



# TRUSTLAW IMPACT REPORT

2015 - 2017

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TrustLaw



TrustLaw

## MISSION

We connect **high-impact NGOs** and **social enterprises** working to create **social** and **environmental change** with the **best law firms** and corporate legal teams to provide them with **free legal assistance**. We produce ground-breaking legal research and offer innovative training courses worldwide.





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In their own words

## MONIQUE VILLA, CEO THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION



**When I founded TrustLaw in 2010, I wanted to create a pro bono legal programme that would allow NGOs and social enterprises around the world to benefit from one of the most valuable assets imaginable that most ignored: free legal expertise.**

TrustLaw has grown exponentially and gone from strength to strength each year, spreading the practice of pro bono in 175 countries, encouraging collaboration between legal professionals, and empowering the NGOs and social enterprises to achieve greater impact.

Between 2015 and 2017, we saw an ever-increasing demand for truly global, ground-breaking pro bono projects. We've connected over 2,000 projects in these 3 years that have had a measurable impact to fight modern slavery, combat climate change, and support women's rights.

I think we can tell that we changed the practice of pro bono for hundreds of law firms: facilitating legal support all over the globe, hosting legal health clinics, providing training and giving legal teams the opportunity to work together and with the social sector, in a way they never had before.

Between 2015 and 2017, law firms have spent **\$55 million** in lawyers' brain time for our members, bringing the total worth of pro bono facilitated by TrustLaw since its creation to **\$134 million**.

But numbers alone cannot bring to life the extraordinary contribution of the lawyers and the far-reaching impact achieved by the beneficiaries. Crucial legal assistance has led to a ripple effect in communities: that work helped to end child marriage in two states in the United States, set up the first safe house for LGBT refugees in the UK and fought cybersex crimes and child porn in India.

This is fundamental to what TrustLaw is all about: ensuring those who have developed pioneering solutions can establish and sustain programmes that have a life beyond their inception, and that transform the lives of some of the most vulnerable people in the world.

In 2018, TrustLaw growth has continued: \$25 millions of pro bono hours, more transformative work. This will be shown in our next impact report, at the end of 2020! Long live the TrustLaw network!

*M. Villa*

## NICHOLAS GLICHER, DIRECTOR TRUSTLAW

**TrustLaw has changed beyond measure since I joined the nascent programme in 2011. Not only have we changed, but pro bono itself has grown and developed in ways we would never have expected.**

TrustLaw's mission is to spread the practice of pro bono to drive social change. Pursuing this mission has meant that we balance equally the requirements of both parties in every pro bono engagement – the needs of the legal team are considered just as much as those of the pro bono client. We have tailored our service to make sure that it's as easy as possible for legal professionals to get involved in pro bono, as well as ensuring that our NGOs and social enterprises members encounter an accessible service that provides them with the maximum benefit as they seek to achieve their own social or environmental missions.

We have sought to get more lawyers in more jurisdictions than ever before engaged in pro bono, and to get them involved by working on topics and in sectors which have not historically produced much in the way of pro bono matters. Further, we have built a service that ensures the advice received by the pro bono clients is tailored to their needs, helps ensure the sectors they work in are robust and more vital, and takes advantage of the highest quality legal advice wherever they are based as they change laws, strengthen the livelihoods and communities of their target populations and change society for the better.

In this, our first impact report, we have tried to paint a picture of the myriad ways our service had an impact and how we evidence this. Legal advice often stands one step removed from on-the-ground impact: hiring a new member of staff or affusing a tailored employment contract is only



one part of being able to deliver greater impact; registering a patent alone does not guarantee the successful development of a new product that affects the lives of the most vulnerable in society. That said, quality legal support plays an essential role in every long-term, sustainable solution. Change happens not only in a social, but also a legal context, as law governs every aspect of life and society around the world. Lawyers are a powerful agent for change, and this report helps us see how TrustLaw helps shape this change.

