



# **Legal Assistance Toolkit**

**for**

**Children and Children's Rights Organisations**

## **Acknowledgement**

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**Children and Children's Rights Organisations**

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## **Introduction**

Access to justice for children requires that all children, however they come into contact with the law, be able to fully participate in legal proceedings. Broadly speaking, it is the idea that children must be able to use and trust the legal system to protect their rights, an idea which is regularly frustrated by the failure of justice systems to account for children's unique vulnerability. Indeed, legal proceedings all too often serve more as a source of fear and additional trauma for children rather than offering positive solutions to already complicated and distressing situations.

Following the ideals of [child-friendly justice](#), CRIN believes that legal systems must take special care to respect the rights of all children they encounter. Legal systems can be immensely confusing and difficult if not impossible to navigate for children, especially without the help of a legal professional. Legal assistance provides children the means to understand legal proceedings, to defend their rights, and to make their voices heard. It is a necessary component of access to justice for children, and without it, it is difficult to see how children's rights can be truly respected and fulfilled.

With this in mind, legal assistance for children must not be viewed as a luxury or a privilege; rather, it must be recognised as a [human right](#). Despite this, given the often high costs of legal services, finding legal assistance can be a complicated and challenging endeavour. This toolkit is designed to explain the ways that legal assistance can be obtained free of charge for children and children's rights organisations, to review the international standards that underlie children's right to legal assistance, and to clarify the different types of legal assistance that may be appropriate across the various contexts in which children interact with the legal system.

CRIN hopes that this information will inspire children and children's rights organisations alike to seek legal assistance where children's rights have been violated. Equally, we hope that it will draw the attention of lawyers, judges and government officials to the urgent need to expand legal assistance programmes for children and organisations that advocate on their behalf. Ultimately, we believe that respecting children's right to legal assistance is a critical first step if we are to work towards guaranteeing all children's rights.

# Part I: Legal Assistance for Children

Children who come into contact with the legal system will often need the assistance of a lawyer. Depending on the context, children may be entitled to receive legal advice or representation free of charge. The lawyer, government department, institution or organisation offering legal assistance will likely vary with a child's particular legal needs, and some of the ways in which children may seek to obtain legal assistance without cost are detailed below. Building on the concept of **child-friendly justice**, which calls for all legal systems to be adapted to the rights and special situation of children, this section explores some of the most common circumstances in which children may find themselves in need of legal assistance.

## **Children in conflict with the law**

Where children are suspected or accused of being in conflict with the law, they may be entitled to **legal aid**, which is free or subsidised legal assistance most often funded or provided by the government. Governments are obligated to provide this aid under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which stipulates that children accused of committing an offence have the right to legal or other appropriate assistance. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers further emphasise that legal assistance must be offered without charge as necessary to any person facing criminal proceedings, and the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice ("Beijing Rules") clarify that children have both the right to counsel and the right to apply for free legal aid where this is available. The UN Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems<sup>1</sup> give more detail about children's right to legal aid, setting out the special measures that must be taken to ensure that children have meaningful access to legal aid.

Children who have already been arrested and detained have an even stronger entitlement to legal aid. In those circumstances, the Convention on the Rights of the Child specifies that children have the right to promptly access legal assistance, and the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners provide that a child who has not yet been tried be permitted to apply for free legal aid where this is available.

In practice, however, the availability and quality of legal aid for children both in and out of detention varies dramatically within and across jurisdictions, and the options and procedures for procuring legal assistance for children in conflict with the law must be examined on a local level.

### International Standards on legal assistance for children in conflict with the law

Convention on the Rights of the Child:

- ▲ [Article 37\(d\)](#): Every child deprived of his or her liberty shall have the right to prompt access to legal and other appropriate assistance, as well as the right to challenge the legality of the deprivation of his or her liberty before a court or other competent, independent and

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<sup>1</sup> Draft UN Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems were adopted by the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in April 2011. These now await final approval by the UN General Assembly, but are unlikely to change.

impartial authority, and to a prompt decision on any such action.

- ▲ [Article 40\(2\)\(b\)\(ii\),\(iii\)](#): To this end, and having regard to the relevant provisions of international instruments, States Parties shall, in particular, ensure that...[e]very child alleged as or accused of having infringed the penal law has at least the following guarantees... (ii) To be informed promptly and directly of the charges against him or her, and, if appropriate, through his or her parents or legal guardians, and to have legal or other appropriate assistance in the preparation and presentation of his or her defence; (iii) To have the matter determined without delay by a competent, independent and impartial authority or judicial body in a fair hearing according to law, in the presence of legal or other appropriate assistance and, unless it is considered not to be in the best interest of the child, in particular, taking into account his or her age or situation, his or her parents or legal guardians...

#### International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights:

- ▲ Article 14(3)(d): In the determination of any criminal charge against him, everyone shall be entitled to the following minimum guarantees, in full equality:...(d) To be tried in his presence, and to defend himself in person or through legal assistance of his own choosing; to be informed, if he does not have legal assistance, of this right; and to have legal assistance assigned to him, in any case where the interests of justice so require, and without payment by him in any such case if he does not have sufficient means to pay for it....

#### UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice ("Beijing Rules"):

- ▲ Rule 7.1: Basic procedural safeguards such as the presumption of innocence, the right to be notified of the charges, the right to remain silent, the right to counsel, the right to the presence of a parent or guardian, the right to confront and cross-examine witnesses and the right to appeal to a higher authority shall be guaranteed at all stages of proceedings.
- ▲ Rule 13.3: Juveniles under detention pending trial shall be entitled to all rights and guarantees of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners adopted by the United Nations.
- ▲ Rule 15.1: Throughout the proceedings the juvenile shall have the right to be represented by a legal adviser or to apply for free legal aid where there is provision for such aid in the country.

#### UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners:

- ▲ Rule 93. For the purposes of his defence, an untried prisoner shall be allowed to apply for free legal aid where such aid is available...

#### UN Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems:

- ▲ Principle 3. Legal aid for persons suspected or charged with a criminal offence
  - 20. States should ensure that anyone who is arrested, detained, suspected or charged with a crime punishable by a term of imprisonment or the death penalty is entitled to legal aid at all stages of the criminal justice process.
  - 21. Legal aid should also be provided, regardless of the person's means, if the interests of justice so require, for example in the case of urgency, complexity or the severity of the potential penalty.
  - 22. Children should have access to legal aid under the same or more lenient conditions as adults.
  - 23. It is the responsibility of police, prosecutors and judges to ensure that those who appear before them who cannot afford a lawyer and/or who are vulnerable are provided access to legal aid.

- ▲ Principle 10. Equity in access to legal aid
  - 32. Special measures should be taken to ensure meaningful access to legal aid for women, children and groups with special needs... Such measures should address the special needs of these groups, including gender-sensitive and age-appropriate measures.
- ▲ Principle 11. Legal aid in the best interests of the child
  - 34. In all legal aid decisions affecting children, the best interests of the child should be the primary consideration.
  - 35. Legal aid provided to children should be prioritised within the best interests of the child, accessible, age-appropriate, multidisciplinary, effective and responsive to the specific legal and social needs of children.
- ▲ Guideline 10. Special measures for children
  - 52. States should ensure special measures for children to promote children's effective access to justice and to prevent stigmatization and other adverse effects as a result of being involved in the criminal justice system, including:
    - (a) Ensuring the right of the child to have counsel assigned to represent them in their own name, in proceedings where there is or could be a conflict of interest between the child and his or her parents or other involved parties;
    - (b) Enabling children who are arrested, detained, suspected of or charged with a crime to contact their parents or guardians at once and prohibiting any interviewing of a child in the absence of his or her lawyer or other legal aid provider, and parent or guardian when available and in the best interests of the child;
    - (c) Ensuring the right of the child to have the matter determined in the presence of the child's parents or legal guardian, unless it is not considered to be in the best interests of the child;
    - (d) Ensuring that children may consult freely and in full confidentiality with parents and/or guardians and legal representatives;
    - (e) Providing information on legal rights in a manner appropriate for the child's age and maturity, in a language that the child can understand and that is gender- and culture-sensitive. Provision of information to parents, guardians or caregivers should be in addition, and not an alternative, to communicating information to the child;
    - (f) Promoting, where appropriate, diversion from the formal criminal justice system and ensure that children have the right to legal aid at every stage of the process where diversion is applied;
    - (g) Encouraging, where appropriate, the use of alternative measures and sanctions to deprivation of liberty and to ensure that children have the right to legal aid so that deprivation of liberty is a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time;
    - (h) Establishing measures to ensure that judicial and administrative proceedings are conducted in an atmosphere and manner that allow children to be heard either directly or through a representative or an appropriate body in a manner consistent with the procedural rules of national law. Taking into account the child's age and maturity may also require modified judicial and administrative procedures and practices.

Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers:

- ▲ Principle 3. Governments shall ensure the provision of sufficient funding and other resources for legal services to the poor and, as necessary, to other disadvantaged persons. Professional associations of lawyers shall cooperate in the organization and provision of

services, facilities and other resources.

- ▲ Principle 6. Any [persons upon arrest or detention or when charged with a criminal offence] who do not have a lawyer shall, in all cases in which the interests of justice so require, be entitled to have a lawyer of experience and competence commensurate with the nature of the offence assigned to them in order to provide effective legal assistance, without payment by them if they lack sufficient means to pay for such services.

## **Children as victims**

Child victims of crime should be granted and are in some circumstances entitled to legal assistance free of charge. Internationally, the UN Guidelines on Justice in Matters involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime, the UN Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power and the UN Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems all dictate that child victims should receive access to appropriate support and assistance, including legal assistance, from their first moment of contact with the criminal justice process. In line with these instruments, child victims of crime who are asked to participate or give information in a criminal case will often receive some form of legal advice or representation to ensure that they are able to participate in a meaningful way.

Depending on the nature of the crime alleged, child victims may have a specific right to legal assistance. For example, child victims of abuse and neglect are generally entitled to or mandated to receive free legal representation in child protection proceedings, usually provided or funded by the government as with legal aid. In family court proceedings, courts will often appoint lawyers or advocates to represent a child's best interests, a child's wishes, or both. Child victims of other crimes may also be eligible to receive some form of legal assistance, but this may be contingent upon their participation in legal proceedings against the violator(s).

### International Standards on legal assistance for child victims

#### [UN Guidelines on Justice in Matters involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime:](#)

- ▲ Guideline 19: Child victims and witnesses, their parents or guardians and legal representatives, from their first contact with the justice process and throughout that process, should be promptly and adequately informed, to the extent feasible and appropriate, of, inter alia: (a) The availability of health, psychological, social and other relevant services as well as the means of accessing such services along with legal or other advice or representation, compensation and emergency financial support, where applicable...(c) The existing support mechanisms for the child when making a complaint and participating in the investigation and court proceedings...(f) The existing mechanisms for review of decisions affecting child victims and witnesses...
- ▲ Guideline 21: Professionals should make every effort to enable child victims and witnesses to express their views and concerns related to their involvement in the justice process, including by: (a) Ensuring that child victims and where appropriate witnesses are consulted on the matters set forth in paragraph 19 above; (b) Ensuring that child victims and witnesses are enabled to express freely and in their own manner their views and concerns regarding their involvement in the justice process, their concerns regarding safety in relation to the accused, the manner in which they prefer to provide testimony and their

feelings about the conclusions of the process...

- ▲ Guideline 22: Child victims and witnesses and, where appropriate, family members should have access to assistance provided by professionals who have received relevant training... This may include assistance and support services such as financial, legal, counselling, health, social and educational services, physical and psychological recovery services and other services necessary for the child's reintegration. All such assistance should address the child's needs and enable him or her to participate effectively at all stages of the justice process.
- ▲ Guideline 24: Child victims and witnesses should receive assistance from support persons, such as child victim/witness specialists, commencing at the initial report and continuing until such services are no longer required.

#### UN Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power:

- ▲ 6. The responsiveness of judicial and administrative processes to the needs of victims should be facilitated by: (a) Informing victims of their role and the scope, timing and progress of the proceedings and of the disposition of their cases, especially where serious crimes are involved and where they have requested such information; (b) Allowing the views and concerns of victims to be presented and considered at appropriate stages of the proceedings where their personal interests are affected, without prejudice to the accused and consistent with the relevant national criminal justice system; (c) Providing proper assistance to victims throughout the legal process...

#### UN Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems:

- ▲ Principle 4. Legal aid for victims of crime
  - 24. Without prejudice to or inconsistency with the rights of the accused, States, where appropriate, should provide legal aid to victims of crime.
- ▲ Principle 11. Legal aid in the best interests of the child
  - 34. In all legal aid decisions affecting children, the best interests of the child should be the primary consideration.
  - 35. Legal aid provided to children should be prioritised within the best interests of the child, accessible, age-appropriate, multidisciplinary, effective and responsive to the specific legal and social needs of children.
- ▲ Guideline 7. Legal aid for victims
  - 47. Without prejudice to or inconsistency with the rights of the accused and consistent with the relevant national legislation, States should take adequate measures, where appropriate, to ensure that: (a) Appropriate advice, assistance, care, facilities and support are provided to victims of crime, throughout the criminal justice process, in a manner that prevents repeat victimization and secondary victimization; (b) Child victims receive legal assistance as required, in line with the Guidelines on Justice in Matters involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime...(d) Victims are promptly informed by the police and other frontline responders (i.e. health, social and child welfare providers) of their right to information, of their entitlement to legal aid, to assistance and protection and how to access such rights; (e) The views and concerns of victims are presented and considered at appropriate stages of the criminal justice process where their personal interests are affected or where the interests of justice so requires...

## Children as witnesses

In many jurisdictions, children can be asked to participate in legal proceedings to talk about things they have seen or experienced. This is commonly referred to as giving **evidence**, which is made up of facts that will help the court to reach a decision. A child giving evidence in a legal proceedings may to some extent receive legal assistance from the lawyer who has asked the child to do so. Most often this will be a **prosecutor**, a lawyer hired by the government to pursue a criminal case, but children can also be called as witnesses by a lawyer for a criminal defendant, or by any person's lawyer in a civil lawsuit.

It must be remembered, however, that these lawyers do not represent child witnesses directly, and may not always have their best interests at heart. Where a child has been asked to give evidence, independent legal assistance may also be available in some jurisdictions from government run victim support programmes or victims' rights organisations. Notably, the UN Guidelines on Justice in Matters involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime and the UN Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems call on governments to provide support specialists for and, where necessary, to appoint guardians to protect the interests of children giving evidence.

