

## Why Justice Must Be Rebuilt

Across the Global South, poverty, disability, and displacement become grounds for punishment rather than protection. In Pakistan, this has meant torture used as investigation and imprisonment without safeguards.

Justice Project Pakistan was built to stand with those most affected and to change how these systems function.

This work is about rebuilding justice so it protects dignity, accountability, and life.



## The System We're Changing

Across the Global South, criminal justice systems routinely punish poverty, disability, and people on the move while insulating state violence from accountability.

In Pakistan, this has meant torture used as investigation, death sentences without meaningful safeguards, and prisons filled with people who were never meant to be there. The law exists. What fails is not legality, but design systems built without regard for poverty, capacity, or consequence.

**Justice Project Pakistan was built to change that.**

We work at the intersection of law, technology, and institutional reform to rebuild criminal justice systems so they work for those most excluded. Our approach combines strategic litigation that resets legal standards, digital infrastructure that expands access to legal aid, and sustained engagement with institutions to ensure reform lasts beyond individual cases or political cycles.

In parallel, we build regional alliances and activate international accountability mechanisms to reinforce domestic reform, advance international human rights law, and ensure that national progress drives reform across the region.

This is not incremental or symbolic change. It is a reimagining of how justice is designed, delivered, and sustained from the Global South outward.



## How We Change the System

Justice reform requires more than individual cases or isolated policy wins. We work across three system levers that, together, shift how criminal justice operates in practice.

### 1. Law as a Lever

We use strategic litigation, legislative engagement, and policy design to reset legal standards and dismantle laws and practices that criminalise poverty. Our cases and reforms are designed to be replicable, creating precedent that alters how institutions operate—not just outcomes for individual defendants.

### 2. Technology as Infrastructure

We build digital public-interest infrastructure that expands access to justice at scale. Through platforms like Vakeel Online, judicial e-courses, and tools such as the Benchbook App, we connect people facing criminalisation with verified legal aid, creatively build the capacity of judges and institutions, reduce friction in legal access, and generate real-time data that informs systemic reform.

### 3. Power Through People, Institutions, and Culture

Enduring reform depends on institutional ownership and public accountability. We work inside courts, prisons, ministries, and



oversight bodies to turn evidence into change that can actually be implemented—solutions designed for real capacity and political constraint. Alongside this, we build regional alliances and activate international accountability mechanisms, including UN treaty bodies and the EU's GSP+ framework, to anchor domestic reform and advance the application of international human rights law.

We reinforce this work through creative arts and storytelling. Through film, visual media, and cultural interventions, we make the impact of criminalisation visible, reshape public narratives, and generate the political will needed for reform to last.

**Institutions · Regional alliances · International law · Cultural narratives**

## What We're Building Next

As our litigation, technology platforms, and regional alliances continue to grow, we are strengthening the institutional foundations that allow justice reform to endure.

This includes investing in financial leadership, governance, and organisational systems that support sustainable growth. In parallel, we are exploring partnerships to scale our technology initiatives and share our approaches with other regions and sectors contributing practical, field-tested tools to a wider ecosystem of justice reform.

We see this phase not as expansion for its own sake, but as an opportunity to responsibly extend what works so Global South-led innovation can inform and strengthen reform efforts elsewhere.



## What We've Learned

- Strategic litigation opens doors; systems reform keeps them open.
- Technology succeeds only when it earns trust.
- Lasting reform happens when institutions, people, and accountability move together.



## Selected Recognition



**Tamgha-e-Imtiaz (Medal of Excellence), Government of Pakistan (2025)**

Pakistan's fourth-highest civilian honour for public service, human rights, and law announced by the Government of Pakistan.



**Smith College Medal (2024)**

Awarded for distinguished leadership and impact in advancing justice and human rights



**Legal Representation Award (2022)**

Awarded by the World Congress Against the Death Penalty for successfully representing people on death row



