

‘Menu’ of pro bono options in the framework of the GRF pledge^{1*}

Area	Type of service	What the service might entail
Asylum procedures	Providing general legal advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This may include “know-your-rights” or other group sessions, or individual or group information sessions/briefings on relevant laws, procedures, systems, etc., including, for example, self-representation guidance.
	Providing customized asylum related legal advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial counselling on the nature of asylum procedures in a particular operation; managing expectations of the applicant; explaining the elements of the refugee definition; discussing aspects of the applicant’s claim, including in preparation for the asylum interview/hearing; discussing the framework of legal representation in a particular case etc.
	Assisting the lawyer on record or representing organization with preparation of asylum-related submission/brief on behalf of the applicant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collecting information on the applicant’s claim; interviewing the applicant; preparation of legal brief/submission, including COI research; assistance with lodging an application. Providing legal support and advice for individuals who have been forcibly returned (e.g. meeting them at airport upon their return and collecting evidence that can be used to challenge future forced returns).
	Representing the applicant in asylum hearings, at different stages of the procedure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full legal representation of the applicant with the respective authorities (refugee status determination/asylum authority, or with other immigration authorities) to ensure access to territory and asylum process. This may include presence in various stages of asylum or other processes; request for documents and peruse materials from the applicant’s file; making written and oral submissions on behalf of the applicant at various stages of the procedure. Some asylum-seekers and refugees may have specific needs and will also require other types of assistance or referrals. For example, child applicants will require finding and engaging legal guardians and experts, engaging the local child protection infrastructure and supporting “Best Interests” assessments and determinations etc.
Statelessness	Providing legal advice and representation to stateless persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assisting persons to complete, file and obtain the necessary documentation to apply for citizenship or other legal status; some law firms run ‘statelessness’ clinics.
Trafficking	Providing legal advice and representation to victims of trafficking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assisting victims of trafficking to complete and file application forms and engage in relevant processes.

^{1*} This menu serves as a non-exhaustive list of examples of services that law firms can provide in fulfillment of their pro bono commitments made in the context of the [Global Refugee Forum Legal Community Pledge](#). Services can be provided to refugees, asylum-seekers, stateless people, and internally and other displaced people, as well as the organizations that work with or are led by them, including non-governmental, refugee-led and civil society organizations, UNHCR and national/state protection institutions.

Detention	Providing legal advice and representation to detained refugees, asylum-seekers, stateless persons, and other forcibly displaced persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representing detainees in applications for their release (habeas corpus applications, detention reviews, bail hearings, etc.). This can include ensuring alternatives to detention are readily available. • Providing advice to detainees in person (in detention centres, prisons, or airports) or by phone.
Family reunification, and family tracing	Providing legal advice and representation to refugees, asylum-seekers, stateless persons, and other forcibly displaced persons seeking family reunification and/or family tracing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist and represent refugees, asylum-seekers, stateless persons, and other forcibly displaced persons in completing family reunification applications and obtaining necessary documentation, such as travel documents and visas. This could include providing advice to the sponsor in the country of destination and supporting applicants in the country of departure as well as assistance in family tracing procedures. Some law firms run family reunification clinics.
Complementary pathways^{2**}	Providing legal advice and representation to refugees, asylum-seekers and other persons in need of international protection seeking to access legal admission to third countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist and represent refugees, asylum-seekers, and other persons in need of international protection in completing visa applications and obtaining necessary documentation, such as relevant certifications and travel documents. • This could also include providing advice to refugees and their families regarding the legal status to be obtained in the receiving country as well as the different legal options and requirements to extend the legal stay as well as advice on access to naturalization procedures.
Livelihoods	Legal advice on issues related to obtaining access to the labour market, starting a business in compliance with domestic laws, and accessing financial services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal advice and representation relating to applications for work permits; registration of business; provision of tax advice; representing the interests of entrepreneurs starting and conducting business with the relevant government and other agencies; individual consultations relating to various legal matters relevant to employment, including violations of labour laws and rights. • Working with financial institutions to provide access to retail banking services.
Social Protection	Legal advice on issues related to access to social assistance with a view to reduce poverty, vulnerability and social exclusion and facilitate economic integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal advice and representation relating to access to e.g. child allowances (child grants, school meals), social pensions, conditional and unconditional cash transfers for the poor, unemployment assistance and insurance, skill development, disability assistance and insurance, as well as inclusion in national social protection measures and schemes.
Legal research and information management	National, international and/or multi-jurisdictional research on various thematic areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal research on a wide variety of issues including on asylum, statelessness and legal frameworks per country/region. • This could also include empirical research or analysis of the impact certain laws or practices have on refugees, asylum-seekers, stateless persons, and

