



# **PRO BONO LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR YOUR ORGANIZATION**

# HOW PRO BONO LEGAL ASSISTANCE CAN HELP YOUR ORGANIZATION

PILnet helps civil society organizations and social enterprises to get expert pro bono legal assistance to strengthen their organizations and to provide better services to the communities.

Learn here how PILnet can help your organization to obtain direct legal assistance and other resources from lawyers--at no cost--to help you mitigate potential risks and achieve your mission.

PILnet harnesses the expertise of private lawyers in areas such as compliance, employment, and tax law to benefit civil society organizations and social enterprises. PILnet does this to also help foster the economic sustainability of civil society by enabling innovation in their operating models.

DO YOU HAVE  
QUESTIONS  
ABOUT OR  
NEED HELP  
WITH:



#### LEGAL COMPLIANCE

Registration  
Employment and labor



#### DATA PROTECTION AND PRIVACY

GDPR compliance  
IP protection

#### LEGAL RESEARCH

Advocacy and policy  
Comparative legal research

#### STRATEGIC ADVOCACY AND LITIGATION

Client referrals and representation  
Mission-specific legal assistance

Available kinds of legal support include **Advice & Advocacy, Research, Analysis & Drafting**, and **Training**, but can come in many forms and cover a diverse range of legal needs and concerns.

# WHAT IS PRO BONO?

Legal pro bono is advice or service provided at no charge to the client by private lawyers 'for the public good.' This is distinct from legal aid, which is government-funded, is often means-tested, and is offered free or at a subsidized cost.

Because providing pro bono assistance is a core responsibility of the legal profession, PILnet trains lawyers on various aspects of public interest law that benefit your community.

## ABOUT PILNET'S PRO BONO CLEARINGHOUSES

PILnet's clearinghouses are an accessible mechanism that can connect organizations like yours to legal professionals who can help. Using this mechanism, PILnet staff works to build strategic partnerships between clients like you and legal professionals so they can share with you the innovative approaches and valuable knowledge that otherwise might only serve the interests of the privileged.

PILnet offers regional clearinghouses in **Hungary**, **Eurasia**, and **Hong Kong**, and a **Global Clearinghouse** for other regions and issues pertaining to multiple countries.







## ARE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR FREE LEGAL SUPPORT?

**Eligible entities:** Most kinds of organized civil society, whether nonprofits, nongovernmental organizations, social enterprises, or other ventures that have a public benefit purpose like social movements, individual advocates, emerging initiatives, and informal groups and non-registered organizations. PILnet does not offer or broker direct support for private individuals.

PILnet pro bono clearinghouses accept assistance requests concerning any area of law involving public interest matters. However, PILnet only brokers matters for social enterprises that reinvest at least 51% of their profit into a public benefit cause. Faith-based organizations may request pro bono assistance if the organization serves all, regardless of religious affiliation, and the matter is secular in nature. PILnet pro bono clearinghouses do not accept assistance requests from political parties or related organizations.



# HOW TO USE A CLEARINGHOUSE TO GET FREE LEGAL SUPPORT

Follow these four simple steps to request free legal assistance for your organization:

1. Complete the [request for legal assistance form here](#).
2. Work with PILnet to prepare your pro bono request.
3. Get connected with a qualified pro bono lawyer from PILnet's global network.
4. Receive free legal assistance for your organization on a discrete legal need or a longer-term public interest project. Collaborate with a lawyer--free of cost to you--on meaningful public interest projects.

PILnet staff works with you throughout the process to make sure you fully understand your legal needs and options to make your organization more resilient. We engage our trusted network of law firms and lawyers on your behalf to find someone with the right expertise and capacity to provide you with pro bono assistance. We facilitate an introduction between the parties and continue to assist as needed.

# MORE PILNET PRO BONO RESOURCES

In addition to providing clearinghouse services, PILnet offers other resources to help you learn to use the law to strengthen your organization. We work with experts from the legal community to create and provide trainings, webinars, and online tools specifically for civil society organizations and social enterprises, including:

- Data security and legal compliance tools;
- Regulatory guidance and safeguarding of operations;
- Nonprofit governance structures and processes; and
- Other corporate and private sector tools that can benefit organized civil society.

Visit PILnet's resource page for updated materials or contact us with questions at:



PILnet is a global public interest organization that aims to reclaim and reimagine the role of law so that it works for the benefit of all. PILnet creates opportunities for social change by unlocking law's full potential using its unique approach as strategic intermediary to build networks and collaborations of public and private lawyers, who understand how law works when it serves the interests of the privileged, and can use that knowledge to strengthen civil society and serve the world's poor and vulnerable.

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