### International Standards on legal assistance for child victims

#### UN Guidelines on Justice in Matters involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime:

- ⤴ Guideline 19: Child victims and witnesses, their parents or guardians and legal representatives, from their first contact with the justice process and throughout that process, should be promptly and adequately informed, to the extent feasible and appropriate, of, inter alia: (a) The availability of health, psychological, social and other relevant services as well as the means of accessing such services along with legal or other advice or representation, compensation and emergency financial support, where applicable...(c) The existing support mechanisms for the child when making a complaint and participating in the investigation and court proceedings...(f) The existing mechanisms for review of decisions affecting child victims and witnesses....
- ⤴ Guideline 21: Professionals should make every effort to enable child victims and witnesses to express their views and concerns related to their involvement in the justice process, including by: (a) Ensuring that child victims and where appropriate witnesses are consulted on the matters set forth in paragraph 19 above; (b) Ensuring that child victims and witnesses are enabled to express freely and in their own manner their views and concerns regarding their involvement in the justice process, their concerns regarding safety in relation to the accused, the manner in which they prefer to provide testimony and their feelings about the conclusions of the process...
- ⤴ Guideline 22: Child victims and witnesses and, where appropriate, family members should have access to assistance provided by professionals who have received relevant training... This may include assistance and support services such as financial, legal, counselling, health, social and educational services, physical and psychological recovery services and other services necessary for the child's reintegration. All such assistance should address the child's needs and enable him or her to participate effectively at all stages of the justice process.
- ⤴ Guideline 24: Child victims and witnesses should receive assistance from support persons, such as child victim/witness specialists, commencing at the initial report and continuing until such services are no longer required.
- ⤴ Guideline 25. Professionals should develop and implement measures to make it easier for

children to testify or give evidence to improve communication and understanding at the pre-trial and trial stages. These measures may include: (a) Child victim and witness specialists to address the child's special needs; (b) Support persons, including specialists and appropriate family members to accompany the child during testimony; (c) Where appropriate, to appoint guardians to protect the child's legal interests.

#### UN Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems:

- ▲ Principle 5. Legal aid for witnesses
  - 25. Without prejudice to or inconsistency with the rights of the accused, States should, where appropriate, provide legal aid to witnesses of crime.
- ▲ Principle 11. Legal aid in the best interests of the child
  - 34. In all legal aid decisions affecting children, the best interests of the child should be the primary consideration.
  - 35. Legal aid provided to children should be prioritised within the best interests of the child, accessible, age-appropriate, multidisciplinary, effective and responsive to the specific legal and social needs of children.
- ▲ Guideline 8. Legal aid for witnesses
  - 48. States should take adequate measures, where appropriate, to ensure that: (a) Witnesses are promptly informed by the relevant authority of their rights to information, of their entitlement to assistance and protection, and how to access such rights; (b) Appropriate advice, assistance, care facilities and support are provided to witnesses of crime, throughout the criminal justice process; (c) Child witnesses receive legal assistance as required, in line with Guidelines on Justice in Matters involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime...
  - 49. States should, where appropriate, provide legal aid to witnesses.
  - 50. The circumstances in which it may be appropriate to provide legal aid to witnesses includes, but is not limited to...(c) Where the witness is particularly vulnerable...

### **Children as complainants**

Children whose rights have been violated may have greater difficulty in obtaining free legal assistance to file formal complaints with a court than when, as above, legal proceedings are initiated by someone else. Barriers to accessing justice can be many, and in some legal systems, children may need to obtain the consent and assistance of a parent or guardian before bringing a case. In others, they may not even be permitted to initiate legal proceedings at all.

Nonetheless, children have the right to take legal action where their rights have been violated, and to receive legal assistance both in determining what their options may be and in pursuing whatever course they may choose. Along these lines, the UN Guidelines on Justice in Matters involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime state that child victims should be informed of the ways they can obtain compensation from offenders or the government either as a part of or outside of criminal proceedings. The Guidelines further specify that these procedures be accessible and child-friendly, and that child victims receive reparations wherever possible.

The UN Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power reaffirm that all victims have the entitlement to access justice and seek prompt redress, and that victims must be informed of their rights, given an opportunity to present their views and concerns,

and be given assistance throughout the legal process. The UN Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems also ask governments to ensure that victims receive legal advice on any aspect of their involvement in criminal justice processes, including the option to bring a civil suit or to make a claim for compensation in a separate legal proceeding.

Given the many avenues that may be open for children to obtain reparations from those who violate their rights, it is important to seek clarity about the ways that children can draw attention to violations of their rights before heading to the courthouse. As outlined below, there are a number of ways that children might seek to access this information; these avenues are not exclusive, and it may make sense for children to explore all of their options before deciding whether or not to take formal legal action.

Local or national **ombudspersons** – individuals who have been asked by the government to handle complaints from the public about injustice and human rights – may be able to offer children some measure of free legal assistance. The UN Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (“Riyadh Guidelines”) encourage governments to establish children's ombudspersons, many of which are able to offer basic legal advice and in some cases to receive complaints directly from children. Children can also receive anonymous, confidential advice from a **child helpline**, which is an outreach service for children designed both to offer direct assistance to children and to link them with other helpful organisations and services.

In some jurisdictions, legally-focused NGOs, university-based legal clinics, or **bar associations** - groups that represent or regulate lawyers – may be able to give child victims of rights violations free or subsidised legal advice or representation. The types of work undertaken by these organisations vary widely, with some providing general legal services directly to individuals in a community and others taking only certain cases that line up with particular strategic aims or goals. Many of these organisations rely on volunteer lawyers for legal assistance, and in some instances lawyers may be willing to work with children directly to pursue legal action. These kinds of arrangements are described in relation to children's rights organisations in the section that follows.

Where children's rights have been violated in ways that might amount to a crime, they may also be able to obtain legal advice or assistance from law enforcement authorities. If a criminal case is eventually brought against the violator, children may eventually be entitled to receive some form of compensation. However, children bringing complaints directly to law enforcement may not have much control over the outcome of any investigation or legal proceeding, and are not likely to have access to a lawyer who will represent their views or interests free of charge. As above, child victims of crime might also consider contacting a victim's rights organisation, many of which can offer advocacy services and assistance in seeking compensation for harm caused.

#### International Standards on legal assistance for child complainants

##### UN Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency ("Riyadh Guidelines"):

- ▲ Guideline 57. Consideration should be given to the establishment of an office of ombudsman or similar independent organ, which would ensure that the status, rights and interests of young persons are upheld and that proper referral to available services is made... Child advocacy services should also be established.

##### UN Guidelines on Justice in Matters involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime:

- ▲ Guideline 20. In addition, child victims, their parents or guardians and legal representatives should be promptly and adequately informed, to the extent feasible and appropriate, of...(b)

The existing opportunities to obtain reparation from the offender or from the State through the justice process, through alternative civil proceedings or through other processes.

- ▲ Guideline 35. Child victims should, wherever possible, receive reparation in order to achieve full redress, reintegration and recovery. Procedures for obtaining and enforcing reparation should be readily accessible and child-sensitive.
- ▲ Guideline 36. Provided the proceedings are child-sensitive and respect these Guidelines, combined criminal and reparations proceedings should be encouraged, together with informal and community justice procedures such as restorative justice.
- ▲ Guideline 37. Reparation may include restitution from the offender ordered in the criminal court, aid from victim compensation programmes administered by the State and damages ordered to be paid in civil proceedings. Where possible, costs of social and educational reintegration, medical treatment, mental health care and legal services should be addressed. Procedures should be instituted to ensure enforcement of reparation orders and payment of reparation before fines.

#### UN Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power:

- ▲ 4. Victims should be treated with compassion and respect for their dignity. They are entitled to access to the mechanisms of justice and to prompt redress, as provided for by national legislation, for the harm that they have suffered.
- ▲ 5. Judicial and administrative mechanisms should be established and strengthened where necessary to enable victims to obtain redress through formal or informal procedures that are expeditious, fair, inexpensive and accessible. Victims should be informed of their rights in seeking redress through such mechanisms.
- ▲ 6. The responsiveness of judicial and administrative processes to the needs of victims should be facilitated by: (a) Informing victims of their role and the scope, timing and progress of the proceedings and of the disposition of their cases, especially where serious crimes are involved and where they have requested such information; (b) Allowing the views and concerns of victims to be presented and considered at appropriate stages of the proceedings where their personal interests are affected, without prejudice to the accused and consistent with the relevant national criminal justice system; (c) Providing proper assistance to victims throughout the legal process;
- ▲ 8. Offenders or third parties responsible for their behaviour should, where appropriate, make fair restitution to victims, their families or dependents. Such restitution should include the return of property or payment for the harm or loss suffered, reimbursement of expenses incurred as a result of the victimization, the provision of services and the restoration of rights.
- ▲ 9. Governments should review their practices, regulations and laws to consider restitution as an available sentencing option in criminal cases, in addition to other criminal sanctions.

