kind in the district, uniquely focusing on economic inclusion, interfaith harmony, and livelihood restoration for minorities.

## **D. Psychosocial Support**

The terror attack in Jaranwala, Faisalabad has left a lasting impact on the local community, particularly on survivors who are now routing through profound emotional and psychological trauma. To support healing and resilience among affected individuals, this initiative aimed to provide trauma-informed psycho-social support through collaborative sessions and individual counseling. These sessions focused on creating safe spaces for expression, building resilience, and equipping participants with practical tools for coping and recovery. Under this intervention, a total of 20 individual sessions, 5 family counselling sessions, and 3 community-based sessions were conducted by a psychosocial support expert to assist survivors in processing their trauma and rebuilding emotional resilience. In Phase I, a total of 191 individuals—70 men and 121 women—received trauma counselling. In Phase II, 219 individuals—73 men and 146 women—were provided with psychosocial support.



These sessions provided a structured approach to addressing the psychological distress experienced by individuals, families, and the broader community in the aftermath of violence and displacement. Through a combination of active listening, grounding exercises, trauma education, and coping strategies, participants gained tools to manage fear, anxiety, and distress. Individual sessions focused on personal trauma processing, while family counselling helped restore trust and unity within households. Community sessions emphasized collective healing, social cohesion, and strategies for resilience-building. The interventions had a significant impact, helping survivors regain a sense of emotional stability and empowering them to navigate their healing journey despite ongoing challenges.

## **Legal Awareness**

The legal awareness deliverable focused on enhancing legal awareness and resilience among Christian communities impacted by the Jaranwala mob violence on August 16, 2023. Through community-based legal education and individual legal consultations, the initiative sought to educate participants about their constitutional rights, anti-mob violence laws, and legal safeguards against misuse of blasphemy law. The sessions, held in three key localities-Nora Colony, Chak No. 2, and the Salvation Army Church—were strategically designed to empower affected individuals with actionable legal knowledge. A total of 324 community members participated in the group

sessions, of which 63% were women, reflecting substantial female engagement. Moreover, many individuals received personalized legal advice through one-on-one sessions, addressing cases such as FIR filing, workplace harassment, property disputes, and access to welfare for persons with disabilities. Participants were equipped with easy-to-understand materials, templates, and helpline information, all designed to strengthen their ability to navigate legal procedures and assert their rights. In the phase-I total 152 individuals with 54 men and 98 women received the legal awareness whereas in the Phase-II total 172 with 59 men and 113 women received legal education. Key findings indicate that the initiative significantly improved legal literacy among participants, with a considerable number of participants reported better understanding of their rights. The sessions helped foster trust in legal systems, increased willingness to take legal action, and enabled individuals to support others within their communities.



## E. Insider Mediation

One-day training on Insider Mediation aimed to equip key influencers with the skills needed to identify conflict entry points, initiate constructive dialogue, and promote “win-win” solutions. Participants explored various conflict resolution strategies and discussed their practical implementation by leveraging their roles and capacities as insider mediators.

In Phase I of the Insider Mediation Training, 22 participants (13 men and 9 women) attended, representing government institutions such as the Social Welfare Department Faisalabad, religious leaders, and civil society members. The training focused on a thematic approach, equipping participants with conflict mapping skills and insider mediation techniques. In Phase II, the training was attended by 20 participants, including 6 men, 11 women, and 3 transgender individuals, reflecting strong gender and diversity representation. Emphasis was placed on selecting participants from local administrations, especially women with leadership roles like women councilors, town members (an elected representative who serves on a local council or municipal body within a town or tehsil), and a member of the National Assembly. To ensure diversity and inclusiveness, three transgender women and faith leaders were also included, recognizing their crucial roles as community representatives and mediators.



The one-day Insider Mediation Training led to several key outcomes. It strengthened participants' capacity to understand and resolve local conflicts through practical tools like conflict mapping, active listening, and mediation techniques. Participants including women, faith leaders, political representatives, and transgender community members gained confidence to act as trusted mediators in their communities.

