

Zafar Masud Foundation - Passenger Safety

Concept Paper

Passenger safety awareness and passenger rights within all forms of transit are pressing yet often overlooked considerations. With the ever-increasing demand for road, rail, sea, and air travel, the need for a framework designed to raise safety awareness, fill the gaps in existing legal structures, augment safety-related standards, and ensure increased compliance with said standards, is becoming even more urgent.

In recent years, the incidence of road traffic accidents, fatalities and injuries has been increasing constantly, claiming the lives of an estimated 1.24 million people a year – and injuring as many as 50 million. Developing countries average 23 road traffic related deaths per 100,000 persons. Train accidents, though not as common, are invariably direr in terms of magnitude. Data from Pakistan Railways indicates a yearly average of about 125 train accidents of varying severity. Rail travel accidents are worsened by lack of awareness and non-compliance with safety standards on the part of operators, drivers, passengers, and passersby. For air travel, the dominant factors that lead to air crashes and accidents are operational (pilot error, weather,

and operating factors), and technical (maintenance errors, component failures). The global average for accidents in scheduled commercial flights above 5.7 tons stands at 115 per year, with approx. 239 fatalities cumulatively.

Accidents such as these incur grave economic and social costs. However, with the right initiative, accident prevention and damage mitigation can be achieved. Major challenges and barriers include lack of safety awareness among the public, gaps in existing safety laws, non-compliance with safety regulations, ineffective monitoring of safety requirements, and lack of passenger motivation to pay attention to safety information.

To combat these challenges, the Zafar Masud Foundation (a Section 42 Not-for-Profit Company) will work to spread awareness on transportation safety matters, critically evaluate existing laws and their implementation status, assist stakeholders in enhancing safety standards, and conduct research on transportation laws, legal infrastructure, and transport accident statistics to advocate for improving the transportation safety regime in Pakistan. The Foundation will work towards lobbying government agencies, social welfare organizations, and pressure groups to ensure implementation of improved safety frameworks, while endeavoring to design and

enact regulations in the domains wherein relevant safety laws do not currently exist.

The Foundation will essentially focus on raising awareness, identifying gaps & risks in transport safety frameworks, enhancing the efficacy of passenger safety laws, and ensuring increased implementation and compliance with said laws.

The establishment of the Foundation as an NGO under Section 42 of the Companies Act (2017) will follow a 5-step process: Developing a proof of concept, on-boarding sponsors and subscribers, developing Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association, designing a Project Plan (specifying future income, expenditure, & sources), and applying to the SECP for registration.

The time to act is now, passengers the world over deserve better and safer travel. Let's change the numbers. Let's leverage the right interventions and help save lives. Let's spread the word about Passenger Safety.