

**RIGHT TO HOUSING:  
A TOOLKIT FOR ACTION**

**Alliance for Urban Rights: Previously known as APAKA**

(In 2019, we changed the name of APAKA to AUR. The name change is tied to our shift in focus. While APAKA was a platform for mobilising communities, the AUR has a more wide-ranging focus. It extends our commitment to community mobilisation with a call for action. AUR works with and for katchi abadi communities to develop research based policy solutions).

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## PREFACE

With a population of 2 million people and a growth rate of 4.91%, Islamabad is currently one of the fastest growing cities in Pakistan (2017 census). It is also one of the most expensive cities by land value in the country. The capital city is plagued with a low-income housing crisis, and this is an issue that needs serious and immediate policy attention<sup>1</sup>.

Pakistan's capital city relies on the services of the working-class, but it does not make space for them. According to CDA documents there are 52 katchi abadis in Islamabad, housing well over 100,000 people. Of these, only 11 are secure from any future threats of eviction. The Capital Development Authority refuses to acknowledge permanency of 41 abadis, while failing to implement any low-income residential program in the past 30 years. There is a low-income housing crisis in Islamabad. CDA can resolve this by following national and international covenants, and legalising abadis developed through the urban poor's collective community resources.



This toolkit aims to build support for the right to stay put and right to adequate housing for Islamabad's poor. It is an outcome of a participatory research project that aims to build support for a right to housing for those living in katchi abadis, and to empower their fight for adequate housing in Islamabad.

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<sup>1</sup> Saima Mohsin, *A City for the Rich* (Islamabad: PIDE, 2020), 18.

## 1. INTRODUCTION:

Islamabad is divided into five zones: Zone I, Zone II, Zone III, Zone IV, and Zone V. Zone I and Zone II are the oldest settled zones of the city. Over the last decade, the city's limits have started sprawling outwards, land prices in Zones I and II have skyrocketed, despite the fact that this zone has the highest demand for low skilled labour. The already existing katchi abadis in Zone I and II have started to densify, while new settlements are forming in recently developed sectors of E-13, F-12, G-12 in Zone-I, and in Zone IV. Laborers living outside zones I and II find it difficult and costly to commute to and from work within the city center, especially due to unreliable and inadequate public transport links with central Islamabad.

In the absence of public provision of low income housing, there are now numerous Katchi Abadis in Islamabad. These are listed in full detail below:

List of major abadis in Islamabad:

Name	Status
Tent/Faisal Colony G-7/1	Regularized
66 Quarter G-7/2	Regularized
48 Quarter G-7/3	Regularized
France colony F-7/1	Regularized
100 Quarter F-6/2	Regularized
Hansa Colony G-8/1	Regularized
Muslim Colony, Diplomatic Enclave	Regularized
Dhok Najju I-10/4	Regularized
Essa Nagri I-9	Regularized
Muslim colony I-9	Non-Regularized
Dhobi Ghat G-6/2	Non-Regularized
Allama Iqbal Colony G-7/1	Non-Regularized
Muzaffar Colony H-11	Non-Regularized
Musharraf colony G-8	Non-Regularized
Maskeen Colony G-8	Non-Regularized
Green Belt I-12/H-12	Non-Regularized

Mehrabadi G-12/F-12	Non-Regularized
Rimsha Colony H-9/2	Non-Regularized
Christian Colony G-6/1-4	Non-Regularized
Alipur Farash	Regularized
G-11 tent colony	Non-Regularized
Awami Basti F-12	Non-Regularized



List of Abadi's within the project's scope:

Name of Katchiabadi	Age	Built Form	Legal Status
Allama Iqbal Colony (G-7/1)	38 yrs.	Kacha	Non regularized
Musharraf Colony (G-8/4)	18 yrs.	Paka	Non regularized
Rimsha Colony (H-9/2)	8 yrs.	Kacha	Non regularized
Alipur Farash Town/Muslim Colony	40 yrs.	Paka	Relocated/Regularized
Mehrabadi		Kacha/Paka	Non regularized
Muslim Colony (I-9/1)	18 yrs.	Paka	Non regularized
Essa Nagri (I-9/1)	32 yrs.	Paka	Non regularized
(I-10/1)	40 yrs.	Kacha	Non regularized
Miskeen Colony (G-8/4)	18 yrs.	semi paka	Non regularized