#### UN Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems:

- ▲ Guideline 7. Legal aid for victims
  - 47. Without prejudice to or inconsistency with the rights of the accused and consistent with the relevant national legislation, States should take adequate measures, where appropriate, to ensure that...(c) Victims receive legal advice on any aspect of their involvement in the criminal justice process, including the possibility of taking civil action or making a claim for compensation in separate legal proceedings, whichever is consistent with the relevant national legislation...

## **Legal Assistance as a Human Right**

### International Bar Association Resolution on Legal Aid:

WHEREAS the Council of the IBA in Montreal in June 1991 adopted the following resolution calling on the countries of the world to provide adequate funding for properly resourced legal aid schemes so as to ensure access to justice for all individuals:

Whereupon it is universally recognised that the interests of justice imply

1. Availability of access to courts for all individuals regardless of means;
2. That no individual should be prejudiced in preparation of his case or in seeking and receiving legal advice by reason only of inadequate financial means;

It is Resolved:

1. That a form of state funded legal aid must be regarded as a human right to enable individuals
  - ▲ To seek and receive legal advice and
  - ▲ To assert and protect their rights under law in criminal and civil proceedings
2. That sufficient funds must be made available by all states to resource properly the operation of a legal aid scheme;
3. That Law Societies and Bar Associations are urged to encourage the setting up of legal aid schemes, where none exists;
4. That all lawyers should participate in or otherwise support legal aid schemes.

SUPPORTIVE of the international human rights treaties, covenants, conventions and declarations adopted by the United Nations and other international bodies which propound the principle of equality before the law and the provision of legal assistance for those without the means to pay for it;

MINDFUL of the continuing obligation of lawyers in general and the IBA in particular to promote the cause of legal aid to those who cannot afford it;

It is Resolved:

1. That the IBA reaffirms its commitment to the principle that access to justice for all individuals is a human right which requires the provision by all countries of effective legal aid programmes funded by the state;
2. That the IBA urges all governments to provide adequate funds to ensure proper legal assistance for those without the means to afford it in the protection or propagation of their rights;
3. That the IBA, through its constituent member organisations, the Human Rights Institute and Committees 17 and 19 mount an active campaign to persuade lawyers, governments and the public of the need to accept that the human right of access to justice cannot be attained without access to legal aid adequately funded by the state, and to provide effective legal aid programmes in pursuit of the ideal of access to justice for all.

## **Resources on Legal Assistance for Children**

**International Bar Association**

The International Bar Association (IBA) is an umbrella organisation that represents more than 45,000 lawyers and 200 national and local bar associations and law societies. The IBA offers a full global [list of its member organisations](#), which can often indicate a good first point of contact with a professional legal association in a particular country or jurisdiction.

### **International Legal Aid Group**

The International Legal Aid Group (ILAG) is a global network of legal aid specialists looking to ensure sound legal aid policy-making and to encourage discussion around international developments in the field. The ILAG website offers news, research resources, newsletters, and a selection of [national reports](#) on the state of legal aid.

### **Legal Aid Reformers' Network**

The Legal Aid Reformers' Network (LARN) provides a forum for exchanging information and resources on legal aid and defence rights. LARN provides resources on both [international legal aid standards](#) and [national legal aid systems](#), including overviews of legal aid in particular jurisdictions and the text of relevant laws.

### **A4ID Global Legal Aid Guide**

The [Global Legal Aid Guide](#) provides details on legal aid systems around the world, including the type of matter and type of applicant eligible for legal aid, the cost of service (if any), and the method by which to apply for assistance.

### **European Network of Ombudspersons for Children**

The European Network of Ombudspersons for Children (ENOC) links independent offices for children from 29 countries in Europe, and also hosts a [Global Network of Children's Ombudspersons](#). The ENOC website provides links to and information about these offices, and the network as a whole seeks to share information, approaches and strategies, as well as promoting the development of effective independent ombudspersons for children.

### **Children's Legal Protection Centres: A Good Practice Report**

The African Child Policy Forum has published a report that describes the experience and practice of Children's Legal Protection Centres, which aim to promote and uphold children's rights by, among other things, providing legal advice and information to children about their rights, in-house counselling and referrals to appropriate services for child victims, and legal representation for certain cases that advance a Centre's overall goals.

### **Child Helpline International**

Child Helpline International (CHI) is a global network of child helplines that work to protect the rights of children. CHI's mission is to advocate for and provide support to child helplines around the world, and the organisation maintains a public [list of full contact information](#) for each of its members.

## **Part II: Legal Assistance for Children's Rights Organisations**

Children's rights organisations will often not have the resources to bring or participate in court cases that involve children's rights, to undertake extensive or complex advocacy campaigns that require legal expertise, or even to pay the full costs of legal assistance required for the day-to-day functioning of the organisation. To respond to these unmet needs, lawyers in many parts of the world may be willing to offer legal assistance to organisations that could otherwise not afford it on a **pro bono** basis, meaning that their services are provided free of charge.

## **Pro bono legal assistance**

Lawyers offer pro bono legal assistance in a large variety of legal matters, from representation in individual cases and public interest litigation to broader legal research and analysis or technical assistance with organisational concerns. Pro bono legal services are no different in quality from paid legal services, and lawyers typically agree to help out on a project-by-project basis. Even though pro bono lawyers won't be billing you for their time, it's important to note that you may still be expected to cover certain costs associated with a case or matter, like court fees or travel expenses. When you accept these services, you should be sure that it is clear for what costs, if any, your organisation will be responsible.

### Definitions of pro bono legal assistance

*International Bar Association pro bono declaration:*

“[P]ro bono legal service...is work by a lawyer of a quality equal to that afforded to paying clients, without remuneration or expectation of remuneration, and principally to benefit poor, underprivileged or marginalized persons or communities or the organizations that assist them. Pro bono legal service may extend to: advice to or representation of persons, communities or organizations, who otherwise could not exercise or assert their rights or obtain access to justice; activities supporting the administration of justice, institution building or strengthening; assisting bar associations and civic, cultural, educational and other non governmental institutions serving the public interest that otherwise cannot obtain effective advice or representation; assisting with the drafting of legislation or participating in trial observations, election monitoring, and similar processes where public confidence in legislative, judicial and electoral systems may be at risk; providing legal training and support through mentoring, project management and exchanging information resources; and also other similar activities to preserve the Rule of Law.”

*Pro Bono Declaration for the Americas:*

“For purposes of this Declaration, pro bono legal services are those provided without a fee, or expectation of a fee, principally to benefit poor or underprivileged persons or communities or the organizations that assist them. They may include representation of persons, communities or organizations in matters of public interest who otherwise could not obtain effective representation. In addition, pro bono legal services can also benefit civic, cultural and educational institutions serving the public interest who otherwise could not obtain effective representation. Pro bono legal services should be provided with the same quality of representation as services provided to paying clients, and in a manner upholding the applicable ethical norms and standards.”

### Definition of international pro bono legal assistance

*A Statement of Principles for International Pro Bono Legal Work (UK Attorney General):*

“International Pro Bono Legal Work may variously be undertaken by lawyers, members of the judiciary, legal academics, others involved in the justice system, and law students. When we speak of International Pro Bono Legal Work we mean the provision, free of charge for time spent, of legal services, advice, training and support. This will frequently be for any of the following purposes: (1) To improve access to justice in overseas countries; (2) To build capacity and capability in the legal systems of overseas countries; (3) To help meet unmet legal need in overseas countries. International Pro Bono Legal Work does take different and broader forms than traditional nationally delivered Pro Bono Legal Work, consistent with taking an holistic approach. Thus, for example, advocacy training, judicial assistance, and lectures on key areas of law and legal development, are important aspects of International Pro Bono Legal Work.”

