

# THE SAFE PROJECT

## Empowering Safer Universities in Sindh

The SAFE (Sexual Assault Free Environment) Project, led by Ziauddin University in collaboration with ACU, UNDP Pakistan, Martha Farrell Foundation, and Sindh HEC, was launched to tackle sexual harassment in higher education institutions across Sindh.

Through a survey of 800 participants from 25 universities, the project uncovered widespread issues like verbal, visual, and cyber harassment—often unreported due to fear and lack of support. In response, SAFE organized workshops, trained faculty and staff, and provided tools to build awareness, strengthen reporting mechanisms, and enforce anti-harassment policies.

A major achievement of the project was the development of a centralized anti-harassment reporting portal, allowing students and staff to submit complaints securely and anonymously. This digital platform marked a significant step forward in ensuring confidentiality, accessibility, and accountability.

The project culminated in the SAFE Colloquium, where academic leaders and policymakers committed to long-term reforms. Despite cultural resistance, the project laid the groundwork for institutional change, improved reporting systems, and fostered a collaborative movement toward safer, inclusive universities.

With plans for nationwide expansion, the SAFE Project is a vital step toward a harassment-free academic culture in Pakistan.