To my eyes, TrustLaw is well-placed to raise its impact even further in the coming months and years, whether through increased use of technology or through more innovative ways of sourcing and delivering pro bono. We have a proven strength as a convener and our ability to bring together key organisations, whether non-profit, legal, academic or otherwise, means we can produce ground-breaking tools and resources that affect whole sectors and have a catalytic impact on vulnerable communities and populations around the world. The growth in our network can only amplify our impact all the more. There is a lot to look forward to.

*N Glicher*

## WHO WE ARE

### THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION



Our aim is to **inform, connect, and empower** people around the world.

**Thomson Reuters Foundation:** We are the philanthropic arm of Thomson Reuters the world's biggest news and information provider. We are an independent charity, registered both in the UK and in the USA. We leverage the reach and reputation of Thomson Reuters to run free programmes that promote the highest standards in journalism and spread excellence in the practice of legal pro bono work worldwide.

## TRUSTLAW

**TrustLaw** is the Thomson Reuters Foundation's global **legal pro bono legal programme**. We connect high-impact non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and social enterprises working to create social and environmental change with the best law firms and corporate legal teams, to provide them with free legal assistance. We produce ground-breaking legal research and offer innovative training courses worldwide.

Our mission is to **spread the practice of pro bono to drive social change.**

Up to 31 December 2017, TrustLaw had assisted **over 3,200 members, all of whom were non-profits and social enterprises, based in some 175 countries.**

To facilitate the provision of legal support to meet our members' needs, we work with **850 of the best law firms and in-house legal teams.**

## WHO WE ARE TRUSTLAW

### IMPACT INVESTING:

We trained **130 lawyers** on social enterprise and impact investing.

### TOOLS & RESOURCES:

We developed more than **45 tools and resources**, for lawyers to help them better understand the charities' needs and build and strengthen their pro bono practice, and for NGOs and social enterprises to help them identify legal issues, from day-to-day operational matters to high-level research efforts.

### 2016 INDEX OF PRO BONO:

As part of our 2016 Index of Pro Bono – which measures the amount of pro bono practised by law firms across the world – we collected data from more than **130 firms**, representing **64,500 lawyers** in **75 countries**.

### PRO BONO HOURS:

Our data shows lawyers donated **2.5 million hours** of their time in 2016, assisting charities, non-profits, social enterprises, and individuals free of charge. On average lawyers committed **one week (39.2 hours)** to pro bono.

## TRUSTLAW IN NUMBERS 2015 TO 2017



**2,305** project connections

**1,000**

NGOs & Social Enterprises



**175**

countries



**350**

law firms



**440**

cross-border projects



**85**

research studies

Our network generated **USD 55 million** worth of legal help from 2015 to 2017.

# WHO WE ARE

## HOW WE WORK

At the heart of TrustLaw is a network that brings together top law firms, legal professionals and the world's most ambitious NGOs and social enterprises to develop and implement solutions that have a positive social impact.

### TRUSTLAW LEGAL ASSISTANCE

We help NGOs and social enterprises identify and articulate their needs and receive excellent legal support to strengthen their operations, sustainability and improve business decisions. The most common areas of legal assistance are **intellectual property and technology, corporate law, commercial contracts, banking and finance, and employment.**



**INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND TECHNOLOGY**



**CORPORATE LAW**



**COMMERCIAL CONTRACTS**



**BANKING AND FINANCE**



**EMPLOYMENT**

### TRUSTLAW LEGAL RESEARCH

We also support NGOs to undertake powerful advocacy with the help of world-class legal research. Our top research priorities are **Modern Slavery, Women's Rights, Climate and Resilience, Social Innovation, and Refugee Rights** although we support research on a very broad range of topics.



**MODERN SLAVERY**



**WOMEN'S RIGHTS**



**CLIMATE AND RESILIENCE**



**SOCIAL INNOVATION**



**REFUGEE RIGHTS**



Through our unique legal pro bono **events and training**, we spread the practice of pro bono worldwide, supporting lawyers to build pro bono culture, underpinned by an excellent understanding of the legal needs of civil society and social enterprises, strong partnerships with the sector, and effective internal coordination systems.

