

# Call for Applications for Regional Online Course on Public Interest Lawyering

## 2023

### COURSE BACKGROUND

[PILnet](#) is an international non-governmental organization that creates opportunities for social change by unlocking law's full potential. With programs in Europe and Eurasia, Asia, and at the global level, PILnet aims to reclaim and reimagine the role of law so that it works for the benefit of all. Over the last 25 years, PILnet has supported the creation of vibrant public interest legal networks, pro bono clearinghouses, and national and regional initiatives that educate and enrich current and future generations of public interest lawyers.

The [Leitner Center](#) for International Law and Justice at Fordham Law School is an innovative Think-and-Do Tank that aims to make international human rights protections an everyday reality for marginalized communities around the world. The Leitner Center provides education and training to law students, facilitates capacity building and advocacy with activists and grassroots groups around the world, and contributes to critical research among legal scholars in international human rights.

PILnet and the Leitner Center are launching the second **Regional Course on Public Interest Lawyering** for lawyers and representatives of NGOs in the Asia region. Through this course, they aim at creating a channel for 50 young public interest-minded lawyers to gain experience and an international perspective at the outset of their careers and build a network among themselves and relevant existing groups and organizations.

The five weeks online course consists of five interactive and interconnected sessions, which include portions of self-paced learning and live webinars/discussions. The course participants will be able to access theory video presentations, resources, quizzes and live discussions with expert speakers, including case simulations and practical exercises. The course also encourages regional cooperation and the development of creative ways to use the law for the public interest. The course is hosted using the [PILnet learning platform](#).

### DATES AND STRUCTURE

The Regional Online Course Public Interest Lawyering consists of five interactive and interconnected sessions, which include sections of self-paced learning and live webinars/discussions. Live sessions will be held for five consecutive weeks, one day per week. The first live session will be held on February 24 and the material for that session will be available from the 20th of February. Each live session will last 2 hours and participants will

be expected to complete the self-paced portion of the session before joining the live discussion. Please, refer to the agenda below for dates and times and the brochure for more details.

## **PARTICIPANTS**

Junior lawyers, recent law graduates and NGO representatives interested in public interest law are welcome to apply to join the course. Applicants with a legal background and familiarity with public interest law in Asia will be given preference. The program will accept 50 participants.

The course will be fully delivered in English, so participants are expected to be able to communicate in and understand English. As the course is discussion-based, and to encourage as much interaction as possible, participants are expected to:

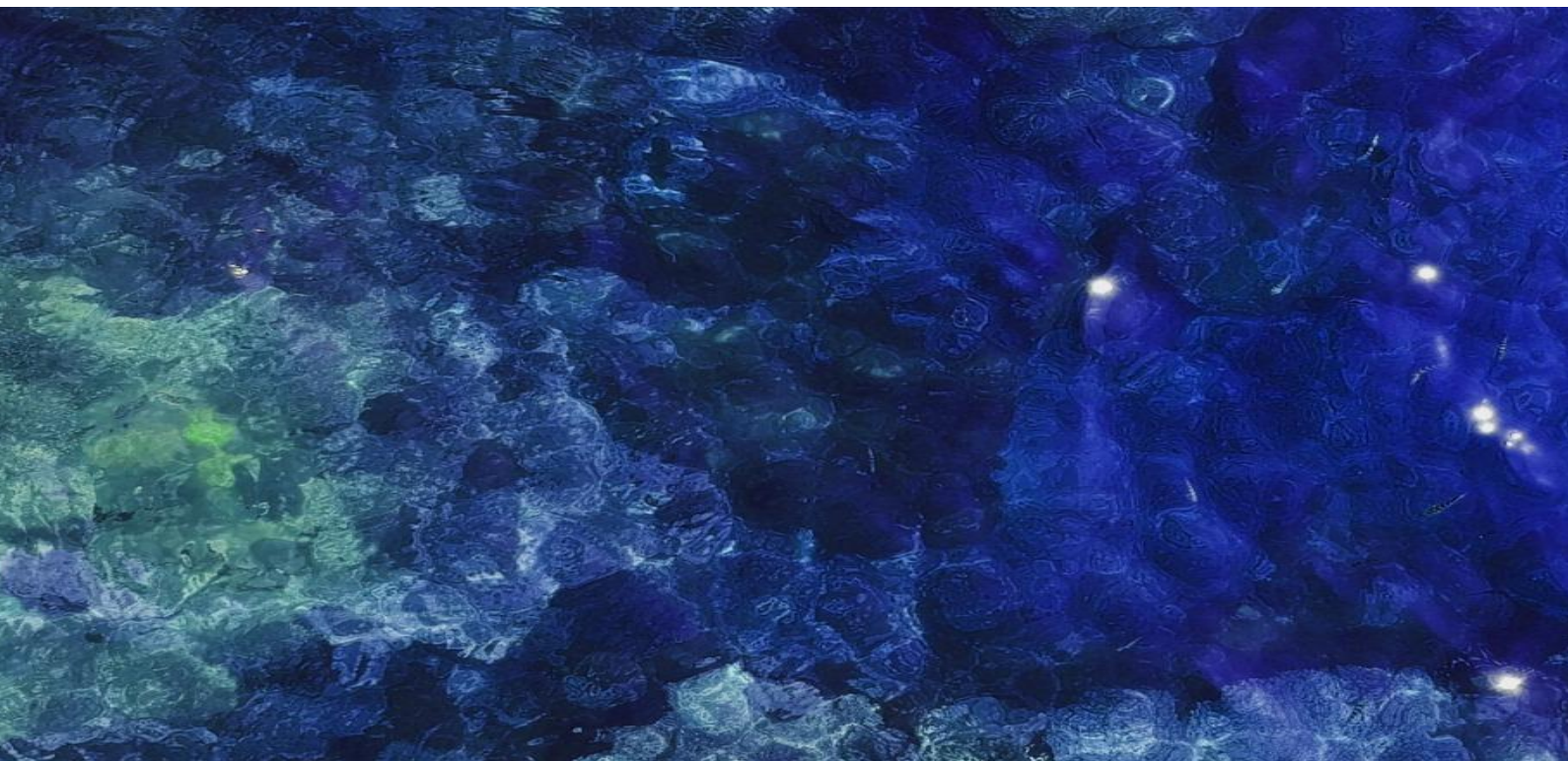
- be able to communicate in and understand English;
- attend at least 4 out of 5 sessions;
- be available to join each live session and turn their video on throughout;
- actively participate in live discussions and non-live forums;
- complete the course assignment before the live sessions (including watching course videos, reading resource material, and taking quizzes);
- bring case studies or examples for discussions.

