

Mera Ghar and women living not just in Peshawar, but the whole province, and potentially the entire country.

How is Mera Ghar funded and strategic direction?

NERA GHAR

- Bi-lateral aid agencies and individual philanthropists' donations cover 24-hour security measures for the staff and residents of Mera Ghar, salaries for support and security staff.
- A Board of Trustees and Mera Ghar Advisory Board gives strategic direction on future measures to be undertaken.

What other work is being done to help women suffering from violence?

Mera Ghar is part of a larger programme of Noor Education Trust to create awareness on issues of violence against women, sexual abuse, women trafficking, domestic violence including customary violence. In terms of other forms of gender-based violence and harassment, Mera Ghar NET Legal Aid Committee through Pro Bono Lawyers Desk and Focal Persons at district level are available at district courts and Peshawar High Court including Supreme Court of Pakistan. This includes mass campaigns for raising awareness on gender-based violence, Harassment at the workplace, Cyber Crimes, women trafficking , anti-women-social practices from the marginalised communities through the media, as well as sensitising individuals such as local promoters of legal rights and duty bearers of key institutions.



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WHAT IS MERA GHAR?

Mera Ghar (My House) is a temporary shelter for women who have suffered from various forms of violence and oppression and have been forced to leave their homes or flee their countries. This violence may be physical, sexual, emotional or psychological. Mera Ghar provides survivors of violence with temporary shelter in a secure environment while they obtain appropriate legal, medical and psychological support.

WHY WAS MERA GHAR ESTABLISHED?

Despite constitutional guarantees of equal rights and legal protection, Pakistani-women continue to suffer from a lower social and legal status. They remain victims of injustice, abuse and oppression. They are mostly unaware of their legal rights, deprived of their legal entitlements, and without the financial means to access agencies where help can be obtained. As a result, they are unable to benefit from institutions that provide legal aid, housing or shelter to those in need of urgent assistance. A model shelter and crisis services, run with the collaboration of other concerned organizations, will be a valuable contribution.

WHO RUNS MERA GHAR?

The shelter is run by Noor Education Trust under the supervision of Board of Trustees and the Mera Ghar Advisory Board. From its inception,

partnerships are being built with government and non-governmental organizations including international aid agencies. Furthermore, linkages with civil society organizations and government Dar-ul-Amans are also made through their involvement in Strengthening Women Shelters in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as a support group.

HOW IS MERA GHAR RUN?

Mera Ghar is administered by a Mera Ghar Advisory Board consisting of representatives of civil society organizations, media, academia, differently enabled person, representatives from religious minorities. The Board provides both policy advice to the management of the shelter as well as referrals for the women in need of assistance. The Board actively seeks out such women through NGOs, jails, hospitals, community-based organizations, Bar Associations and police etc.

Mera Ghar-NET Pro Bono Lawyers Desk at the District Courts Peshawar through Districts Focal Persons at the district level makes arrangements for legal aid and support to women requiring it through linkages with professionals, agencies, organizations and forums that can provide. Women with longer term assistance or specialized services. The cases are monitored after the referrals are made.

Panels of individuals with expertise in the fields of law, health and psychology are available to help the women at Mera Ghar.

Institutions and agencies particularly helpful in facilitating the work of Mera Ghar include:

- Private and government hospitals (particularly government hospitals officially designated for medical examination in cases of rape and violence), doctors, psychiatrists, clinics etc. from which free or affordable help can be obtained.
- Police stations, women's police stations and women police officers.
- Dar-ul-Amans and other private shelters where women requiring long-term accommodation may be sent. In addition, as part of social reintegration and skill enhancement Mera Ghar teams provide Skills-based learning focuses on developing practical, job-ready abilities that can be directly applied in real-world scenarios, emphasizing hands-on experience over theoretical knowledge.

WHAT FACILITIES DOES MERA GHAR OFFER?

Women can stay in Mera Ghar up to a period of six months, depending on the nature of their case. They live in clean and spacious surroundings. Facilities include a skill centre, a sewing room and access to entertainment and recreation.

Mera Ghar also provides skill training for possible income earning through small grants to, informal adult literacy classes and computer literacy as regular social reintegration programme.

WHAT IS THE HELPLINE?

A telephone Helpline has been established to provide easy and reliable access to women in crisis and is being widely advertised. This is a major interface between