Real-life case studies and interactive exercises deepened their understanding of early conflict warning signs and reinforced the critical role of insider mediators in promoting peaceful coexistence and preventing violence.

The project's exit strategy focuses on ensuring sustainability through strong local ownership, institutional capacity, and long-term partnerships. Human Friends Organization (HFO) aims to embed the project's outcomes within existing structures by strengthening the capacity of local government officials, district administration, and civil society actors to continue promoting minority rights and social cohesion. Relationships built during implementation particularly through the multi-stakeholder network—will be maintained to support ongoing advocacy and dialogue. By actively involving community leaders and grassroots organizations in planning and execution, the project fosters a sense of responsibility and ownership that will outlast the project timeline.

## **Minorities Day Celebration 11th August 2025 was organized (HFO)**

Minorities Day 11th August celebration was organized by Human Friends Organization (HFO) with the theme “Minority Women Empowerment” in Mabel Hall Youhannabad. 110 women and other members from the civil society participated in the programme.

The panel discussion was held the guests' speakers, Rev Fr Nasir Gulfam OFM Cap, Islamic Scholar Dr. Badar Munir, Sir. George Paul the Educationalist, Pastor Arshad Ashaknaz, Mrs. Sharon Shamir Coordinator Legal Assistance and Mrs. Sana Irfan project coordinator HFO elaborated emerging challenges and role of the women in our present scenario. At the end MR. Sajid Christopher , Executive Director HFO, in his



concluding remarks reinsure the commitment of Human Friends Organization's commitment to empower the women in our society to live their life with equality, freedom, honour, and dignity. HFO organized several awareness campaigns throughout the quarter, focusing on the promotion of tolerance and mutual respect among diverse communities. Special outreach programs were conducted in schools and local neighborhoods, where interfaith dialogues and cultural exchange activities encouraged understanding and strengthening the unity. Furthermore, partnerships with local media helped amplify the voices of marginalized groups, ensuring their concerns reached a broader audience and fostering a culture of inclusivity. These efforts have not only strengthened community bonds but also contributed to a safer and more harmonious environment for all.

## **2. Conflict Resolution & Peace building training by UNDP :**

Human Friends Organization (HFO) team members, Mrs. Sharon Shamir ex-coordinator Legal Assistance Program, Mr. Emmanuel Sadiq Field Coordinator, Mr. Shan Rasheed Communication and IT officer participated in the training and received certificates “Insider Mediation for Conflict Resolution & Peace building training” 1st to 12th September 2025 in Institute of Peace & Conflict Studies, University of Peshawar organized by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Insider Mediation aimed to equip key influencers with the skills needed to identify conflict entry points, initiate constructive dialogue and solutions. Participants explored various conflict resolution strategies and discussed their practical implementation by leveraging their roles and capacities as insider mediators.



## 53rd International conference on Human Rights, in Bonn Germany.

On 29 March 2025, Mr. Sajid Christopher, Executive Director HFO, participated as a guest speaker at the 53rd International Conference on Human Rights, organized by IGFM (International Society for Human Rights) in Bonn, Germany. Addressing an international audience of human rights advocates and civil society representatives, he highlighted the persistent human rights challenges faced by religious minorities in Pakistan, particularly the continued practice of bonded labour in rural areas. He explained that many marginalized communities, including Pakistani Christians, are often employed in exploitative sectors such as brick kilns, sanitation work, domestic labour, and agriculture, where debt bondage traps families in cycles of poverty and restricted freedom. Despite bonded labour being illegal in Pakistan, weak enforcement allows the practice to persist, with workers receiving extremely low wages and facing continuous deductions for debt repayment. Mr. Christopher emphasized HFO's ongoing efforts to raise awareness about bonded labour laws, advocate for stronger legal enforcement, support the release and rehabilitation of affected families, and promote sustainable livelihood opportunities, while calling for greater national and international collaboration to protect labour rights and ensure dignity and justice for marginalized communities.



