

Naima Asif

Call: 2012

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TEAM LEADER, INQUIRY



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Naima specialises in family law, court of protection and public inquiries. She has a keen interest in protecting the rights of vulnerable and marginalised individuals and has been commended for her analytical mind and ability to draw out the essential points of a case.

Naima is dual qualified having obtained rights of audience in the High Court of Pakistan in 2015. Alongside her core practice, Naima maintains a particular interest in cases concerning human rights and social justice issues and has been involved in capital cases before the senior courts in Pakistan.

Naima is a member of the Centre for Women's Justice legal reference panel and a volunteer lawyer for Not Beyond Redemption.

Expertise

Children law

Naima regularly appears in the High Court in wardship proceedings, transnational spouse abandonment and 1980 Hague Convention child abduction cases.

She is experienced in dealing with complex private children law matters, including cases involving serious physical and sexual allegations of abuse, parental alienation, international relocation (permanent and temporary), and Article 21 1980 Hague Convention cases. She represents parents both in this country and overseas and accepts instructions to represent children via a 16.4 Guardian.

Naima also has experience of adoption proceedings, including intercountry adoptions.

In appropriate cases Naima accepts instructions to provide advice on family law matters in Pakistan.

Injunctive family law proceedings

Naima is regularly instructed in cases of forced marriages. She also accepts instructions in cases concerning female genital mutilation protection orders.

Cases

[MAS v ZK & Ors \[2024\] EWHC 1939 \(Fam\)](#)

[Re P \(Appeal: Forced Marriage Protection Order: Jurisdiction\)](#)

Court of Protection

Naima regularly appears in the Court of Protection and has extensive experience of issues relating to health and welfare and property and financial affairs.

Public inquiries

Naima is instructed as Junior Counsel to the Grenfell Tower Inquiry and has worked on the Inquiry since 2018. Naima assisted with Module 2 (Cladding products – testing/certification, product marketing/promotion), 6 (Government) and 8 (evidence relating to the deceased). She was led by Kate Grange KC and Richard Millet KC and prepared cross-examination plans for several key witnesses and is currently report writing.

International human rights law

Naima is a staunch opponent of the death penalty. She successfully acted as sole counsel in an appeal in the Lahore High Court in the case of *State v Farman* in which a sentence of death was commuted to one of life imprisonment.

She collaborated with Justice Project Pakistan for the production of a training manual for the judiciary of Pakistan on the rights of mentally ill defendants in capital cases under domestic and international law. Naima remains committed to the fight against the death penalty and accepts instructions on a pro bono basis.

Naima also has a strong interest in public international law and has assisted in extensive research on the rights of human rights defenders in the Americas for the former UN Special Representative of the Secretary General on Human Rights Defenders.

Qualifications

- BPTC, BPP Law School
- LLM (International law), University of Birmingham

- LLB, University of Leicester

Professional Associations

- Advocate
- FLBA
- Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales
- Lincolns Inn
- CoPPA

Publications

- An Introduction to sharia law and the death penalty, Death Penalty Research Unit, Oxford University (2021)
- United we stand divided we fall; terrorism as an international crime versus terrorism as a transnational crime, Westlaw (2016)
- Women, children and minorities in Pakistan; status, rights and vulnerabilities, Lincolns Inn (2014)
- Children increasingly face neglect amid failing national systems, Family Law ICLIP Jordans Publishing (2013) (co-author)