## 2. What has already happened for Housing Rights for Islamabad's Katchi Abadi's?

In early 2000, The Ministry of Environment, Local Government and Rural Development (MoE LG&RD) constituted a "National Committee on Katchi Abadis, Urban Renewal and Slum Upgradation". The committee was required to propose a formally planned long term alternative to *katchi abadis*. It finalised plans for the Model Urban Shelter Project (MUSP), a housing project that aimed to resettle Islamabad's *katchi abadi* residents. In 2001, MUSP worked to relocate residents of Muslim colony in Bari Imam, one of Islamabad's oldest *katchi abadi*, to Alipur Farash Town, which was 17 kms away in Zone IV. After floods in 2001, other abadis in Zone I including Haq Bahu I-11/4, Dhok Naju I-10/4, Essa Nagri I-9/1 were also resettled (21 kms away) in Alipur Farash Town as part of MUSP.



MUSP is among the few initiatives by the government to fix the housing crisis for Islamabad's low income residents. There is a lot that other Katchi Abadi residents can learn from the experience of Muslim Colony residents being moved to Alipur Farash. Not only how they can start their struggle for housing rights, but also, how they can continue it to make sure they get an adequate and fair alternative. Currently, the resettlement to Alipur Farash is far from perfect.

### How did residents of Muslim Colony claim their rights to housing?

While we appreciate the government responding to the low-income housing shortage and offering solutions such as MUSP, we encourage residents to learn lessons from the resettlement of Muslim Colony katchi abadi resettlements. These are shared below:

#### a. Involve women



We recognise women as key enablers in the struggle for housing rights, who can help generate public support for housing rights. Unlike other katchi abadis in Islamabad, the women in Muslim Colony played a very active role in ensuring the success of the the housing rights movement. For this reason, we encourage women within *katchi abadis* to play a central role in demand making for permanent housing and the right to adequate housing.

In Muslim Colony, Rukhsana Bibi, the leader of the Women's Focus Group was a respected member of an informal katchi abadi resident's committee. Rukhsana and her women's group were also well known among civil society in Islamabad for their work on women issues within the colony and activism for housing rights. With her driving the effort, the men and women of Muslim Colony met with political parties and NGOs to develop a forceful campaign for housing rights of katchi abadi residents. The campaign resulted in the Ministry of Environment, Local Government and Rural Development's selection of Muslim Colony for resettlement to Alipur Farash Town under MUSP.

#### b. Organise with external support.

What we have learnt from Muslim Colony is that it is important for groups of people, regardless of age or gender, to come together and organise for collective action. They can do so with the help, support and guidance of external organisations such as political parties, NGOs or activist groups.

The women of Muslim Colony organised with the support of an NGO working on women rights in muslim colony. The NGO used to conduct education and skills building workshops for resident women and women-only weekly meetings. At these meetings, women discussed their issues with the prospect of finding solutions. These opportunities to come together were instrumental in mobilising and consolidating a women-led struggle for housing rights.



This group of women was led by Rukhsana bibi. As the only educated member of the group of resident women, Rukhsana bibi worked as a volunteer for the NGO. While the group discussed women's issues in the abadi, they realized that housing is in fact a women's issue. Since then the group of women started mobilizing to demand their right to secure housing. The group of women visited houses in the abadi to canvas for support from other women within the abadi, requesting them to join their struggle for right to housing. Over time, the membership of

women increased, and in the end five hundred to seven hundred women from the abadi joined protests in front of CDA and other relevant offices for their housing rights.

#### c. Set up a purpose-led Focus Group

We would advise *katchi abadi* residents to set up a system of regular meetings to organise community struggles and to set up collective savings which can then be used to cover expenses for community housing struggles or infrastructural upgrading projects.