## One day workshop on Gender and FoRB Women in Focus

On 24 November 2025, Human Friends Organization (HFO), in partnership with Stefanus Alliance International (SAI), Norway, organized a one-day workshop on Gender and Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) under the theme “Freedom of Religion or Belief for Everyone – Women in Focus.” The workshop was



facilitated by Ms. Vija Herefoss, Senior Advisor at SAI, and Ms. Dillnia Karbasian, Project Advisor at SAI, who shared insights on the intersection of women's rights and religious freedom, highlighting the unique challenges women face when both gender and faith-based discrimination intersect. Drawing on reflections and lessons from the FoRB for Everyone – Women in Focus initiative, the session emphasized the importance of empowering women as advocates for tolerance, dignity, and equal rights within their communities. Twenty-four women from diverse professional and social backgrounds actively participated in group discussions, interactive exercises, and experience-sharing sessions, reflecting on strategies to promote inclusion, strengthen women's voices, and advance freedom of religion or belief in Pakistan. The workshop concluded with a certificate distribution ceremony, recognizing the participants' engagement and commitment to promoting gender equality and FoRB in their respective spheres.

## The book launching Ceremony FoRB for Everyone – Women in Focus

Human Friends Organization (HFO) successfully hosted the launching ceremony of the book “Freedom of Religion or Belief for Everyone – Women in Focus” published by Stefanus Alliance International (SAI), Norway. The event brought together participants from diverse sectors of society, including religious leaders, Islamic scholars, teachers, journalists, lawyers, human rights defenders, social workers, and political activists, reflecting a collective commitment to promoting human dignity, interfaith understanding, and equal rights for women across all communities. The book was formally inaugurated by Ms. Vija Herefoss, Senior Advisor at SAI, and Ms. Dillnia Karbasian, Project Advisor at SAI, who emphasized the importance of advancing women’s rights within the broader framework of Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB). The ceremony provided an important platform for dialogue on the challenges faced by women at the intersection of gender and religious freedom, while highlighting the need to strengthen interfaith harmony, inclusion, and protection of fundamental rights in Pakistan. A distinguished panel of speakers shared their perspectives and experiences, reinforcing the collective responsibility to promote tolerance, equality, and peaceful coexistence.



## Express Forum for Human Rights Advocacy:

On 9 December 2025, in observance of International Human Rights Day, Express News hosted a special forum featuring Mr. Sajid Christopher, Executive Director HFO, Mr. Fareed Ahmad Tarar (Provincial Secretary, Department of Human Rights & Minorities Affairs, Government of Punjab), and Sister Genevieve (Member, National Commission on the Status of Women) as distinguished panelists. The discussion focused on the pressing human rights challenges in Pakistan, including violations affecting vulnerable communities, gaps in protection mechanisms, and the urgent need for stronger institutional responses. The panel also acknowledged and appreciated the efforts of the Government of Punjab in strengthening policy frameworks, improving institutional responsiveness, and advancing initiatives aimed at protecting the rights and dignity of marginalized groups.



## Recognition of HFO's Work at the Provincial Level

The Human Rights & Minorities Affairs (HR&MA) Department of the Government of Punjab works to promote human rights across the province, with particular emphasis on interfaith harmony, protection of minority rights, and support for vulnerable communities. Each year, on 10 December—International Human Rights Day, the department hosts an award ceremony to recognize individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to advancing human rights, combating child labour, and strengthening social inclusion.

On 10 December 2025, Human Friends Organization (HFO) received notable recognition at this provincial platform when its Executive Director, Mr. Sajid Christopher, was presented with an Award of Appreciation by the Government of Punjab in acknowledgement of his dedicated efforts in

promoting human rights and advocating for the protection of marginalized and vulnerable groups in Pakistan. This recognition marks the sixth government award received by Mr. Christopher, reflecting his continued leadership, commitment, and courage in advancing justice, equality, and interfaith harmony. The achievement also represents the collective efforts of HFO's team, partners, and collaborators, whose dedication continues to strengthen the organization's impact in communities across the country.



