iProbono

ENABLING JUSTICE

IN

SRI LANKA

iProbono is a global group of social justice organisations and affiliates with a mission to enable people to access their rights in pursuit of a just society.

We advance justice for all by representing people in need, strengthen the impact of civil society and advocate for policies that promote social equity and end discrimination.

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

In Sri Lanka, we have been working with our community of lawyers and civil society partners to advance legal awareness and access to legal services in the country.

Our Impact

53 individuals represented before courts and provided pre-litigation legal services

451+ people trained through capacity-building trainings

5 partner organisations to expand collaborations

2.9M views on our YouTube series breaking stereotypes against marginalised communities

Our Team Includes

Mariam Faruqi
Chief Executive Officer

Aritha Wickramasinghe
Equality Law Director

Shevindri Manuel
Program Manager

Punardhi Wijesinghe
Program Officer

Shivani Shinde
Programs and Impact Officer, South Asia

Our Work

Litigation

iProbono Sri Lanka provides pro bono legal support and representation to vulnerable communities including LGBT+ persons, women and children. We work to create systemic shifts in law and policy to ensure equal rights for all.

Advocacy

We are dedicated to advocating for positive social change and work with local, national, and international policymakers, civil society partners, and government bodies to inform legislative agendas. Our work has demonstrably influenced policy in cyber violence, sexual and gender-based violence, and decriminalisation of same sex relations. With the National Transgender Network (NTN), we drafted Sri Lanka's groundbreaking Transgender Rights Protection Bill. We also provided inputs to the Women's Empowerment Act during the bill stage for the advancement of women's rights and for the establishment of the Women's Commission.

Capacity Building

We conduct workshops, trainings, and roundtables to build skills and expertise for our partner organisations and legal professionals in Sri Lanka.

iProbono's Access to Justice Program

Since 2021, our Access to Justice (A2J) program takes young and early-career lawyers through intensive three-day residential workshops that are led by expert trainers. Participants acquire the tools they need to provide effective legal representation for marginalised communities. These lawyers can then act as critical "first responders," ensuring immediate legal support and advocacy for vulnerable women, children and the LGBT+ community. Since 2023 we have expanded the program to include police officers and activists in 2023. The program is supported by the US Embassy in Sri Lanka and our partner organisation Sri Lanka Unites. We aim to expand the training to include rural communities, and create a nationwide network of lawyers.

Storytelling

In 2022, iProbono collaborated with Pulse to launch Stigma, a talk show featuring the perspectives of Sri Lankan activists, experts and individuals from underrepresented communities. Across three seasons, the series gained over 2.9 million views, working to dismantle negative stereotypes and shift public opinion. From a survivor's recount of societal neglect after childhood sexual abuse to a woman’s experience with an unsafe abortion, Stigma highlighted powerful personal stories, aiming to foster empathy and create lasting social change.

Our Partners

Contact information

For more information on our work in Sri Lanka, or for pro bono legal support, contact us.

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