This was successfully done in Muslim Colony, where women set up a Focus Group. The focus group aimed to build the capacity of women within the abadi. It also taught money saving methods to members. The focus group successfully set up a savings fund where they collected two hundred rupees from every member. The savings from this fund was distributed to members in most need, who used the money to fund important expenses including construction of houses.

#### d. Protest!

The struggle for housing rights and right to adequate housing can only be successful through regular peaceful, yet attention seeking protests.

Women in Muslim Colony proactively and forcefully brought public attention to their cause through protests. On hearing of any meetings or jalsa's organised by government ministers or other officials, Muslim Colony's women would turn on on site and actively protest there. Their forms of



protest were sometimes provocative, but were effective. Recently, to call attention to the CDA's neglect of trash management in Alipur Farash, active women resettled from Muslim Colony took their trash in bags and left those bags in front of the CDA office, which ultimately resulted in more regular trash collections from Alipur Farash.

#### e. Keep the struggle alive

For low-income communities, the campaign for housing rights is never ending. As we have learnt from the ordeal of Muslim Colony residents settled in Alipur Farash, city authorities are not quick to fulfill their promises. For this reason, the Women's Group in Alipur Farash is forced to remain active. Rukhsana Bibi, now an active representative of the Alliance for Urban Rights, a housing and political rights group previously known as All Pakistan Alliance for Katchi Abadis (APAKA). in Alipur Farash, continues to lead the woman's group in campaigning for public utilities. A few years back women of Alipur closed the main Lehtrar road against gas load shedding. They recently staged multiple protests for provision of drinking water and arrangement for trash in the abadi. Over time, some of their campaigns have been successful, and we are confident that ongoing ones will be too.

To this end, we are trying to organise katchi abadi dwellers and unite them across locational, ethnic, occupational, gender, and caste divides. We are trying to do this under the AUR's banner (previously known as APAKA), and believe that by coming together, we can project our voice louder to raise demands for permanent and adequate housing.



## Make sure you get what you want: Lessons from Muslim Colony

While the struggle for housing in Muslim Colony is a positive example, the final result is not perfect. We can learn from the experience of Muslim Colony residents to avoid future problems.

Alipur Farash was very far from the city center, which meant that relocated residents could not afford to travel for work from there. On relocation to Alipur Farash town, residents felt further cheated. Their allotted plots were not leveled and the area lacked basic infrastructure. Those who have settled at Alipur Farash invested in building houses, but still do not have access to drinking water. There is no arrangement for trash, while sewage channels are blocked. The abadi lacks roads, pavements, community spaces for women, and basic infrastructural facilities. Residents argue that the project has failed due to CDA incompetency.



But also, CDA's allocation of plots within Alipur Farash was not thought to be fair by resettled residents. Before being resettled, Muslim colony residents demanded free and permanent allocations of plots. However, despite living in Alipur Farash for over two decades now, residents have not received registries of their houses from CDA. Residents also feel the resettlement does not suit their needs, because the 3 marla plots allotted per 'chardiwari' are not adequate to house growing joint families. A

single house is now shared by three to four families. In addition to this, some feel that the resettlement process was not fair. Residents also claimed that CDA staff tricked them by buying their land in Muslim Colony at rates that were substantially lower than market value. Moreover, many abadi residents were not consulted in CDA surveys.

Despite living with all these difficulties, relocated residents are still waiting for the full transfer of property rights. Given the difficulties tied to commuting and living in a substandard development, a large number of resettled families have given up. They have sold their plots and returned back to their abadis.

Muslim Colony residents did not want to be relocated to Alipur Farash by CDA, mainly because of its distance and disconnection to their places of work. They demanded for their abadis to be upgraded and formalised within the existing locations. They had to finally agree to move because of pressure from the authorities. Rukhsana, said that we campaigned and convinced people to relocate to Alipur, where they will own their own houses with access to public facilities.