^{2**} Employment Pathways, Education Pathways, Nominated Sponsorship Pathways and Humanitarian Pathways.

		<p>other forcibly displaced persons; mapping of legal gaps across regions; and proposals for addressing gaps, needs and possible new legal concepts that would strengthen national/state protection capacities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyzing laws, policies or practices to understand root causes of forced displacement and statelessness. • Research may also include country of origin information.
	<p>Legal information management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summarizing court decisions to be included in database/ platforms (in particular the Refworld law and policy database), or to inform litigation, advocacy, and practice; assisting the collection of legislation; assisting in developing and testing artificial intelligence tools for legal information provision. • Legal advice relating to publication/reproduction of online legal information (copyright, privacy policy, use of AI, etc.); • Advice and assistance on data protection; data security mapping, cybersecurity and systems protection.
<p>Other legal services</p>	<p>Legal services provided to refugees, asylum-seekers, stateless persons, and other forcibly displaced persons</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for and/or direct representation in strategic litigation and/or appeals on the issues above or any others related to persons of concern. This could be for the applicant/appellant, or an organization when acting as an amicus or third-party intervener in national or regional courts. This could also include acting on behalf of applicants in individual complaints procedures of international human rights treaty bodies or special rapporteurs. • Providing general legal services and advice on domestic law relevant for the protection and full exercise of the rights of persons of concern (including negotiation, mediation and conflict resolution where applicable), on non-refugee matters that have not been covered in other parts of this menu of options, including but not limited to e.g. access to education, family law/custody/divorce matters, identity documents, naturalization, housing/landlord and tenant issues, banking and taxation. • This may also include referrals to specialists in the areas listed above.
	<p>Legal services provided to organizations that support refugees, asylum-seekers, stateless persons and other forcibly displaced persons</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representation and/or advice on domestic law on issues facing organizations that support persons of concern, such as: • Assistance with operational needs such as registration and preparing relevant documents (e.g. articles of association); • Provision of legal support and advice relating to conflicts with various stakeholders, for example, insurance companies for road accidents involving an organization's cars; • Review of commercial contracts, including leases, purchase of goods, property, services and works, partnerships and services or construction contracts if required;

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist in the representation during negotiation processes with local counterparts and ensure everyday requirements are in compliance with domestic laws; • Assistance with drafting of employment contracts, internship/volunteer agreements, or other issues related to residence/ work permits of staff; • Structuring and raising social impact bonds for programme-specific fundraising by IGOs/NGOs including environmental, social and governance (ESG) bond financing and other innovative financing models for NGOs (including Islamic financial products); • Secondment of lawyers to an organization; • Legal trainings on a wide variety of issues.
Other non-legal services	Orientation programs, mentorships and coaching for refugees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting refugee students and youth with mentorship and coaching opportunities on a wide range of issues, including but not limited to, support with entering the employment market and providing opportunities for internships. • Assistance with refugee employability (for both employers and candidates); provision of tailored training in workplace skills (hard and soft) for potential refugee employees; interview and CV workshops; refugee preparation for the workplace. • Employment of persons of concern in the legal profession, where authorized.
	Public Information/Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting NGOs with public information, communications, marketing, etc. This may include media training, IT support, translation services, use of in-house document production, enhancement and marketing capabilities.