**Juvenile Delinquency**,

criminal behaviour, especially that carried out by a **juvenile**.

**Status offence**

A **status offense** is a noncriminal act that is considered a law violation only because of a youth's **status** as a minor.

**Juvenile delinquent**

A **juvenile delinquent** is a young person, particularly a teenager under the age of eighteen, who breaks a state or federal law by committing a **crime**. Teens are still immatures and do not think like adults, therefore they are prone to making mistakes or committing crimes that are not fully in their control.

**Age of responsibility**

Pakistan Penal Code 1860 provides safeguards to juvenile delinquents to be held responsible for their criminal acts. Under section 82 of the PPC, the minimum age of criminal responsibility for a juvenile delinquent was set as seven years old. But in 2016, section 82 of PPC was amended through Criminal Law (Second Amendment) Act 2016 and age of criminal responsibility for a juvenile delinquent enhanced from seven to ten years old to address the child abuse issue. This means that an illegal action by a juvenile below the age of ten years cannot be considered a criminal offense. However, the low minimum age of criminal responsibility (10 years) as described in PPC is not compatible with the internationally accepted level of minimum age of criminal responsibility for a juvenile offender.