In case you get offered to move to a different location, make sure you get your demands confirmed before moving. Demand for land title/registry forms for housing, adequate size of

plot or not of plots for family size, adequate infrastructural and public services at new locations (electricity, gas and water connectivity, working waste management infrastructure, public spaces, school), and good transport connectivity.

### 3. What can you do to claim your rights for housing?

We urge you to take control of your housing rights. You can do this by following the suggested guidelines below.

#### a. Organise politically, but cautiously:

Canvass and built a strong vote block within your communities. Meet with representatives from different political parties. Vote for candidates you trust will stand by you to solve your abadis issues. Remember those who promised to solve your abadis issues pre-election but did not visit abadis after elections. Be mindful and strategic about your political power.

#### b. Form an active committee

Democratise the struggle. Go to elders with your problems, but also strengthen representation within the community to support your elders in solving issues. Motivate your elders to take your issues forward whether through encouraging them to join your protests or to join protests that the elders organise. Reach out to chauthrys or elders to solve abadi issues through their influential contacts, and sit with them to develop and discuss alternative strategies if things don't move forward.

#### c. Stand united

There has been a long and ongoing struggle demanding housing rights within many of Islamabad's *katchi abadis*. In the past, residents have joined the AUR's platform to protest in front of the CDA office and Islamabad press club. These protests have been fruitful, but can only be successful if residents of your abadi unite. Join the call of your organisers to protest, but also, attend the call of residents of abadis in other parts of Islamabad who face eviction and violence. Move past cultural and gender divides and joining the struggles of your working class brothers and sisters living in other abadis is the only solution for now. It's the only way to raise your voice loud enough to get it heard.



#### d. Be pre-emptive

Don't wait for CDA's demolition movements to get active. In the past AUR (previously named as APAKA) has successfully put a legal case in the Supreme court and stopped demolition of abadis. The AUR is an available platform that abadi residents are encouraged to engage with in order to campaign for their right to adequate and permanent housing in Islamabad. We would encourage residents from all abadis to meet with AUR members regularly, and discuss their issues. If local residents feedback their concerns, whether singular problems or any issues

discussed collectively within the *katchi abadi* committee, AUR members will make sure to represent your rights to adequate housing with appropriate authorities. See the contact information on page 11 for AUR member contact details

#### e. Keep the chat alive

AUR has organised a whatsapp group, which brings together community organisers from various Katchi Abadis. The aim of the group is to share information and advice on ongoing threats of eviction and displacement, as well as updates on ongoing infrastructural, health and safety issues within the abadis. Key organising members of the AUR, AWP, PRSF, and WDF are also members of this whatsapp group, so they can give timely and immediate response. If you would like your community organisers to join this group, please contact Hassan Turi. You can find his contact details on page 14 of this pamphlet.

#### Be aware of your legal rights

The constitution of Pakistan recognises its citizens' right to housing. The state is responsible for provision of shelter to its citizens. Article 14(1), Article 9, Article 25(1) and Article 38(d) of the constitution ensure Pakistani citizens the right to live life with dignity, equality and privacy of the home. Pakistan is also party to various international treaties bound to protect fundamental rights of people living in informal settlements. Cabinet decision on katchi abadis in 1997 states that "*The Katchi Abadis existing in sensitive areas, or in a right of a way of road, or encroaching planned plots should be demolished, whereas, other katchi abadis may be upgraded at its existed locations. only the houses surveyed upto 1995 should be regularised.*" Similarly, National Housing Policy, 2001 also mentions regularization and upgradation of the abadis.