## Pro bono clearinghouses

Many bar associations encourage or even require lawyers to offer pro bono legal services. Yet, finding a lawyer with the time, interest and appropriate skills to offer pro bono legal assistance on a particular project is not always an easily accomplished or straightforward task. Increasingly, though, new organisations called **pro bono clearinghouses** are emerging to match organisations in need of legal assistance with lawyers who are willing and able to offer this assistance. Pro bono clearinghouses operate on the international, national and local level, and are often a good point of first contact. Clearinghouses generally work independently, and each will have its own methods for vetting organisations and lawyers interested in receiving or providing pro bono legal services, assessing an organisation's legal needs, and finding a lawyer or lawyers with the right background and experience to meet those needs. More detailed descriptions of international pro bono clearinghouses and a working list of national clearinghouses in operation are available at the end of this section.

### Standards encouraging the provision of pro bono legal assistance

#### International

##### International Bar Pro Bono Declaration:

“The Council calls on lawyers, law firms and bar associations to provide pro bono legal service... The legal profession reaffirms its commitment to pro bono legal service, as an integral part of the profession, and lawyers and law firms are encouraged to specify a proportion of their time or resources which they will devote per lawyer to pro bono legal service each year. Pro bono legal service should be provided on a consistent year-round basis, in all manner of criminal, civil and administrative matters where legal aid may be limited, and on a national and international level.”

#### Regional

##### Pro Bono Declaration for the Americas:

“We, the undersigned, each in a manner consistent with our respective roles in the legal profession, commit to...provide, on a pro bono basis, more than 20 hours or three days of legal services per individual lawyer per annum, or in the case of law firms, institutions or other groups of lawyers, an average of more than 20 hours per lawyer per annum.”

▲ [List of Law Firm signatories](#)

## National

### American Bar Association Model Rule 6.1 on Pro Bono:

“Every lawyer has a professional responsibility to provide legal services to those unable to pay. A lawyer should aspire to render at least 50 hours of pro bono publico legal services per year.”

▲ *Information about state pro bono rules in the United States*

### Nigerian Bar Association Pro Bono Declaration

“Members of the [Nigerian Bar Association] have a responsibility to provide pro bono legal services...We, the undersigned, each in a manner consistent with our respective roles in the legal profession, commit to...[p]rovide, on a pro bono basis, more than 20 hours or three days of legal services per individual lawyer per annum, or in the case of law firms, institutions or other groups of lawyers, an average of more than 20 hours per lawyer per annum.”

### Polish Lawyers for the Public Good / Pro Bono Publico Declaration

“We believe that it is our duty to ensure that all members of society, irrespective of their financial situation, are able to receive professional advice when necessary. It is our intention that to the extent possible our profession should serve those institutions and organisations that work for the good of society and all persons who have insufficient means to obtain necessary legal advice, free of charge or for a symbolic fee.”

### United Kingdom Attorney General: A Statement of Principles for International Pro Bono Legal Work:

“Sets of chambers, law firms and legal departments should, wherever possible, seek to encourage and support the undertaking of appropriate International Pro Bono Legal Work by their lawyers and staff, including the undertaking of that work "in-house". A commitment to the delivery of (National or International) Pro Bono Legal Work is encouraged throughout a lawyer's professional life, through to and including retirement.”

## **University legal clinics**

Many universities and law schools have legal clinics or pro bono programmes run by professors, staff lawyers, and law students, and may be similarly able to offer legal assistance to children's rights organisations free of charge. Much like professional bar associations, these schools increasingly encourage or require their students to offer pro bono legal assistance, and also serve as a good information resource on local free legal advice or representation services. Legal clinics vary widely in their reach and topic matter; some may offer only direct services to individuals, while others are willing to undertake broader legal matters including children's rights work.

## **Other arrangements**

To facilitate **litigation in the public interest** – cases brought against the government to advance human rights – some jurisdictions have laws that would allow for lawyers bringing these kinds of cases to recover their fees and costs from the government if they win. It may also be possible for lawyers to recover fees and costs from a private defendant, although this can depend on the nature of the case. If your organisation does not have the resources to pay lawyers outright, you may in some jurisdictions be able to work out a **contingency fee** or **conditional fee arrangement**. Under these arrangements, lawyers typically agree to take cases with the understanding that they will only

collect fees if and when they obtain a successful outcome.

While government-sponsored public interest litigation and arrangements that do not require the payment of legal fees up front may in many ways enhance access to justice for children and children's rights organisations, it is important to be clear that these are not pro bono legal services. As lawyers who take cases with the expectation that fees will be recovered do ultimately hope to be paid for their services, they are not technically working free of charge. CRIN has published a [guide to strategic litigation and children's rights](#) that explains these kinds of arrangements in more detail.

### How do you pay for your lawyer?

*Excerpt from [Children's Rights and Strategic Litigation](#), a CRIN publication*

Financing your case. In many jurisdictions, legal fees can quickly become very expensive. In terms of strategic litigation, this may be even more true as novel ideas or never before seen claims can take large amounts of time to research and prepare for court. However, you may be able to work out arrangements for paying your lawyers only if your case succeeds or, even better, not paying your lawyers at all. There are many common ways of financing strategic litigation beyond traditional fee for service arrangements:

Pro bono. Lawyers in private practice may be willing to offer you their legal services for free. In some jurisdictions, the pro bono ethic is well-established and you may even have a choice of law firms to assist you in bringing your case. Many law firms look to NGOs or legal aid organisations to screen and refer cases, so you might contact relevant organisations in potential jurisdictions for your lawsuit to see if they have any partnerships or other referral mechanisms in place with local law firms or practitioners. Do be aware that even in pro bono relationships, you may still be expected to cover court costs or other expenses.

Legal aid. Although many traditional legal service organisations do not have the means to handle a large strategic litigation case, some legal aid providers may have divisions or sectors designed to promote lasting change and tackle complex litigation. These organisations may be willing to bring and manage your case free of charge.

Contingency or Conditional Fees. In some jurisdictions, it may be permissible to work out a contingency fee or conditional fee arrangement. In a contingency fee arrangement, your lawyers would not charge up front or hourly for their services; instead, their payment would be contingent on their success. If the lawyers win your case, they will get to keep a percentage of the plaintiffs' damages, that is, the amount of money the judge, tribunal or jury awards the plaintiffs to compensate them for the harm they suffered at the hands of the defendants. If the lawyers lose, they may get nothing. In a conditional fee arrangement, legal fees may be increased or reduced depending on the amount of damages you receive, but may not disappear entirely.

Since this approach often requires that your claim seek a substantial sum of money, it may not make sense to request a contingency or conditional fee arrangement when you are asking the court for a more novel remedy.

Insurance. You may be able to obtain legal expenses insurance for your case, which would pay for at least a percentage of your legal costs if you lost. However, this kind of insurance can be very expensive, and if your case is risky or very novel, it may simply be unavailable.

## **Resources on International Pro Bono Legal Assistance**

### **[Global Pro Bono Atlas](#)**

The Pro Bono Institute has published a series of comprehensive individual country reports on obtaining legal assistance, compiled in a [Global Pro Bono Atlas](#). The reports review pro bono

practices and opportunities and cover legal aid programmes, unmet needs for legal advice and representation, and relevant professional conduct laws and rules for legal professionals.

### **International Bar Association: InternationalProBono.com**

InternationalProBono.com has collected resources from those involved in pro bono work around the globe, including news, events, international and national pro bono declarations, a directory of pro bono clearinghouses, and links to other websites with information about pro bono legal assistance.

