iProbono

ENABLING JUSTICE

IN BANGLADESH

iProbono enables people to access their rights in pursuit of a just society. We were born out of a recognition that legal professionals have a responsibility to serve and empower individuals in need. A UK-registered charity, we have a robust program team working across South Asia. In Bangladesh, we have been working with civil society partners since 2016 and have provided pro bono litigation support since 2022.

Our expertise and work spans several thematic areas, ranging from child rights to gender equality, trafficking in persons to street law, sexual and reproductive health rights, to refugee rights, among others.

iProbono's Impact

41 Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) supported through direct legal support

1175 individuals were trained through comprehensive capacity-building training

26 individuals were represented before the courts and provided with pre-litigation legal counselling

60 pro bono lawyers work with us in Bangladesh

Our Team

Mariam Faruqi
Chief Executive Officer

Arpeeta Shams Mizan
Consultant

Jabdatul Jabed
Program Manager

Shivani Shinde
Programs and Impact Officer, South Asia

Tarek Rahman
Legal Officer

Our Work

Litigation

We provide holistic pro bono litigation support through our network of panel lawyers across a range of issues, including assisting victims of human trafficking, domestic violence and children in conflict with law.

Direct Legal Support

We offer wide-ranging support like legal advice, generating knowledge resources and drafting or vetting organisational policies for our clients pro bono. These include Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), SIM Bangladesh and PILnet, among others.

BLAST's Data Protection Policy

iProbono drafted the Data Protection Policy for the non-profit BLAST in compliance with legislation in Bangladesh. This incorporated best practices and standards on the use of personal data of donors, volunteers and beneficiaries.

Research and Advocacy

We create research reports and toolkits on our thematic areas of work to disseminate legal knowledge, strengthen the impact of civil society, and identify gaps in the law. For example, our Legal Toolkit helps social entrepreneurs set up a social enterprise.

We also participate in local and international advocacy processes, contributing to national and international policies.

Our team met with the UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, Siobhan Mullally, to discuss our submission addressing human rights concerns related to trafficking in persons. The Rapporteur's report to the UN General Assembly reflected some of our key recommendations, like establishing state-funded victim support and free legal aid to victims.

Capacity building

We hold regular workshops, training, and roundtables with partner organisations and legal professionals in Bangladesh.

Our collaboration with Winrock International played a vital role in enhancing anti-human trafficking efforts in Bangladesh. As part of this project, we developed a comprehensive training manual and conducted programs for 50 pro bono lawyers, focusing on anti-trafficking laws, rehabilitation, and victim interviewing skills.

Community lawyering and legal education

Our 'Street Law' program uses community lawyering to tackle issues like the rights of children engaged in hazardous labour, medical negligence and tort law, and mental health and human rights. The initiative has empowered law students dedicated to using their legal knowledge to empower communities.

Street Law Campaign 2023: Mental health rights as a human right among Bangladeshi school children

We invited ten street lawyers to conduct interactive knowledge-building sessions for schoolchildren in Dhaka, exploring the often overlooked intersections between mental health and human rights. The aim was to encourage discussion around mental health among children and eliminate the stigma surrounding it.

"iProbono's 'Street Law' program was very important for the street children. Through this campaign, they were able to receive basic knowledge about their mental health. Alongside, the children learned about their legal rights, including child rights, human rights, and child protection. This helped to create social awareness among them."
- Sakir Ibrahim Mati
Executive Director, Pother Ishkul.

Our Partners

Contact information

For more information on our work in Bangladesh or if you require pro bono legal support, contact us.

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