#### "5. KACHI ABADIS, SQUATTER SETTLEMENTS & SLUMS

##### Regulation and Controls

a) *The process of regularization and up-gradation of the pre-1985 katchi abadis shall continue as per current policy. However, katchi abadis, which are hazardous by virtue of being close to railways tracks or located under high tension power lines, or are on or close to the riverbeds, or on lands needed for operational /security purposes, need to be relocated at appropriate places by LOAs.*

b) --

c) *There shall be no eviction till katchi abadis residents are relocated as per resettlement plans."*

In the past, members of the AUR (previously APAKA) and AWP have facilitated a legal stay order from the Supreme Court of Pakistan against evictions in katchi abadi's in Islamabad. In the course of our constitutional petition, the Supreme Court stated clearly that:

*"it is the constitutional obligation of the State without any exception to provide shelter."*  
(Constitutional Petition 41 of 2015, 11th February 2016)

and that *"the State cannot possibility ignore its constitutional obligation to enforce fundamental rights or to act in accordance with principles of policy set out in Article 38(d)*

*relating to housing/shelter for citizens... the provision of housing/shelter is one of the primary needs of the people of Pakistan.” (Constitutional Petition 41 of 2015, 31st August 2015)*

In response to our petition, the stay order of the Supreme Court of Pakistan stopping CDA from carrying out any further demolitions of existing katchi abadis in Islamabad stands to this day.

#### **f. Strength in Unity**

Residents of Katchi Abadis in Islamabad belong to different ethnicities and religions. Deep running ethnic and religious divisions only help the state in breaking the unity of the urban poor for securing the right to housing. Resisting the politics of hate which divide communities on the basis of ethnicities and religion and instead collectively mobilising for your urban rights is the only way forward for working class communities. Setting aside biases between punjabis and pashtuns, between christian, suni and shia muslims, between men and women is important. In cities like Karachi, where katchi abadi residents have been hugely successful in gaining rights to permanent housing, they have set aside differences and stood shoulder to shoulder with other communities to successfully secure their housing rights.

In fact, residents of katchi abadis in Islamabad have also experienced the power of working as a collective. In many abadis such as G-8/4, G-7/1, residents have self-financed water supply by collecting monthly fees for fuel and maintenance of generators, and for digging bored water supply. These infrastructures can only remain possible and cost-effective if we stay connected and united.

#### **g. Media Activism**

There are more than 52 katchi abadis in Islamabad, but you hardly see any news of these in existing media stories. In order to bring issues of katchi abadi to the public, you have to make yourselves visible by sharing your problems and issues. You can share these directly with local journalists and request them to help you raise your voice. You can also share information with AUR representatives who can pass on your concerns to journalists. They will do this through a press release, which will then be printed in english and urdu newspapers.

Increasingly, social media is an important platform as a source of news for national and international print and electronic media. Content generated by social media is used frequently by TV channels and newspapers to inform different shows and sections. Every organisation has a social media account. Even organisations such as the CDA have social media pages (twitter and facebook). Use your phones to take pictures or videos of moments where your right to housing is being unjustly challenged. Share this on the CDA’s facebook pages, tagging allies like AUR (APAKA), AWP, WDF, PRSF. You can also share these images and related queries or written content directly with AUR’s members (through whatsapp or facebook), and we can share this on relevant social media platforms. See links to these pages in the directory on page 11.

AUR (previously called APAKA), which includes members from AWP, WDF, PRSF has significant experience in organising and leading media campaigns on behalf of katchi abadi residents. We have close connections with local and international TV journalists, and frequently urge them to make programmes to shed light on critical social issues. Our members appear on TV News analysis shows to voice the perspective of marginal communities. We also

have thousands of members on our facebook and twitter accounts. Any messages you share with us will be forwarded by us on facebook and twitter, reaching millions of people within Pakistan and abroad. This will create pressure on CDA, local government officers, and ministers to respond.

We have led many successful media campaigns to project the rights of vulnerable and forgotten communities in Islamabad. For example, it was this collective effort of abadi dwellers and continuous support from journalists and civil society that the Supreme Court halted demolition of katchi abadis in Islamabad in 2015.

#### **4. DIRECTORY OF IMPORTANT CONTACTS**

##### **a. Legal**

Our progressive lawyers are committed to the cause of Katchi Abadi residents. In 2014, during the I-11 demolition operation, they worked day and night to release 65 katchi abadi residents who were arrested and jailed. In 2015, our lawyers also successfully fought to halt further evictions and demolitions in any katchi abadi in Islamabad by obtaining a stay order through the Supreme Court.