## Legal Aid's Department's Achievements:

It is a matter of great pride for Human Friends Organization (HFO) that a mentally challenged 29-year-old woman, who had been falsely accused in January 2022 of sending allegedly blasphemous messages through WhatsApp and Facebook, was finally acquitted by the Lahore High Court on 25 October 2025 due to the absence of credible forensic evidence and serious flaws in the investigation. Through its commitment to justice and protection of vulnerable individuals, HFO extended legal aid and support throughout the case, working closely with its allied counsel Advocate Lazar Allah Rakha, whose dedicated legal efforts played a crucial role in securing her release. After years of wrongful confinement, the woman has now regained her freedom and has

been reunited with her family, marking a significant moment of relief and justice. This outcome reflects HFO's ongoing commitment to defending the rights of marginalized communities and supporting victims of



false accusations. During 2025, HFO continued to provide legal assistance in several cases, including one blasphemy case resulting in acquittal, four blasphemy cases currently under trial, one faith-based family dispute case, and one rape case, demonstrating the organization's continued dedication to promoting justice, legal protection, and human dignity.

## Legal and Physical Freedom from Bonded Labour success story

A man referred to here as “James Masih” (name assumed to hide the identity), a resident of Sheikhpura district, had been trapped in a cycle of bonded labour at a local brick kiln, carrying the burden of a debt that was never truly his. A husband and father of three young daughters, his life, meant to be defined by dignity and hard work, had instead become an unrelenting struggle under exploitative labour conditions. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, Human Friends Organization (HFO) intervened and cleared the outstanding debt on 19 March 2025, enabling his release from bonded labour and restoring his freedom and dignity. In another similar intervention, a family referred to here as “Nadeem Masih” (name assumed) was also freed from bonded labour on 30 October 2025 after their entire debt was settled through HFO’s support. Following their release, the family was safely relocated to a secure environment where they could rebuild their lives without fear. These life-changing interventions restored dignity, freedom, and hope, allowing the families to begin a new chapter of stability, with their children returning to school and their future no longer defined by hardship but by opportunity.



## Completion and Handover of Five Community Halls to Local Communities

Human Friends Organization (HFO), with the support of its collaborators and partners, provided financial assistance for the construction of five community halls, which were successfully completed and handed over to the respective local communities during 2025. These facilities are intended to serve as multi-purpose community spaces, enabling residents to gather for social, cultural, and community development activities. Community halls play an important role in strengthening social cohesion, as they provide a shared environment where people can interact, celebrate cultural and religious events, conduct meetings, and participate in socio-economic skills training.

Through these spaces, communities are able to practice their freedom of religion and belief, strengthen mutual cooperation, and promote collective social values. The initiative contributes to building stronger and more inclusive communities by creating opportunities for dialogue, capacity-building, and social engagement. By providing these communal spaces, HFO aims to support communities in organizing themselves, enhancing social harmony, and fostering sustainable socio-economic development while enabling people to live with dignity and unity.



The following five community halls were completed and formally handed over to the local communities in 2025:

1. Community Hall – Chak No. 88
2. Community Hall – Chak No. 71
3. Community Hall – Chak No. 13/11
4. Community Hall – Chak No. 109, Jaranwala
5. Community Hall – Chak No. 219

## Allama Paul Higher Secondary School Promoting Education and Social Awareness

Allama Paul Higher Secondary School, an initiative of Human Friends Organization (HFO), is guided by the belief that every child deserves equal access to quality education and opportunities for growth. The school is committed to nurturing young minds and empowering students to reach their full potential through innovative learning approaches, creativity, and character development since its inception from 2017. The dedicated teaching staff focuses on the holistic development of each student, ensuring not only academic excellence



but also the cultivation of responsible and socially aware citizens. In 2025, with the generous support of its collaborators, HFO significantly improved the school's learning environment by providing modern classroom furniture for all classes from playgroup to Grade 10. The new furniture, designed with a focus on ergonomics, mobility, and flexibility, enhances students' comfort and engagement, thereby supporting better concentration, participation, and overall academic performance.

