



Champions of Justice in Somaliland: The Story of SOLLA

Director@somalilandlawyers.org

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Introduction

Somaliland Lawyers Association (SOLLA), a dedicated force for justice in Somaliland. In this profile, we will explore the background, vision, mission, core values, and impactful collaborations of SOLLA. Get ready to learn about the unwavering commitment of SOLLA in advocating for access to justice, defending human rights, and empowering local communities. Join us as we delve into the transformative potential and strong track record of SOLLA in promoting fairness, equality, and human rights in Somaliland.



Background of SOLLA

The Story of SOLLA's Foundation and Mission

Emergence of SOLLA

Born in 2004, Somaliland Lawyers Association (SOLLA) emerged from a collective yearning for a just and equitable Somaliland. United by a shared vision, a group of dedicated lawyers, including professors from Hargeisa University and advisors to both legislative houses, laid the foundation for what would become a formidable force in the nation's legal landscape.

SOLLA's Vision

The vision of SOLLA is to accomplish capable and competent legal professionals, effective and efficient practicable of laws, enjoyable justice, independent and impartial judiciary, realization of feasible human right protection, supremacy law, democracy, good governance, and peace in Somaliland.

Mission of SOLLA

SOLLA's mission is multifaceted, yet each facet reflects a singular devotion to justice. The association champions access to justice for all, advocates for a fair and independent judiciary, and nurtures a culture of human rights and democratic values.

Core Values of SOLLA

SOLLA's core values include justice, human dignity, empowerment, integrity, and solidarity. Each value reflects the unwavering commitment of SOLLA to promoting fairness, equality, and human rights in Somaliland.

SOLLA's Impactful Collaborations



SOLLA has formed impactful collaborations with various stakeholders to advance justice, human rights, and democracy in Somaliland. The association works closely with UN agencies, international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), and governmental agencies to strengthen the legal system, uphold the rule of law, and protect human rights.

SOLLA's Collaborations with UN Agencies

Impactful Partnerships with UNDP, UNICEF, and UNODC

Collaboration with UNDP

SOLLA, in collaboration with UNDP, has trained over 300 legal professionals, provided free legal aid to over 42,465 vulnerable individuals, and partnered to implement child protection programs, making a significant impact in advancing access to justice and human rights in Somaliland.

Partnership with UNICEF

SOLLA's partnership with UNICEF has resulted in the release of wrongfully detained children, enactment of the Juvenile Justice Bill, and training of judges and prosecutors on child-friendly justice procedures, contributing to the promotion of child justice and welfare in Somaliland.

Empowerment through UNODC

Partnering with UNODC, SOLLA has empowered justice through advocacy campaigns, workshops on anti-piracy laws, and legal representation in cases of long-time detention, illustrating the association's commitment to promoting legal empowerment and protection in Somaliland.

SOLLA's Collaborations with INGOs and Governmental Agencies

Effectiveness in Collaborative Efforts

Partnership with ICD, DRC, and SCI

SOLLA's partnerships with ICD, DRC, and SCI have led to significant achievements such as lobbying for amendments to local council election laws, documenting human rights violations, providing legal aid to victims of gender-based violence, and collaborating with governmental agencies for legal reforms and policy decisions.

Impactful Collaborations with Governmental Agencies

SOLLA's collaboration with governmental agencies such as the Ministry of Justice, Law Review Commission, and Human Rights Commission has resulted in developing new legal aid policies, training judges on fair trial standards, providing legal opinions, and participating in joint research and policy dialogues, contributing to the strengthening of the legal system and human rights protection in Somaliland.

SOLLA's Strong Track Record

Since its establishment, SOLLA has made a significant impact through initiatives such as legal training and capacity building, legal aid and advocacy, community engagement and empowerment, and institutional collaboration and influence, signifying the association's strong track record in advancing justice, human rights, and legal empowerment in Somaliland.



SOLLA's Target Beneficiaries

Empowering Vulnerable Individuals, Human Rights Defenders, Women, Children, Minorities, and Local Communities



Empowering Vulnerable Individuals

SOLLA emphasizes providing free legal aid services for those who cannot afford a lawyer, including detainees, prisoners, victims of domestic violence, children, and refugees, showcasing the organization's commitment to reaching and impacting vulnerable individuals in Somaliland.

Supporting Human Rights Defenders

SOLLA plays a crucial role in monitoring human rights violations, advocating for legislative reforms, and providing legal support to defenders facing harassment or intimidation, highlighting the association's dedication to empowering and protecting human rights defenders in Somaliland.

SOLLA's Structure and Presence

Democratic Governance Structure and Strong Presence in Somaliland

Democratic Governance Structure

SOLLA operates through a democratic governance structure with a Supreme Assembly, Board of Directors, Executive Director, and a robust legal framework, ensuring transparency, accountability, and effective management of resources.

Strong Presence in Somaliland

With headquarters in Hargeisa and six regional branches, SOLLA has a strong presence across Somaliland, committed to serving communities throughout the country and providing accessible legal services and support.



Contact Us:

Hassan Abdilahi Awale| Chairperson
Somaliland Lawyer's Association (SOLLA)
Tel: +252-63-4402770
Email: chairman@somalilandlawyers.org
:somalilandbar_association@yahoo.com
Twitter: SOLLA
Website: www.somalilandlawyers.org
Hargeisa, Republic of Somaliland.

Mr. Mukhtaar Osman Abdi| Executive Director
Somaliland Lawyer's Association (SOLLA)
Tel:+252-63-4459741
Skype:Mukhtaar Hoori
Email: Director@somalilandlawyers.org
Twitter: SOLLA
Website: www.somalilandlawyers.org
Hargeisa, Republic of Somaliland.