It is in this respect the residents of the abadis should have access to a team of lawyers, where they can assist them in legal activities.

**Umer Gilani:** Umer Gilani is a Partner at The Law and Policy Chambers and an Advocate of the High Courts of Pakistan. He is a graduate of LUMS and the University of Washington School of Law (USA). Previously, he assisted Justice Jawwad S. Khawaja at the Supreme Court of Pakistan and held research positions at the Federal Judicial Academy and the Prime Minister's Legal Reforms Committee.

**Asad Khan:** Asad Khan is an advocate at Islamabad district court. He is president of progressive lawyers forum and can be reached out through his phone number mentioned below.

**Bevargh Baloch:** Bevargh is also lawyer at Islamabad district court and member of progressive lawyers forum. He has been actively involved in the Katchi Abadi struggle for the last seven years.

**Haider Imtiaz:** Worked as an independent legal practitioner and dealt with cases related to civil, criminal, regulatory and constitutional law apart from providing advisory and consultancy services. Served as a notified member of the prosecution team headed by Mr. Mohammad Akram Sheikh, Senior Advocate Supreme Court of Pakistan, in the trial of Gen. (R.) Pervez Musharraf under charges of high treason.

**Sikander Naeem:** Sikandar Naeem is a practicing lawyer and a senior fellow at National Dialogue Forum (NDF) Islamabad, Pakistan. He has eight years of working experience on issues relating to constitutional, international tax and trade law disputes.

**Nisar Shah:** Nisar Shah is also a member of progressive lawyers forum.

S.No	Name	Contact Number
	Asad Khan	03339187502
	Sikander	03445876628
	Umer Gilani	03015011568
	Haider Imtiaz	0323 5423199
	Nisar Shah	0300 2147960
	Bevarg Baloch	0332 5053757

b. Media

Social media grants easy access to office holders of relevant government departments, journalists and civil society activists. It is in this context, it is important For the abadi representatives to have a presence on social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter.

Here is a list of organizations and activists who can be helpful in amplifying voices of katchi abadi residents on social media.

**Awami Workers Party Islamabad and Rawalpindi:** A party of the working people that aims to bring together the struggles of workers, peasants, students, women & other marginalized groups. Awami workers party Islamabad and Rawalpindi page can be found facebook by typing Awami workers party Islamabad and Rawalpindi or can be reached out via twitter account @AWPisbRwp or Facebook page Awami workers Party Islamabad.

**WDF:** Women Democratic Front (WDF) is a Pakistan-based, independent socialist-feminist political organization bringing together the struggles of women against patriarchal oppression and its socio-economic base; for peace and social justice; and establishing people's democracy. WDF regularly updates its page on facebook and twitter. In order to reach out on facebook, type Women Democratic Front and for twitter follow @wdf\_pk or through their Facebook page Women Democratic Front.

**HRC:** The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan is an independent, nonpartisan organisation committed to monitoring and supporting human rights in the country. HRC can be reached out by twitter @HRC87 or Facebook page Human Rights Commission of Pakistan.

**Zara Hat Kay:** Zara Hat Kay is a TV show on politics hosted by three journalists Wusath Ullah Khan, Zarrar Khuhro and Mubashir Zaidi. They can be easily accessed via twitter on either their program handle @ZaraHatKay\_Dawn or individual handles, @WusatUllahKhan, Xadeejournalist, @ZarrarKhuhro or through their Facebook page Zara Hat Kay.

**Voicepk.net:** Voicepk.net is an open platform dedicated to broadcasting human rights concerns within Pakistan and the rest of the world. We aim to report and spread awareness about stories from the prism of human rights, and be the voice of the voiceless. They can be reached out by their facebook page and their twitter account @voicepkdotnet or Voicepk.net.

**Farman Ali:** Farman Ali is a senior journalist based in Islamabad. Currently he is working for Dawn news. Previously, he has worked as editor in Express Tribune. Farman Ali can be reached out through his facebook page by his name.

