

Editorial

As criminology continues to grow and develop, it generates new ideas, thoughts, and approaches, and new fields of inquiry are uncovered. Until recently, child abuse and neglect, and crimes against children were discussed under the heading of family violence. In addition, most countries did not have separate juvenile justice legislation, or separate child safety bureaus, or comprehensive juvenile justice systems. That began to change subsequent to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) of 1989. The last two decades has seen remarkable progress in this juvenile justice arena, particularly in the developing world, initiated not only by governments, but also by local, national, and international NGOs.

Pakistan is a signatory to the CRC and has taken some positive steps in this arena, such as the passage of the Juvenile Justice System Ordinance of 2000. However, Pakistan has not shown much progress with respect to child protection issues, though a draft bill is under consideration before the legislature. There is much yet to be done - enhanced levels of data collection on crimes against children and juvenile offenders; the establishment of child protection centres; providing proper legal, medical, social and psychological support to child victims; creating special units in the law-enforcement agencies to focus on cases of crimes against children (particularly commercial sexual exploitation and child trafficking); and providing immediate relief, security, rehabilitation and re-integration services to children in need. In addition, there is a specific need within Pakistan to protect children from being indoctrinated by the radical and militant extremist groups.

This current issue of the *Pakistan Journal of Criminology* focuses on these concerns. We have received some much appreciated support from Save the Children-Sweden for publication and distribution of this special issue. We must note that the views expressed by the authors are their own and are not necessarily reflective of the policies and positions of Save the Children-Sweden. We also wish to express its special gratitude to Prof. Gwyneth Boswell (UK), Prof. Julia Davidson (UK), and Prof. Belfacu Antoni (UK) for contributing their articles to this special issue. Our special thanks go to Jawadullah Khan (Save the Children-Sweden), Salman Khan (Director Human Rights, NWFP), Nasiruddin Mashood Mirza (Director Federal Ombudsman's Office), Syed Wajid (UNIFEM), and Saeed Khan, Zia-ur-Rehman and Waseem Ahmad for taking personal interest in the special issue of the *Pakistan Journal of Criminology*.

Fashiuddin (PSP)

Editor-in-Chief

Comments from Anne Hollis Reese, L.I.C.S.W.

I am pleased and honoured to send comments on the Pakistan Journal of Criminology, whose first two issues have been sent to me by my old friend, Fasihuddin Ashraf. These arrived just as I returned to Pakistan for the first time in 14 years and just as the third issue is about to appear. Fasihuddin has told me that it will focus much on children, including topics relevant to the kind of work that I did with a Pakistani NGO in Islamabad for one year, 1994-95. It was then that I met Fasihuddin, who has kept in touch ever since.

The journal seems excellent and is an impressive venture. It is remarkable to find such a range of sensitive topics covered locally in a climate of much social and political difficulty. Fasihuddin has shown great courage in his continuing determination to take on problems that require serious attention and work.

I shall add a few words concerning my qualifications to comment on such matters. I am a Westerner and have been a psychiatric social worker for several decades, with much experience in the diagnosis and treatment of children and adults, as well as training of a great range of health and mental health professionals - psychiatrists, pediatricians, psychologists, medical students, nurses, and psychiatric social workers like myself. I have worked in several countries and cultures.

In the mid-90's, the NGO mentioned above hired me as consultant and trainer for the first child sexual abuse program established in this region. This was a very exciting opportunity for me and also gave me considerable knowledge of the nature and extent of such problems in this country. It has been wonderful to follow the enormous success and expansion of this Pakistani program, which has flourished without foreigners like me. I have just returned to Islamabad for a few months of consulting to other private local organizations. I have loved this country and been fascinated by it for decades. It is a privilege to be here again. I am greatly looking forward to reading the third issue of the journal and hope to see other positive developments.

After I sent the above words to Fasihuddin, he kindly transmitted to me Uzma Gillani's very thorough article on child sexual abuse, for the journal issue that is about to appear. Fasihuddin asked me for additional comments. It seems appropriate now to mention that the program for which I worked in the mid-90's was Aangan and that I have kept in touch with their outstanding work ever since then. I expect to meet with them almost immediately.

I certainly agree that more research, including statistics, is essential. I was pleased to see that mentioned also in Naushad Ali Khan's article on suicide bombers in the first issue of this journal; however, as a clinician, I want to express a concern. I believe that clinicians who know how to work with victims of abuse or have the chance to learn to do so should mostly not be heavily engaged in gathering statistics. This takes away from some victims the chance to get help and treatment, so that their lives will be less damaged and their futures psychologically more positive. There is not nearly enough such treatment in Pakistan and probably not in any country, for that matter. More training of health and mental health professionals is crucial and must sometimes be quite specialized. The treatment of abused children, as well as adults who were abused in childhood, is technically difficult and also emotionally stressful, even for experienced professionals.

On the topic of laws, I surely don't need to mention that I have no expertise on this in Pakistan. Yet I have heard of many instances where an equally great problem seems to be the implementation of laws that, in some cases, have existed for years.

Finally, I think that organizations must work together on all of these matters, rather than altogether independently or even in competition. I know of many outstanding Pakistanis able to contribute to, and to collaborate in, such work. I also know NGOs, in addition to the few mentioned here in Uzma Gillani's article, that are doing serious work. Just since returning, I have heard of a number of significant efforts by individuals and organizations, including that of Pakistan Society of Criminology. These are very encouraging signs.

My congratulations to all who have worked on the journal.

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