YLWA

Young Lawyers Welfare Alliance

One united voice — dignity, welfare, empowerment.

INTERNATIONAL CHARTER

ADOPTED 2026

Aligning the young legal profession of Pakistan with international standards

This is your movement. This is your voice.

PREAMBLE

We, the young lawyers of Pakistan, united under the Young Lawyers Welfare Alliance ("YLWA" or "the Alliance"), affirm our shared conviction that no young lawyer should be left frail, unheard, or deprived; that the dignity of the individual advocate is inseparable from the integrity of the profession; and that the future of Pakistan's judiciary rests upon the empowerment of those who enter it today.

Recognising that the challenges facing young lawyers — economic insecurity, exploitative working conditions, uneven access to opportunity, and gaps between national practice and global standards — are shared across borders, we adopt this International Charter to bind our commitments, to guide our governance, and to align the Alliance with the highest international standards of legal practice, education, and professional welfare.

This Charter is at once a founding instrument, a statement of vision, and a covenant of membership. It is adopted in the year 2026 and shall serve as the supreme guiding document of the Alliance.

PART I — FOUNDING ARTICLES

Article 1 Name, Nature, and Seat

1. The organisation shall be known as the **Young Lawyers Welfare Alliance (YLWA)**.
2. The Alliance is a non-partisan, non-profit professional body of young lawyers, open to members within Pakistan and to Pakistani young lawyers and allied chapters abroad.
3. The Alliance maintains its principal seat in Pakistan and may establish national, provincial, and international chapters.

Article 2 Definitions

1. "Young lawyer" means a legal practitioner in the early years of practice, including students of law, trainees, and recently enrolled advocates, as further defined by the Alliance's by-laws.
2. "Member" means any young lawyer admitted to the Alliance in accordance with Part III of this Charter.
3. "International standards" means the recognised norms of professional conduct, legal education, and access to justice articulated by reputable international and regional bodies, as adopted by the Alliance under Part IV.

Article 3 Objects of the Alliance

1. To present a united, robust voice for young lawyers before the media, the Bar Councils, and the judiciary.
2. To safeguard the professional dignity, welfare, and mental health of young lawyers.
3. To secure for young legal practitioners a predictable career path and basic economic security in their formative years.
4. To advance skill-based, practice-oriented legal education aligned with international standards.
5. To raise the standard of the profession, attract the finest minds to it, and stem the brain drain — thereby securing a bright judicial future for Pakistan.

PART II — STATEMENT OF VISION

Article 4 Our Shared Vision

The Alliance aspires to a future in which Pakistan is served by empowered, patriotic, and skilful young lawyers, bound by an unshakable commitment to the rule of law; in which the judicial apparatus ensures speedy justice and commands the absolute trust of the people; and in which the young advocate stands as an equal participant in a profession of global standing.

Article 5 Guiding Principles

1. **Strength in belonging.** Every member shall feel strengthened and empowered through the Alliance.
2. **A movement led by its members.** Every single voice is respected and valued; the Alliance is governed by and for its members.
3. **Respect begets respect.** The Alliance honours the seniors of the profession while insisting that young lawyers be treated with dignity in law firms and court rooms.
4. **Welfare and wellbeing.** The Alliance fosters a culture that values the overall welfare and mental health of young practitioners.
5. **Excellence and integrity.** The Alliance pursues the highest standards of competence, ethics, and service to justice.

PART III — MEMBERSHIP

Article 6 Eligibility and Admission

1. Membership is open and accessible to every young lawyer who subscribes to this Charter, without discrimination as to gender, religion, ethnicity, province, or background.
2. Admission shall be by application in the manner prescribed by the by-laws; membership is voluntary and may be relinquished at will.

Article 7 Rights of Members

1. To be heard, and to have grievances and deprivations addressed by the Alliance.
2. To participate in the governance, deliberations, and elections of the Alliance.
3. To access the Alliance's learning, grooming, mentorship, and welfare initiatives.
4. To be represented by the Alliance's collective voice before institutions of the profession and the State.

Article 8 Duties of Members

1. To uphold this Charter, the rule of law, and the dignity of the profession.
2. To treat colleagues, seniors, and juniors with respect and good faith.
3. To contribute, according to ability, to the objects and activities of the Alliance.
4. To observe the highest standards of professional ethics and conduct.

PART IV — ALIGNMENT WITH INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

Article 9 Commitment to International Standards

The Alliance commits to benchmark its work against recognised international norms in the following domains:

1. **Independence and role of lawyers.** Upholding the principle that lawyers must be able to perform their professional functions without intimidation, hindrance, or improper interference, consistent with internationally recognised principles on the role of lawyers.
2. **Legal education and competence.** Promoting skill-based, practice-oriented training, continuing professional development, and curricula benchmarked to international quality standards.
3. **Access to justice.** Supporting equal access to legal services and the early-career lawyer's role in widening that access.
4. **Professional ethics.** Adopting codes of conduct consistent with international best practice on integrity, conflicts of interest, and client duty.
5. **Fair working conditions.** Advocating fair remuneration, humane working hours, and freedom from exploitation and discrimination for young lawyers.
6. **Wellbeing and mental health.** Embedding internationally recognised approaches to practitioner wellbeing within the profession.

Article 10 International Cooperation

1. The Alliance may engage, collaborate with, and learn from young-lawyer associations, bar bodies, and legal-education institutions worldwide.
2. The Alliance may establish international chapters to support Pakistani young lawyers abroad and to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and best practice.

PART V — GOVERNANCE AND GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 11 Governance

1. The Alliance shall be governed democratically by its members through such organs, offices, and elections as its by-laws provide.
2. Office-bearers serve the membership as stewards of this Charter and are accountable to the members.

Article 12 Amendment and Adoption

1. This Charter may be amended in accordance with the procedure set out in the by-laws, provided that the Preamble and Guiding Principles continue to reflect the enduring spirit of the Alliance.
2. This International Charter is adopted in the year 2026 and shall take effect upon its adoption by the Alliance.

This is your movement. This is your voice.

Adopted on behalf of the Young Lawyers Welfare Alliance, 2026.

Barrister Talha Qadir (AHC) — Founder	For and on behalf of the Members