S.No	Name	Contact Number
	Farman Ali	92 312 5007688
	Aurat Azadi March FB Pages	
	AWP Islamabad Page	92 333 8088887
	Zara Hat Kay	
	Voicepk.net	
	Human Rights Commission Pakistan	

c. Community

There are already a number of activists resident within your community. Please get in touch with them to organise and mobilise.

**Mir Azam:** Mir Azam lives in I-9 Muslim colony. He is one of the main representatives from I-9 abadi. Mir Azam has been an active member of the APAKA now AUR. He has always mobilised his abadi for housing rights and for access to public utilities. He has been active in struggling for housing for the last twenty years.

**Chaudhry James:** Chaudhry James lives in G7 Allama Iqbal Colony. He is one of the first residents who built a house in Allama Iqbal colony. He is a prominent representative of the abadi. Abadi residents respect him for his continuous struggle for housing rights of G7 abadi residents. He has been an active member of APAKA/AUR.

**Rukhsana Bibi:** Rukhsana mobilized women living in Muslim colony for housing rights. Before her activism for housing she was actively involved with NGOs working with women in the abadis. It was her and women of Muslim colony consistent mobilization that the residents of Muslim colony were granted alternative housing plots in Alipur Farash. Rukhsana now lives with her family in Alipur Farash and is still actively involved in solving issues of Alipur Farash town.

**Liaqat:** Liaqat is a resident of Merabadi and he has been fighting for housing rights of Merabadi residents and their access to public utilities. Before shifting to Islamabad, Liaqat worked with brick kiln workers in Faisalabad.

**Ahmed Ali:** Ahmed Ali is a young activist from I-10 abadi. He has been an active member of APAKA/AUR. He has been mobilising his abadi from a very young age. He is the main representative of the I-10 abadi.

**Temar:** Temar is a young activist from Rimsha colony H9. She is a teacher by profession and she teaches at community school in the abadi. She has been mobilising her abadi for housing rights and access to public utilities.

**Munawar Masih:** Munawar Masih is a resident of Musharaf colony G8. He has worked previously with All Pakistan APAKA/AUR. Munawar has tirelessly worked for housing rights of G8 Musharraf colony residents.

S.No	Name	Contact Number
	Mir Azam	03335193143
	Chaudhry James	03365102278
	Munawar Masih	03151528038
	Ahmed Ali	03005388619
	Rukhsana bibi	0300538919
	Temar	
	Liaqat	03452070989

d. Political activists

AUR/APAKA brings together party representatives from various left-wing political parties, including AWP, PPP, PKMAP. All members have a long standing commitment towards residents of katchi abadis in islamabad and surrounding areas. They have projected the voice of katchi abadi residents on TV, policy platforms, and on senate and parliament floors.

**Aasim sajjad Akhter:** Aasim Sajjad Akhter has been working in mobilising residents of katchi abadi residents for the last 17 years. Aasim founded the All Pakistan APAKA. Aasim is a vetran political activist associated with Awami workers Party and writes weekly in Dawn newspaper. Aasim can be reached through his facebook page by his name or through his twitter account @AasimSajjadA.

**Ammar Rashid:** Ammar Rashid is President of Awami Workers Party Punjab and has been associated with mobilisation of katchi abadis in Islamabad for the last ten years. Ammar has extensively worked in mobilising residents of the abadis and disseminating katchi abadi issues on social media, print media and electronic media. Ammar tweets at @AmmarRashidT.

**Tooba Syed:** Tooba Syed is a young activist associated with Women Democratic Front, Aurat Azadi March and she is also communication secretary of Awami workers Party. For the last ten years she has worked with katchi abadi residents mobilisation on the ground and on social media. She can be reached out through her facebook page and twitter account @Tooba\_Sd.

**Alia Amir Ali:** Alia Amirali has mobilised katchiabai residents especially she was incharge of Alipur women group. Apart from that Aliya has worked extensively in mobilising students in Punjab province and is also a senior member of Awami workers party.

**Awnil Muntazir:** Awnil is a president of Progressive students federation (PRSF). He has been working in H-9 Abadi and Mera abadi for the last three to four years.