- ⤴ [Pro Bono at a Glance](#), *a list of individual jurisdictions' definitions and understandings of pro bono work*
- ⤴ [Compilation of Pro Bono Research](#), *a collection of definitions, standards, and descriptions of pro bono legal assistance across individual jurisdictions*

### **Pro Bono Clearinghouse Manual: Resources for developing pro bono legal services**

PILnet and A4ID have jointly published a [Pro Bono Clearinghouse Manual](#), which explains how to start and maintain a pro bono clearinghouse and to foster a more supportive environment for pro bono activity, including many useful contacts and additional resources.

### **ProBonoUK.net: International Pro Bono page**

ProBonoUK.net has assembled a variety of useful links and resources on the subject of international pro bono legal assistance.

### **Vance Center Library, New York City Bar Justice Center**

The Vance Center digital library offers resources on international pro bono practice and other materials relevant to human rights advocacy.

- ⤴ [The Pro Bono Chain](#), *a visual representation of relationships within a system that provides voluntary legal assistance free of charge*

## **International Pro Bono Clearinghouses**

### **PILnet: The Global Network for Public Interest Law**

PILnet's Budapest-based Global Pro Bono Clearinghouse places requests for pro bono legal assistance. The organisation also operates a number of national-level [clearinghouses](#) and works in collaboration with other clearinghouses located in Europe and elsewhere. PILnet helps

organisations seeking assistance to identify their pro bono legal needs, and has published general [Clearinghouse Guidelines](#) to assist NGOs in this process. Essentially, these Guidelines help to identify a specific legal problem or problems and to describe the ways in which a lawyer would be able to assist your organisation. Notably, PILnet also offers assistance to NGOs and universities looking to develop or strengthen legal aid programmes, and regularly works with national and local governments and bar associations to develop and operate legal aid and legal information programmes.

### **Advocates for International Development: A4ID**

A4ID's [broker service](#) matches organisations in need of legal assistance with legal experts for projects that in some way seek to eradicate poverty or promote international development. Organisations wishing to work with the service will first need to [become an A4ID development partner](#), after which they are able to submit a document summarising their legal needs for a particular project. A4ID also offers general information on the [best ways to use legal support](#) and the kinds of projects that lend themselves particularly well to pro bono legal assistance.

### **TrustLaw Connect**

TrustLaw Connect aims to meet the legal service needs of NGOs with limited means. [Eligible organisations](#) can apply for membership in the TrustLaw Connect network and, once accepted, post requests for legal assistance on specific projects. TrustLaw Connect offers step-by-step instructions on [how organisations can seek legal support](#) through their network and [general guidelines](#) on the kinds of assistance that can be provided. Among other things, TrustLaw Connect offers opportunities for seeking assistance with public interest litigation matters.

### **i-Probono**

i-Probono's online network is designed to connect organisations from around the world in need of legal advice directly with lawyers and students able to offer pro bono assistance. Organisations can [create simple profiles](#) on the site and post projects, specifying what kind of volunteer they're looking for and what particular skills they require. Using these criteria, the website will match your organisation with suitable people, enable you to contact these individuals, and alert volunteers meeting your specifications about the possibility of working on your project.

## **Annex: Contact Information for Legal Assistance Resources**

### **Legal Networks**

#### **International**

International Bar Association (IBA)  
4th Floor, 10 St Bride Street  
London, EC4A 4AD  
UK

Tel: +44 (0) 207 842 0090

Fax: +44 (0) 207 842 0091

<http://www.ibanet.org/>

Human Rights Institute: <http://www.ibanet.org/IBAHRI.aspx>

*Global list of IBA national and local bar association members:*

<http://www.ibanet.org/Document/Default.aspx?DocumentUid=25834764-545A-44BA-9B82-6D326AE46997>

## **Regional**

ASEAN Law Association  
ALA Secretariat  
c/o 2/104 Doi Can Street, Ba Dinh District  
Hanoi  
Vietnam

Tel: +84 4 3 7225897

Fax: +84 4 3 7225896

<http://www.aseanlawassociation.org/index.html>  
[vla@ftp.vn](mailto:vla@ftp.vn)

CEJIL: Center for Justice and International Law  
630 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 401  
Washington, D.C. 20009-1053  
USA

Tel: +1 (202) 319-3000

Fax: +1 (202) 319-3019

<http://cejil.org/en>

<http://cejil.org/en/contact>

*Pro Bono Guide, including directory of organisations offering free counseling services, legal assistance or representation in the Inter-American Human Rights system:*

<http://cejil.org/en/pro-bono-guide>

Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa (IHRDA)  
949 Brusubi Layout, AU Summit Highway  
P.O. Box 1896  
Banjul  
The Gambia

Tel: +220 44 10 413/4

Fax: +220 44 10 201

<http://www.ihrda.org/>

*Legal Defence Fund:* <http://www.ihrda.org/legal-defence-fund/>

[ihrda@ihrda.org](mailto:ihrda@ihrda.org)

Southern Africa Litigation Centre  
President Place

1 Hood Avenue/ 148 Jan Smuts Avenue  
Rosebank  
Johannesburg  
South Africa 2196  
Tel: +27 (0) 11 587 5000  
Fax: +27 (0) 11 587 5099  
<http://www.southernafricalitigationcentre.org/>  
[info@salc.org.za](mailto:info@salc.org.za)

## **International Pro Bono Clearinghouses**

Advocates for International Development  
24th Floor, The Broadgate Tower, 20 Primrose Street  
London EC2A 2RS  
UK  
Tel: +44 (0) 203 116 2798  
<http://www.a4id.org/>  
[info@a4id.org](mailto:info@a4id.org)

i-Probono  
35 Vine Street  
London EC3N 2AA  
UK  
Tel: +44 (0) 207 861 6728  
<http://www.i-probono.com/index.aspx>  
<http://www.i-probono.com/contactus.aspx>

PILnet: The Global Network for Public Interest Law  
Paulay Ede utca 50  
H-1061 Budapest  
Hungary  
Tel: +36 (1) 461-5700  
Fax: +36 (1) 461-5701  
<http://www.pilnet.org/>  
[PILnet@pilnet.org](mailto:PILnet@pilnet.org)  
Global Clearinghouse: [apolitov@pilnet.org](mailto:apolitov@pilnet.org)

TrustLaw Connect  
TrustLaw Thomson Reuters Foundation  
30 South Colonnade  
London E14 5EP  
UK  
Tel: +44 (0) 207 542 9484  
<http://www.trust.org/trustlaw/connect/>  
[trustlaw@thomsonreuters.com](mailto:trustlaw@thomsonreuters.com)

## **International Pro Bono Organisations**

Ashoka: Law for All Initiative  
1700 North Moore Street  
Suite 2000 (20th Floor)  
Arlington, VA 22209  
USA  
Tel: +1 (703) 527-8300  
Fax: +1 (703) 527-8383  
<https://www.ashoka.org/lawforall>  
[LawforAll@ashoka.org](mailto:LawforAll@ashoka.org)

Cyrus R. Vance Center for International Justice (projects in the Americas and Africa)  
New York City Bar  
42 West 44th Street, 3rd Floor  
New York, NY 10036  
USA  
Tel: +1 (212) 382.6795  
Fax: +1 (212) 768.8630  
<http://www2.nycbar.org/citybarjusticecenter/vance-center/programs>  
[vance@nycbar.org](mailto:vance@nycbar.org)

International Senior Lawyers Project  
c/o Clifford Chance US LLP  
31 W. 52nd Street, 4th Floor  
New York, NY 10019  
USA  
Tel: +1 (212) 895-1022  
<http://www.islp.org>  
<http://kontaktr.com/user/islpform>