Recognizing the growing importance of digital learning in the modern era, HFO also achieved a major milestone by installing Smart Boards in every classroom from playgroup to Grade 10. With the support of its partners, Allama Paul Higher Secondary School became the first institution in the Youhanabad area of Lahore to introduce this advanced learning technology. The Smart Boards enable teachers and students to access multimedia resources, display videos and images, interact with digital content, annotate lessons, and share learning materials more effectively. They also open opportunities for virtual learning, online training sessions, and collaboration with other educational institutions, strengthening both teaching methodologies and students' digital competencies in today's technology-driven world.

## Peace Painting Competition and World Environment Day Activities

To encourage creativity and promote values of peace and social responsibility among students, Allama Paul Higher Secondary School, an initiative of Human Friends Organization (HFO), organized a Peace Painting Competition on 16 April 2025. The activity provided students with an opportunity to express their understanding of peace, harmony, and coexistence through art. Around sixty students from different classes participated enthusiastically, using their creative imagination to depict visions of a peaceful world and reflect on the importance of tolerance and unity. The event not only nurtured artistic expression but also helped broaden students' perspectives on building a more peaceful and inclusive society. At the conclusion of the competition, the school administration awarded certificates to all participating students in recognition of their creativity and engagement. In addition, World Environment Day 2025 was celebrated at Allama Paul Higher Secondary School with the objective of raising awareness among young learners about environmental protection and sustainability. Organized by HFO, the event highlighted the role of education in preparing youth to become responsible stewards of the environment. Mr. Tony attended as the Chief Guest, encouraging students to adopt environmentally responsible behaviors. Students from the middle classes presented tableaux and performances reflecting key environmental themes, emphasizing the importance of protecting natural resources and promoting a cleaner and greener future.



## Advocacy For Human Rights:

On 19 June 2025, Mr. Sajid Christopher, Executive Director HFO, held a detailed discussion with Mr. Kheal Das Kohistani, State Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, focusing on the promotion of interfaith dialogue and fostering mutual respect among diverse religious communities in Pakistan. The meeting emphasized the importance of strengthening collaboration between government institutions and civil society organizations to address challenges related to religious intolerance and discrimination. Both parties also discussed the need for inclusive policies and community-based initiatives that promote social cohesion, protect minority rights, and encourage peaceful coexistence across different faith communities.



## One to one meeting with Ms. Petra Schmidt the German Diplomats

On 20 September 2025, Mr. Sajid Christopher, Executive Director HFO, held an extensive discussion with Ms. Petra Schmidt, German diplomat, in Lahore on issues related to Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB). The meeting focused on the challenges faced by religious minorities in Pakistan and explored opportunities for strengthening international cooperation to promote human rights, interfaith harmony, and protection of marginalized communities. The dialogue also highlighted the importance of continued engagement between diplomatic missions and civil society organizations in advancing inclusive policies and fostering peaceful coexistence.



## HFO honoured and privileged to meet the German Ambassador in Islamabad:

The President of Human Friends Organization, on 9th December 2025 honoured and privileged to meet H.E. Ina Lepel the German Ambassador, to discuss the situation and challenges of marginalized people experiencing the violation of Human Rights in Pakistan.



## Meeting with the French Ambassador in Islamabad Pakistan.

On 9th December 2025 Mr. Sadjid Cristopher had one to one discussion with H.E. Mr. Nicolas Galey, the French Ambassador for Islamabad Embassy, such engagements always 23inspire hope for stronger cooperation and shared efforts toward human dignity, justice, and social progress.