**Muhammed Nawfal Salimi:** Nawfil is incharge of G-7 Abadi. Previously, he started a school in the abadi.

**Sibth Ul Hassan:** Hassan has worked in Abadis for the last seven year. Currently, he is incharge of I-9 abadi.

**Afrasiyab Khattak:** Afrasiyab Khattak is a veteran politician. He has been a vocal voice on Katchiabai issue in Islamabad. Previously, he used to visit katchi abadis and have written on katchi abadis issues. He used to regularly attend APAKA events. He is very active on social media and can be reached out @a\_siab.

**Anam Rathor:** Anam Rathor is an activist working with Aurat Azadi March and Climate Action Pakistan. She has been involved in many food distribution campaigns in Katchiabadis during the corona lockdown. She can be reached out on twitter @AnamRathor

**Farhat Ullah Babar:** Farhat Ullah Babar is vetran politician and served twice as senator from Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians. He has been supporting Katchiabadis struggle in Pakistan and has raised the housing issue of katchi abadi dwellers from the senate floor. He can be reached out through his twitter account @FarhatullahB

#### **Political activists contact list**

S.No	Name	Contact Number
	Aasim Sajjad Akhter	03145355066
	Ammar Rashid	03335221863
	Tooba Syed (AWP and Aurat Azadi March)	03475061429
	Alia Amir Ali	03325240283
	Afrasiyab Khattak	
	Farhat ullah Babar	03008552543
	Maria Malik- WDF Islamabad	03455537376
	Anam Rathor - Aurat Azadi March	03445269717

e. **Relevant Government Authorities and Officials**

In case of any concerns, as citizens, you can also directly get in touch with relevant government bodies to raise issues and get support. Key service-delivery based departments are listed below.

**Citizen's Portal:** Prime Minister's Performance Delivery Unit (PMDU) established in 2013, is a nation-wide complaints and grievance redressal mechanism with special emphasis on facilitation of women and special persons. Registered citizens/members on Pakistan Citizen's Portal (PCP) can put suggestions before the authorities. They can also place personal complaints and grievances, report violations of laws, or seek guidance.

**Deputy Commissioner Office:** Deputy Commissioner, ICT executes diverse administrative and executive functions in accordance with various Federal and Provincial laws in Islamabad Capital Territory. Deputy Commissioner also oversees law and order and security of the district. Deputy Commissioner authorizes and regulates various activities and functions. He can be reached through twitter @dcislamabad.

**Parliamentarians from Islamabad:** Islamabad has been divided into three constituencies, namely NA 52 ICT - I, NA53 ICT - II and NA54 ICT- III. Raja Khurram Shehzad from Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf (PTI) has won election from NA 52 ICT - I. He is serving as chairman standing committee on interior. Ali Nawaz Awan has won election from NA53 ICT - II and is serving as Special assistant on CDA Affairs to the Prime Minister. The third Parliamentarian is Asad Umer, who won election from NA 54- ICT III. He is currently serving as Federal Minister for Planning, Development, Reforms and Special Initiatives. He can be reached out through twitter @Asad\_Umar.

S.No	Name	Contact Number
	Citizen Portal	
	Hamza Shafqat DC Islamabad	(051) 9108194
	Assad Umer (MNA - NA54 ICT III)	
	Ali Nawaz Awan (MNA - NA53 ICT II)	051-9201401, 051-9203245, 0323-8540836
	Raja Khurram Shehzad Nawaz (MNA - NA 52 ICT I)	0336-5006687 0314-7865252
	CDA Complaint Office CDA Chairman Office	0519204668 925303, 9230274, 925307

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Alliance for Urban Rights: Previously known as APAKA

(In 2019, we changed the name of APAKA to AUR. The name change is tied to our shift in focus. While APAKA was a platform for mobilising communities, the AUR has a more wide-ranging focus. It extends our commitment to community mobilisation with a call for action. AUR works with and for katchi abadi communities to develop research based policy solutions).

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