Lex Mundi Pro Bono Foundation  
2001 K Street, NW, Suite 400  
Washington, DC 20006-1040  
USA  
Tel: +1 (202) 429-1630  
Fax: +1 (202) 857.1737  
<http://www.lexmundiprobono.org/lexmundiprobono/default.asp>

Pro Bono Institute  
1025 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 205  
Washington, DC 20036  
USA  
Tel: +1 (202) 729-6699  
<http://www.probonoinst.org/home.html>  
<http://www.probonoinst.org/contact-us.html>

## **National Pro Bono Clearinghouses and Resources**

### **Argentina**

La Comisión Pro Bono

Comisión de Trabajo Pro Bono e Interés Público  
Montevideo 640  
Ciudad Autónoma de Bs. As. (C1019ABN)  
Buenos Aires  
Argentina  
Tel: +15 5486 6904  
<http://www.probono.org.ar/>  
[probono@colabogados.org.ar](mailto:probono@colabogados.org.ar)

### **Australia**

ACT Pro Bono Clearing House  
Level 3, 11 London Circuit  
Canberra City ACT 2601  
Australia  
Tel: +61 (02) 6247 5700  
Fax: +61 (02) 6247 3754  
<http://www.actlawsociety.asn.au/act-pro-bono-clearing-house.html>  
<http://www.actlawsociety.asn.au/contact-us/act-law-society.html>

JusticeNet  
Ligertwood Building, The University of Adelaide  
North Tce, Adelaide SA 5005  
Australia  
Tel: +61 (08) 8303 5005  
Fax: +61 (08) 8303 4344  
<http://www.justicenet.org.au/index.html>  
[info@justicenet.org.au](mailto:info@justicenet.org.au)

### *New South Wales*

Law Society of New South Wales  
The Pro Bono Scheme Solicitor  
170 Phillip Street  
Sydney NSW 2000  
Australia  
Tel: +61 (02) 9926 0364  
Fax: +61 (02) 9231 5809  
<http://www.lawsociety.asn.au/pro-bono-scheme>

### *Northern Territory*

Pro Bono Clearing House (NT)  
Suite 2, Ground Floor  
Beagle House  
38 Mitchell Street  
Darwin NT 0800  
Australia  
Tel: +61 (08) 8941 1623  
<http://lawsocietynt.asn.au/for-the-community/pro-bono-clearing-house>  
[lawsoc@lawsocnet.asn.au](mailto:lawsoc@lawsocnet.asn.au)

### *Queensland*

Queensland Public Interest Law Clearing House (QPILCH)  
PO Box 3631  
South Brisbane BC, QLD 4101  
Australia  
Tel: +61 (07) 3846 6317  
Fax: +61 (07) 3846 6311  
[http://www.qpilch.org.au/  
services@qpilch.org.au](http://www.qpilch.org.au/services@qpilch.org.au)

*Tasmania*

Law Society of Tasmania Pro Bono Clearing House  
28 Murray Street  
Hobart, Tasmania 7000  
Australia  
Tel: +61 (03) 6234 4133  
Fax: +61 (03) 6223 8240  
<http://taslawsociety.asn.au/web/en/lawsociety/about/ProBono.html>  
[info@taslawsociety.asn.au](mailto:info@taslawsociety.asn.au)

*Victoria*

Public Interest Law Clearing House  
Level 17, 461 Bourke St.  
Melbourne VIC 3000  
Australia  
Tel: +61 (03) 8636 4405  
Fax: +61 (03) 8636 4455  
[http://www.pilch.org.au/  
admin@pilch.org.au](http://www.pilch.org.au/admin@pilch.org.au)

Resources

National Pro Bono Resource Centre  
Level 1, Law Centres Precinct  
The Law Building  
University of New South Wales  
Australia  
Tel: +61 (02) 9385 73  
<http://www.nationalprobono.org.au/home.asp>  
[info@nationalprobono.org.au](mailto:info@nationalprobono.org.au)

**Brazil**

ConectasDireitosHumanos  
Rua Barão de Itapetininga, 93 - 5º andar - 01042-908  
São Paulo  
Brasil  
Tel/Fax: +55 11 3884-7440  
[http://www.conectas.org/  
conectas@conectas.org](http://www.conectas.org/conectas@conectas.org)

Instituto Pro Bono  
Rua Barão de Itapetininga, 93 – 5º andar, CEP 01042-908

São Paulo  
Brasil  
Tel/Fax: +55 11 3884-7440  
<http://www.institutoprobono.org.br>  
[faleconosco@probono.org.br](mailto:faleconosco@probono.org.br)

### **Bulgaria**

Bulgarian Center for Not-for-Profit Law\*  
6 Dobrudja Str.  
Sofia 1000  
Bulgaria  
Tel: + 3592 981 66 17  
Tel./Fax: + 3592 988 81 66  
<http://www.bcnl.org/>  
[info@bcnl.org](mailto:info@bcnl.org)  
\*clearinghouse to be launched soon

### **Canada**

#### Resources

Pro Bono Net  
151 West 30th Street  
10th Floor  
New York, NY 10001  
USA  
Tel: +1 (212) 760-2554  
Fax: +1 (212) 760-2557  
<http://www.probono.net/>  
[info@probono.net](mailto:info@probono.net)

#### *Alberta*

Pro Bono Law Alberta  
<http://www.pbla.ca/>

#### *British Columbia*

Access Pro Bono Society of British Columbia  
106 – 873 Beatty Street  
Vancouver, BC  
Canada V6B 2M6  
Tel: +1 (604) 482 3195  
Fax: +1 (604) 893 8934  
<http://accessprobono.ca/contact-apb>  
[help@accessprobono.ca](mailto:help@accessprobono.ca)

#### *Ontario*

Pro Bono Law Ontario  
260 Adelaide Street East  
P.O. Box 102  
Toronto, Ontario  
Canada M5A 1N1  
Tel: +1 (416) 977-4448

Fax: +1 (416) 977-6668

<http://www.pblo.org/>

[info@pblo.org](mailto:info@pblo.org)

### *Quebec*

Pro Bono Quebec

C.P. 55043, CSP Notre-Dame

11, rue Notre-Dame Ouest

Montréal, Québec H2Y 4A7

Canada

Tel : +1 (514) 954-3434

Fax: +1 (514) 954-3427

<http://www.probonoquebec.ca/>

[info@probonoquebec.ca](mailto:info@probonoquebec.ca)

### *Saskatchewan*

Pro Bono Law Saskatchewan

Avord Tower

1110-2002 Victoria Ave

Regina, Saskatchewan

Canada S4P 0R7

Tel: +1 (306) 569-3098

Fax: +1 (306) 352-2989

<http://www.pblsask.ca/>

[info@pblsask.ca](mailto:info@pblsask.ca)

### **Chile**

Fundación Pro Bono Chile

Tel: +56 2 381-5660

<http://www.probono.cl/>

[probono@probono.cl](mailto:probono@probono.cl)

### **China**

PILnet Beijing Clearinghouse

19 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Suite 10-C

Beijing 100004

China

Tel: +86 (10) 8526-1453/4

Fax: +86 (10) 8526-1455

### **Colombia**

Fundación Pro Bono Colombia

Tel: +57 1 288 04 11 ext. 113-115

<http://www.probono.org.co/>

[probono@probono.org.co](mailto:probono@probono.org.co)

### **Czech Republic**

Public Interest Lawyers Association

Pro Bono Alliance / Pro Bono Centrum

Příběnická 1908, 390 01

Tábor  
Czech Republic  
Tel: +420 381 253 990  
<http://www.probonoaliance.cz/cz/> / <http://www.probonocentrum.cz/probono@probonoaliance.cz>

### **France**

Alliance Des Avocats Pour Les Droits De L'Homme (Alliance of Lawyers for Human Rights)  
7, rue d'Assas  
75006 Paris  
France  
Tel: +33 (0) 6 27 22 72 38  
[http://www.aadh.fr/  
noanne.tenneson@aadh.fr](http://www.aadh.fr/noanne.tenneson@aadh.fr)

