

## About us

Every day, millions of people languish in jails around the world because they cannot afford a defense lawyer. The ILF is a non-profit organization founded to address this global crisis in access to justice. For nearly two decades, the ILF has fought to guarantee high-quality legal representation for everyone arrested or detained. Around the world, we provide quality criminal defense services and build sustainable, effective legal aid institutions. Currently, we offer direct legal services in Afghanistan, Nepal, Myanmar, Palestine and Tunisia, as well as technical assistance worldwide. For more information, visit [theilf.org](http://theilf.org).

## Justice for All: Reinforcing the Pathfinders Shared Strategy

Achieving United Nations Sustainable Development [Goal 16](#) to “provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels” is core to the ILF’s mission. Our work on [SDG16+](#) also advances [poverty elimination](#) (Goal 1), [gender equality](#) (Goal 5), and [reduced inequality](#) (Goal 10).

The ILF has consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and plays a unique advocacy role at national and global fora. We bring on-the-ground experience defending vulnerable populations in fragile states together with high-level policy knowledge and technical expertise. We advocate for high-quality legal aid systems, along with robust data standards and benchmarks, to ensure justice is truly provided for all.

Looking ahead, we are committed to reinforcing the shared strategy for 2020-2023.

## Accelerate Action at National Level

Understanding that legal representation is critical to ensure access to justice for poor and vulnerable accused, we will continue to work closely with governments to shape legal aid laws, policies, and institutions that allow for the expansion and sustainable delivery of effective legal aid services. We will also continue to work with local advocates to establish models for the delivery of high-quality legal aid services, and to promote strategies and good practices for ensuring legal aid laws, policies, and regulations are actually realized in practice.

## Ambitious national commitments towards justice for all

- The ILF is proud to be partnering with Afghanistan’s Ministry of Justice on their acceleration action, “[Strengthening Afghanistan’s Legal Aid System](#).” We will provide technical assistance to advance implementation of Afghanistan’s 2019 Legal Aid Regulation and ensure provision of effective, quality criminal defense services for poor and vulnerable people, including through the establishment of an independent Legal Aid High Commission and Secretariat.

## Transformative national strategies and plans

- The ILF will continue offering governments expert advice in the development of national strategies and plans that implement the [United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems](#) and integrate best practices from around the world.

## Build a Global and Regional Alliance to Support National Action

We are committed to contributing to multi-stakeholder partnerships and networks that expand access to justice and support national action.

## Global commitments to justice for all

- The ILF is a founding co-sponsor of the [International Conference on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems](#), the largest and most inclusive meeting of countries aimed at addressing global challenges in ensuring access to quality legal aid services. In 2014, conference participants called on States to include the rule of law and access to justice, including equal access to legal aid, as a target of the post-2015 development agenda. The fourth biennial conference will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in September 2020, including SDG16 as a major theme.

## Data and evidence to underpin action

- The ILF will continue to call for greater reporting and data sharing concerning the delivery and impact of legal aid around the world. We aim to develop an international consensus around indicators and standards for measuring quality legal aid, building on past [research](#).

## Mobilize for Justice for All

We recognize that an effective and empowered global, regional, national, and local movement for justice for all will amplify demand for change.

## Shared narrative on justice for all

- We will continue to promote SDG16 and the concept of justice for all in our advocacy, calling for expanded access to legal aid services and holistic, people-centered approaches to justice.

## Achieve Access to Justice for Women

The ILF has a strong focus on [gender equality](#). We will continue to challenge discrimination and bias against women and girls at all levels of criminal justice systems, and to encourage female lawyers, experts, and advocates to become leaders in the criminal justice sector.

## Guarantee Access to Justice for Children

In countries like Myanmar and Tunisia, we have [joined forces with UNICEF](#) to divert children away from the criminal justice system and promote alternatives to detention. We also provide specialized training to lawyers who defend [children and youth](#) in contact with the law.