We have created an ecosystem in which 'legally savvy' civil society organisations and social enterprises exchange best practice, develop innovative ideas and undertake ground-breaking **research** with partners in the legal sector, and in which lawyers constantly seek to develop new forms of pro bono provision.

We develop suites of **tools and resources** for lawyers, NGOs and social enterprises and create a collaborative space for them to discuss and implement solutions and celebrate success.

We raise the profile of pro bono worldwide and compile the TrustLaw Index of Pro Bono, which was the first global survey measuring the amount of pro bono practised by law firms across the world. The **Index** is widely covered in international news, drawing public attention to the importance of pro bono – including in non-traditional jurisdictions – and spreading best practice across different countries.

## WHAT WE DO

### LEGAL PRO BONO EVENTS AND TRAINING

TrustLaw facilitates [events](#) and [training](#) around the world, building the capacity of pro bono lawyers to support a growing community of NGOs and social enterprises.

Every year, TrustLaw team members travel to strategic countries across the regional hubs to host a range of events with partners on an array of topical issues and basic legal assistance.

#### TRAINING:

We host a series of accredited legal training courses on social enterprise and impact investing across the US, UK and Mexico, which focus on legal issues and trends in the burgeoning social innovation field and provide lawyers and professionals in the sector with the skills and knowledge they need to advise key stakeholders.

#### WORKSHOPS AND LEGAL CLINICS:

TrustLaw hosts and facilitates workshops and other capacity-building initiatives to provide practical legal training to NGOs and social enterprises. These interactive activities include legal health-checks, legal education workshops and topic-specific advisory clinics – all are designed in collaboration with participating organisations and legal teams to ensure the best fit of needs and skills.

#### WEBINARS:

TrustLaw facilitates online legal clinics through innovative virtual platforms, allowing organisations and lawyers to participate from the comfort of their desks, regardless of their location in remote areas or across the world.

## OUR REGIONAL HUBS



## WHAT WE DO

### TOOLS & RESOURCES

As part of our effort to build an environment where lawyers and the NGO and social enterprise communities can work together effectively on a range of issues, TrustLaw produces an array of [tools](#) to help NGOs and social enterprises address their specific legal needs, from day-to-day operational matters to high-level research efforts. We also provide legal teams with the [resources](#) to build and strengthen their pro bono practice, navigate regulatory requirements and engage in successful pro bono partnerships.

TrustLaw has published a total of **45 written resources** for our community of NGOs and social enterprises. Between 2015 and 2017, we published **26**.

In 2017, TrustLaw created a unique and accessible online tool –the [Legal Health Check](#) – for social enterprises and NGOs. Drawing on TrustLaw’s experience of analysing hundreds of requests for legal assistance, the tool identifies organisations’ legal needs and prepares them for unforeseen risks. More than **350 organisations** have used the online tool since it was launched. TrustLaw studies usage data to identify pressing legal issues and design bespoke workshops focused on the legal areas that are most relevant to the third sector.

#### TOOLS:

We have produced **6 legal guides** in the last three years. These ‘how-to’ guides help NGOs and social enterprises to understand legal risks, streamline their operations, maximise funding opportunities and achieve greater impact. The guides provide organisations with information on a particular topic, such as: crowdfunding; legal structures for social enterprises in the [UK](#), [USA](#), [ASEAN Region](#), [Argentina](#) and [Switzerland](#); and the [legal implications of Brexit](#).

#### RESOURCES:

We have also published [resources for corporate counsel](#) to help legal departments across the world build and strengthen their pro bono programmes and develop formal pro bono

practices within their companies. This suite of resources includes a [corporate counsel pro bono brochure](#) and a [guide on how to work in partnership with law firms on pro bono projects](#), as well as a [Global Corporate Pro Bono Map](#), which was the result of a huge collaborative effort, with contributions from more than 30 law firms and corporate legal departments in excess of 50 jurisdictions. The map is intended to help corporate legal departments navigate the educational, regulatory, licensing and insurance requirements for local and foreign-qualified in-house lawyers delivering pro bono services where they work.