**Franco-German Prize for Human Rights and the Rule of Law (2016)**

Inaugural recipient



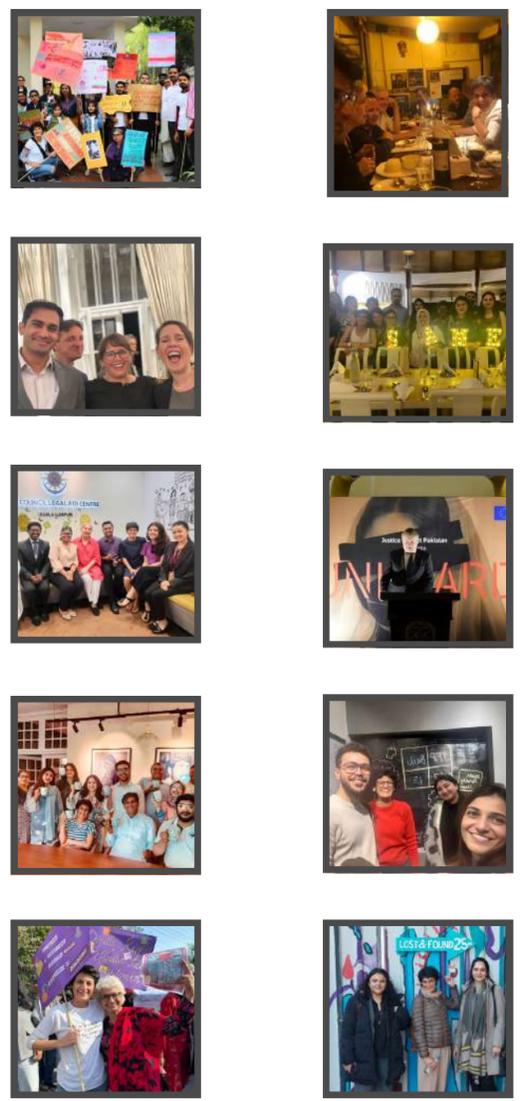
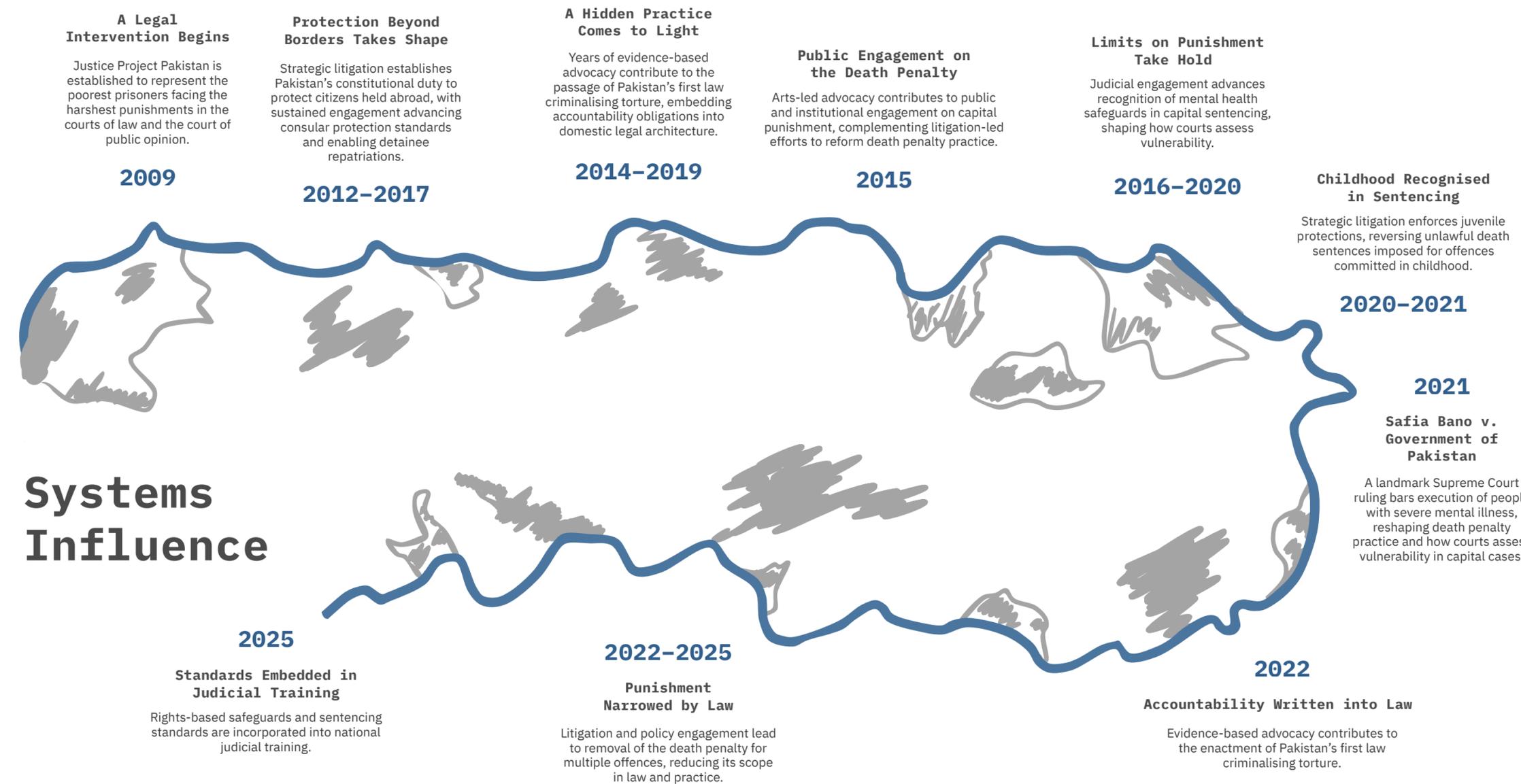
**Echoing Green Fellowship (2012)**

Justice Project Pakistan was the first organisation from Pakistan selected in Echoing Green's history



## Reimagining Criminal Justice from the Global South

Law. Technology. Accountability



### Partner With Us

We are reimagining justice from the Global South —building systems alongside partners grounded in integrity, courage, and care.

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