

Reducing the Criminalization of Mental Illness

February 2020, Lahore Pakistan

Dr Khuram Khan

Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist

PROTECTING HUMAN AND LEGAL RIGHTS OF MENTALLY DISORDERED PEOPLE AND OFFENDERS IN PAKISTAN

Dr Khuram Khan

Professor Lindsay Thomson

Karachi Pakistan 3rd/4th October 2019

SUPREME COURT 138 PAGE 01/01

MOST IMMEDIATE
DEATH SENTENCE CASE
Const. P. No.9/2019-SCJ
Supreme Court of Pakistan
Islamabad, the 17th June, 2019

The Registrar,
Supreme Court of Pakistan,
Islamabad.

The Home Secretary,
Government of the Punjab,
Punjab C/o Deputy Registrar (Lahore)

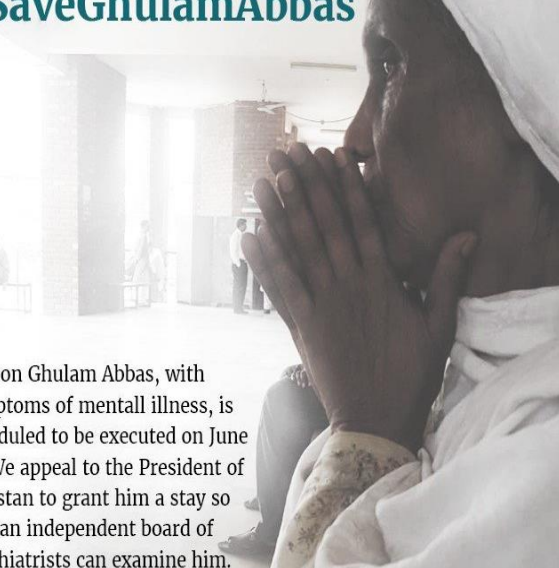
vs.

I am directed to inform you that the above cited Constitution Petition filed by mother of convict prisoner namely Ghulam Abbas currently confined in Central Jail, Rawalpindi against the execution of death sentence to said convict prisoner on **18.6.2019** has been placed before Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan and his lordship has been pleased to order that letter be issued to the Secretary, Home Department, Government of the Punjab as well as Superintendent, Central Jail, Rawalpindi in terms of Rule 5 of Order XXIII of the Supreme Court Rules, 1980 for staying the execution of death sentence.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of this letter.

Copy for information and necessary action:-

- ASSISTANT REGISTRAR (CIVIL-IT)
FOR REGISTRAR



Dear President Arif Alvi

#SaveGhulamAbbas

My son Ghulam Abbas, with symptoms of mental illness, is scheduled to be executed on June 18. We appeal to the President of Pakistan to grant him a stay so that an independent board of psychiatrists can examine him.

- Noor Jehan, mother of death row prisoner Ghulam Abbas

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forensic.network@nhs.net

- The Pakistan Penal Code punishes blasphemy against any recognized religion, providing penalties ranging from a fine to death. Persons with severe and persistent mental illness often present with religious delusions



- The struggle to have Section 325 (which says attempting suicide is a criminal offence, punishable with imprisonment) deleted from the Pakistan Penal Code is worth recalling. In 2017, a bill was moved in the Senate for omitting Section 325 from the PPC. The reason offered was that suicide indicated an extreme form of depression, and that those who attempted but failed to take their own lives deserved treatment and not punishment. The bill was adopted by the Senate but it lapsed as it was not passed by the National Assembly before it was dissolved. There was near-consensus among the audience on the renewal of efforts to decriminalise suicide attempts. In view of the resistance from the conservative lobby the passage of a new bill may not be easy but the attempt to push it through should still be in order.

How we did it – The Agenda



3rd October 2019

- Human Rights
- Assessment of Capacity
- Sindh Mental Health Act 2013 and Approved Psychiatrists