## Human Friends Organization (HFO) had an inclusive meeting with Ms. Shoko Noda

Ms .Shoko Noda is United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Director of the Crisis Burea. As she was on her visit to Pakistan.

On 19th November 2025, The President of Human Friends Organization (HFO) had an inclusive meeting with Ms. Shoko Noda, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Director of the Crisis Bureau, and Dr. Samuel Rizk (Country Head of UNDP). Human Friends Organization had been tirelessly working in collaboration of United Nations Development Program, for distributing the relief to flood effective and promoting the human rights, empowering the minorities and women for protecting their rights and dignity. Human friends in collaboration with UNDP working for several projects for promoting the human rights through conducting training, working with parliamentarians on legal frame work and policies.



## Human Rights Day with St. John's College Students

On 10 December, in observance of International Human Rights Day, Mr. Sajid Christopher, President of Human Friends Organization (HFO), addressed the students and faculty of St. John's College, Lahore, at an event organized by the Catholic Women Organization (CWO). The session provided a valuable platform to engage young students in discussions on human dignity, equality, and the protection of fundamental rights. Mr. Christopher encouraged the students to become responsible citizens and advocates for justice, emphasizing the important role that youth can play in promoting tolerance, respect for diversity, and the protection of human rights within society.



## Kinship House: A Home of Hope for Orphaned and Vulnerable Children:

Kinship House is not a shelter but a home for homeless children. In society every deprived child has its own story and experiences of poverty and tragic circumstances. Where countless children are deprived of love, care, and protection due to an unhuman environment, the Human Friends Organization (HFO) has envisioned and established the Kinship House as a sanctuary of healing, support, and opportunity for orphaned, semi-orphaned, and street children in Pakistan.

In our beloved country, many children are left without parental care due to HIV/AIDS, drug abuse, family breakdowns. HFO provides the best possible facilities for all our kids and help them heal from emotional trauma. Kinship House provides healthy food, good ethics, discipline in their lives,



generous support for these kids fostering, enormous capacity building, Exercises, and training. Our objective is to provide quality life, Spiritual and emotional counselling, empower the children with education and life skills for better growth for a better tomorrow. We are facilitating educational opportunities in local schools and providing private tutoring, health check-ups, medications, one set of textbooks, and two sets of uniforms each year. This initiative includes 30 kids. Each child receives a nutritious diet, access to indoor and outdoor recreational activities and play areas, as well as training for various crafts and hobbies.

## Jennifer's Light:

The story of Jennifer is a ray of shine light over the dark shadows of homelessness, HFO Kinship Centre became a home far from home. Seven-year-old Jennifer clutched her mother's faded blue scarf as she stared out the Kinship window, raindrops racing down the glass like the tears she had learned to hide. Under her bed lay a small wooden box containing her only treasures: a photo of her parents and a crumpled note in her father's handwriting that read, "For my little star, may you always shine bright. Daddy "She still remembered that terrible morning when her aunt knelt down with red, swollen eyes and whispered, "Mommy and Daddy had to go to heaven, sweetheart. They can't come back." Jennifer didn't understand why heaven was so far away, or why her aunt was too old and sick to keep her. All she knew was that her whole world had crumbled. The day she arrived at Kinship, everything felt enormous and scary.