### Resources

Droits d'Urgence  
1, Passage du Buisson Saint-Louis  
75010 Paris  
France  
Tel: +33 (0) 1 40 03 62 82  
Fax: +33 (0) 1 40 03 62 56  
[http://www.droitsdurgence.org/  
contact@droitsdurgence.org](http://www.droitsdurgence.org/contact@droitsdurgence.org)

### **Hungary**

PILnet Budapest Clearinghouse  
Paulay Ede utca 50  
1061 Budapest, Hungary  
Tel: +36 1 461 5700  
Fax: +36 1 461 5701

### **Ireland**

FLAC Public Interest Law Alliance  
13 Lower Dorset Street  
Dublin 1  
Ireland  
Tel: +353 1 8728048  
Fax: +353 1 8745320  
[http://www.pila.ie/  
info@pila.ie](http://www.pila.ie/info@pila.ie)

### **Latvia**

Latvian Pro Bono Legal Clearinghouse  
Marijas St. 88 - 5  
Riga LV-1050  
Latvia  
Tel: +371 67294646  
[http://www.idejupartneri.lv/  
info@idejupartneri.lv](http://www.idejupartneri.lv/info@idejupartneri.lv)

**Poland**

Centrum Pro Bono  
ul. Szpitalna 5 lok. 5  
00-031 Warszawa  
Poland  
Tel: +48 505 690 408  
[http://www.centrumprobono.pl/pl/  
biuro@centrumprobono.pl](http://www.centrumprobono.pl/pl/biuro@centrumprobono.pl)

**Romania**

Civil Society Development Foundation\*  
Orzari St., no 86A, sector 2  
Bucharest  
Romania  
Tel: +4 (0) 21-310-01-81  
Fax: +4 (0) 21-310-0180  
[http://www.fdsc.ro/  
office@fdsc.ro](http://www.fdsc.ro/office@fdsc.ro)  
\*clearinghouse to be launched soon

**Russia**

PILnet Moscow Clearinghouse  
Maroseyka str., 9/2 build. 8, office 34  
101000 Moscow  
Russia  
Tel: +7 (495) 628 00 20  
Fax: +7 (495) 661 49 21

**Serbia**

Civic Initiatives  
Simina 9a.  
11 000 Beograd  
Serbia  
Tel: +381 11 3374 129  
<http://www.gradjanske.org/page/home/sr.html>  
[civin@gradjanske.org](mailto:civin@gradjanske.org)

**Slovakia**

Pontis Foundation/ Nadácia Pontis  
Zelinárska 2  
821 08 Bratislava  
Slovak Republic  
Tel: +421 (2) 5710 8111  
Fax: +421 (2) 5710 8125  
[http://www.nadaciapontis.sk/sk/  
pontis@pontisfoundation.sk](http://www.nadaciapontis.sk/sk/pontis@pontisfoundation.sk)

**Slovenia**

Peace Institute

Metelkova ulica 6  
1000 Ljubljana  
Slovenia  
Tel: +386 (0)1 234 77 20  
Fax: +386 (0)1 234 77 22  
<http://www2.arnes.si/~ljmiri1s/eindex.htm>  
[info@mirovni-institut.si](mailto:info@mirovni-institut.si)

### **South Africa**

Probono-org  
1st Floor West Wing  
Women's Jail  
Constitution Hill  
1 Kotze Street  
Braamfontein  
Johannesburg  
South Africa  
Tel: +27 11 339 6080  
Fax: +27 11 339 6077  
<http://www.probono.org.za/erica@probono.org.za>

### Resources:

Centre for Child Law  
Faculty of Law  
Law Building (Room 4-31)  
University of Pretoria  
Pretoria 0002  
South Africa  
Tel: +27 12 420 4502  
Fax: +27 12 420 4499  
<http://www.centreforchildlaw.co.za/desiree.willemse@up.ac.za>

Legal Resources Centre  
15th and 16th Floor, Bram Fischer Towers  
20 Albert Street  
Marshalltown  
P O Box 9495  
Johannesburg 2000  
Tel: +27 11 836 9831  
Fax: +27 11 834 4273  
<http://www.lrc.org.za/>  
<http://www.lrc.org.za/contact-us/21-head-office/1-national-office>

### **Turkey**

Istanbul Bilgi University  
Kurtuluş Deresi Cad.  
Yahya Köprüsü Sok. No:1  
Dolapdere 34440

Beyoğlu-İstanbul  
Turkey  
Tel: + 90 212 444 0 428  
<http://www.bilgi.edu.tr/>  
[idile@bilgi.edu.tr](mailto:idile@bilgi.edu.tr)

### **United Kingdom**

Bar Pro Bono Unit  
The National Pro Bono Centre  
48 Chancery Lane  
London WC2A 1JF  
UK  
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7092 3960  
<http://www.barprobono.org.uk/>  
[enquiries@barprobono.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@barprobono.org.uk)

LawWorks  
c/o National Pro Bono Centre  
48 Chancery Lane  
London WC2A 1JF  
UK  
Tel +44 (0)20 7092 3940  
Fax +44 (0)20 7242 3407  
<http://www.lawworks.org.uk/>  
<http://www.lawworks.org.uk/contact-us>

National Pro Bono Centre  
48 Chancery Lane  
London WC2A 1JF  
UK  
<http://www.nationalprobonocentre.org.uk/>  
[enquiries@nationalprobonocentre.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@nationalprobonocentre.org.uk)

### *Scotland*

LawWorks Scotland  
c/o The Law Society  
26 Drumsheugh Gardens  
Edinburgh EH3 7YR  
UK  
Tel: +44 (0)131 226 8895  
<http://www.lawworksscotland.org.uk/>  
[mail@lawworksscotland.org.uk](mailto:mail@lawworksscotland.org.uk)

### Resources

ILEX Pro Bono Forum  
The Institute of Legal Executives  
Kempston Manor  
Kempston Bedford MK42 7AB  
UK  
Tel: +44(0)1234 845763

[http://www.ilex.org.uk/about\\_cilex/pro\\_bono.aspx](http://www.ilex.org.uk/about_cilex/pro_bono.aspx)  
[probono@cilex.org.uk](mailto:probono@cilex.org.uk)

ProBonoUK.net  
<http://probonouk.net/>  
[admin@probonouk.net](mailto:admin@probonouk.net)

### **United States**

American Bar Association Standing Committee on Pro Bono & Public Service  
c/o American Bar Association

Center for Pro Bono  
321 North Clark Street  
Chicago, IL 60654

Fax: +1 (312) 988-5483

[http://www.americanbar.org/groups/probono\\_public\\_service.html](http://www.americanbar.org/groups/probono_public_service.html)  
[abaprobono@americanbar.org](mailto:abaprobono@americanbar.org)

*Consumers's Guide to Legal Help by state:*

<http://apps.americanbar.org/legalservices/findlegalhelp/home.cfm>

*Directory of Pro Bono Programs by state, including clearinghouses, legal aid, and other volunteer and public interest lawyer organisations:*

<http://apps.americanbar.org/legalservices/probono/directory.html#>

*List of state and local bar associations in the U.S.:*

[http://www.americanbar.org/groups/bar\\_services/resources/state\\_local\\_bar\\_associations.html](http://www.americanbar.org/groups/bar_services/resources/state_local_bar_associations.html)

### Resources

Pro Bono Net / LawHelp  
151 West 30th Street, 10th Floor  
New York, NY 10001  
USA

Tel: +1 (212) 760-2554

Fax: +1 (212) 760-2557

<http://www.probono.net/> / <http://www.lawhelp.org/>  
[support@probono.net](mailto:support@probono.net) / [info@lawhelp.org](mailto:info@lawhelp.org)