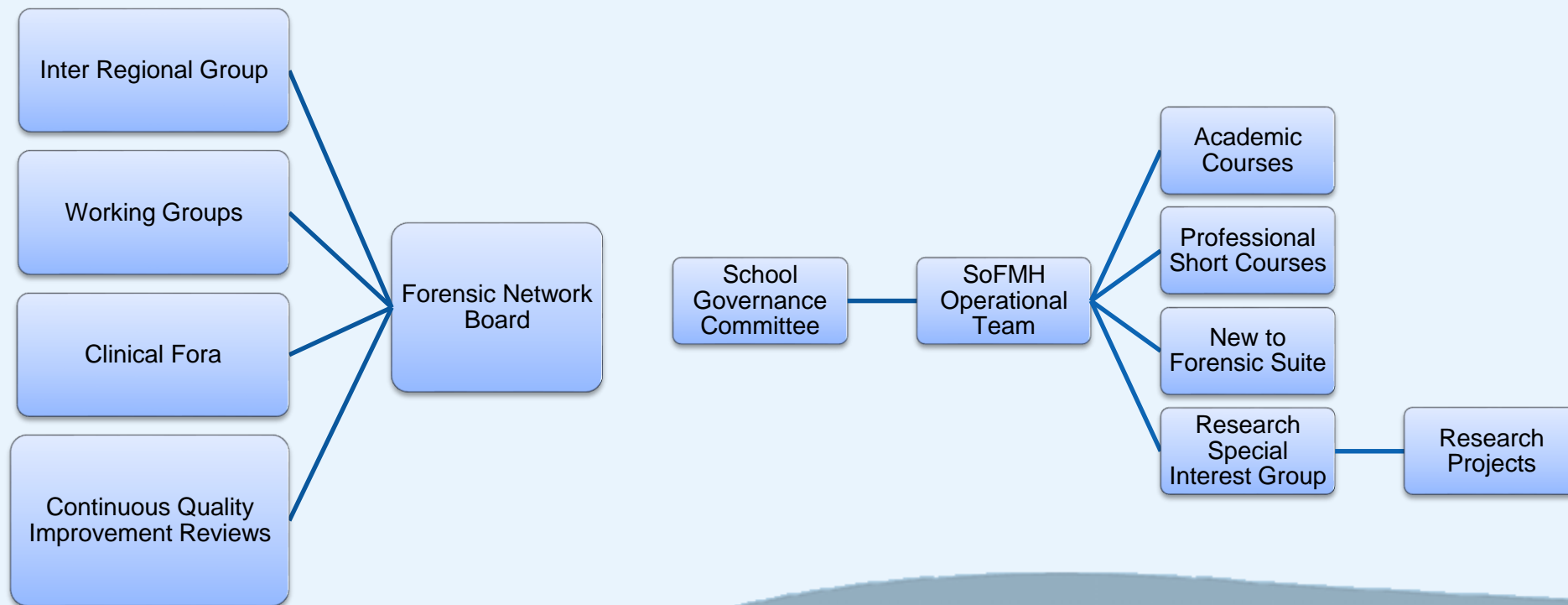
4th October 2019

- Interface between Criminal Justice and Mental Health Systems
- An overview of Forensic Services in Scotland
- How to help the courts to avoid miscarriage of justice in cases of mentally disordered offenders
- Mental disorders and offending

An Overview of Forensic Services in Scotland: Past, Present and Future



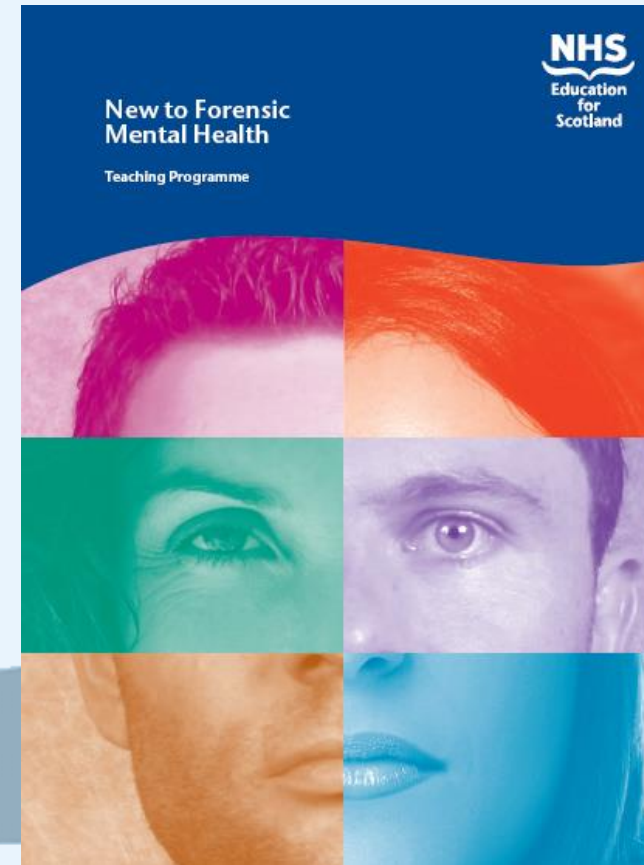
Structure of Network & SoFMH



New to forensic



- Introductory level
- Problem based learning – practice based application
- Supported by experienced mentors
- Uses case-scenarios – designed to challenge thinking
- Encourages reflective practice – use of reflective diary
- Extends over six months – one year
- Applicable to all disciplines
- Available for both clinical and non-clinical staff
- Accessible in any setting
- Links to other learning materials throughout the programme





- Highly positive feedback received from this event!
82% rated the event as excellent; 100% said the event achieved its aims and 100% would recommend to others.