But then Maria, a 9-year-old with gentle eyes, took her trembling hand and said, "Don't worry. We take care of each other here. We're family now. "And slowly, beautifully, they became exactly that. Sarah taught her to make friendship bracelets "One for each person who loves you," she explained, tying a colorful band around Jennifer's wrist. The first Christmas was the hardest. While other children talked excitedly about Santa, Jennifer sat quietly, remembering her father's warm voice reading stories and her mother's star shaped marshmallows. But on Christmas morning, she found a photo album under the tree labeled "Jennifer's New Family"—filled with pictures of all her new brothers and sisters, and a note that read: "Jennifer, you came to us like a gift. Thank you for sharing your beautiful heart with us. "Jennifer cried then not tears of sadness, but of overwhelming love. Her heart had somehow grown big enough to love her new family while still treasuring her parents' memory. One evening, as they all watched the sunset together, Jennifer stood up and made a promise: "Someday, I'm going to adopt children who need families, just like you all adopted me into your hearts. I'll tell them that being an orphan doesn't mean you're alone it means you're free to choose your family. **"That night, she wrote a letter to her Parents:** Jennifer miss you every day, but I want you to know I'm okay. I found a new family who loves me so much. They don't replace you, nobody could. But they help to heal my broken heart. I'm still your little star, and I promise to keep shining until we meet again. She folded the letter and placed it in her memory box, next to her father's note. As she drifted off to sleep surrounded by the gentle breathing of her chosen siblings, Jennifer realized that love doesn't end when people leave us, it transforms and multiplies and finds new ways to grow. Sometimes the most beautiful families are built from broken pieces, held together not by blood, but by choice, love, and the unbreakable bonds of the heart. In that Kinship House, a little girl learned that while she couldn't choose what happened to her, she could choose how to love and that made all the difference.

## Human Friends Organization (HFO) Annual Award Ceremony 2025

Human Friends Organization (HFO) held an Award Ceremony at its Head Office to recognize the dedication, professionalism, and outstanding contributions of its staff. The Employee of the Year 2025 was awarded to Mr. Emmanuel Sadiq for his excellent services and strong leadership in successfully leading field teams



during projects implementation. Mr. Kamal Eric was honoured for his dedication and professionalism in report writing and documentation. Mr. Tanveer A. Bhatti received recognition for his outstanding performance as Head of the Procurement Committee during the devastating floods of 2025. HFO proudly acknowledges the commitment and hard work of its team, whose efforts continue to make a meaningful impact in the communities we serve.

## Christmas Celebrations Enthuse The Spirit Of Interfaith Harmony

Human Friends Organization (HFO) organized a Christmas Cake Cutting Ceremony and Get-Together at Allama Paul Higher Secondary School, Youhanabad, Lahore, celebrating the spirit of Christmas with joy and unity. We were honored to have Mr. Kheal Das Kohistani, Minister of State for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, as the Chief Guest is. Mr. Falbous Christopher, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Human Rights, Punjab Assembly, joined the event as the Guest of Honor.

A large number of church leaders, politicians, social workers, educationists, and community members participated in the celebration. Sajid Christopher, President HFO, delivered the welcome note, and the honourable guests were presented with beautiful bouquets and garlands. The students of Allama Paul Higher Secondary School performed beautiful Christmas songs, adding warmth and festivity to the occasion. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr. Shakeel Marcus. A memorable celebration promoting harmony, peace, and togetherness.



## Human Friends Organization Looks Ahead

As Human Friends Organization (HFO) reflects on the achievements and lessons of 2025, we look toward 2026 with renewed commitment and determination. The challenges facing vulnerable communities—ranging from human rights violations and discrimination to climate-related crises and socio-economic inequalities—continue to demand collective action and innovative solutions. Building on the progress made this year, HFO will further strengthen its efforts in advocacy for Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB), promotion of interfaith harmony, legal protection for marginalized groups, psychosocial support, and community empowerment.

In the coming year, HFO aims to deepen partnerships with government institutions, international organizations, civil society networks, and community leaders to expand the reach and sustainability of its programs. Special focus will be placed on youth engagement, women's empowerment, access to justice, and community resilience, ensuring that vulnerable populations are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and support needed to claim their rights and build dignified futures. Guided by our mission and strengthened by the trust of our partners and communities, HFO will continue working tirelessly to transform challenges into opportunities, promote social cohesion, and contribute to a more just, peaceful, and inclusive society in Pakistan.



# HFO PARTNERS



The German Embassy



ICM International Cooperating Ministries