## **APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

The course is free of charge. Interested participants should submit their application form by **February 10th 2022**, at 6 pm Hong Kong Time. To apply for the course, kindly complete the application form using [this link](#).

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Enquiries about the course should be directed to [learn@pilnet.org](mailto:learn@pilnet.org) copy [gpatane@pilnet.org](mailto:gpatane@pilnet.org)



## AGENDA

TOPIC	DATE/TIME	GUEST SPEAKERS
<b>Access to Justice</b>	<b>Live session:</b> <b>24/02/23</b> <b>5-7 pm HKT</b> Resources available from 20/02/23	<b>Practice discussion:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Adv. Hina Jilani, Supreme Court, Pakistan</li> <li>● Ms. Sara Hossain, BLAST, Bangladesh</li> <li>● Prof. Zhang Wanhong, Wuhan University School of Law, China</li> </ul>
<b>Pro Bono Publico</b>	<b>Live session:</b> <b>03/03/2023</b> <b>5-7 pm HKT</b> Resources available from 27/02/23	<b>Practice discussion:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ass. Prof. Helena Whalen-Bridge, National University of Singapore, Singapore</li> <li>● Mr. Tanguy Lim, Law Society Pro Bono Services (LSPBS), Singapore</li> <li>● Ms. Tze-Wei Ng, Stephenson Harwood (former deputy director at PILnet), Hong Kong</li> </ul>
<b>Strategic Litigation</b>	<b>Live session:</b> <b>10/03/2023</b> <b>5-7 pm HKT</b> Resources available from 03/03/23	<b>Practice discussion:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mrs. Patricia Ho – Patrica Ho and Associates, Hong Kong</li> <li>● Dr. Pill Kyu Hwang, GONGGAM, South Korea</li> <li>● Ms. Liu Jinmei, Friends of Nature, China</li> </ul>
<b>Legal Empowerment</b>	<b>Live session:</b> <b>17/03/2023</b> <b>5-7 pm HKT</b> Resources available from 13/03/23	<b>Practice discussion:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Prof. Marlon Manuel, Namati, Philippines</li> <li>● Ms. Haya Zahid, Legal Aid Society, Pakistan</li> <li>● Ms. Asfinawaty Ayub, Indonesia</li> </ul>
<b>Public Interest Lawyering: New Directions</b>	<b>Live session:</b> <b>24/03/2023</b> <b>5-7 pm HKT</b> Resources available from 20/03/23	<b>Discussion</b> Speakers from previous sessions and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Prof. Surya Deva, Professor at the Macquarie Law School, Sydney</li> </ul>