Visit <http://www.trust.org/publications/?show=LegalAndProBono>

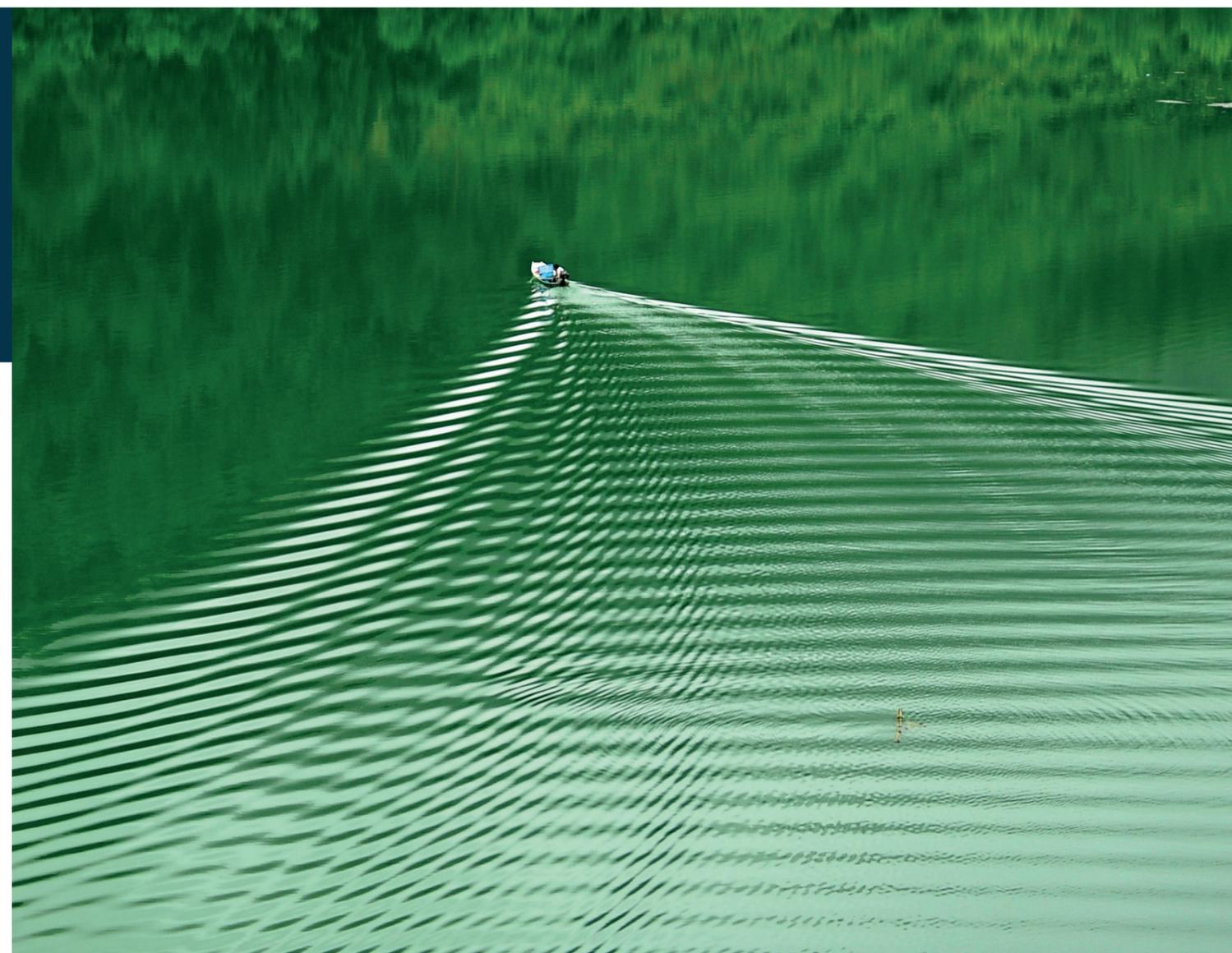
## WHAT WE DO

### COMPARATIVE CROSS-BORDER RESEARCH

In the last three years we have partnered with leading NGOs and law firms to produce **20** comparative cross-border research studies. These resources serve as vital tools for NGOs and social enterprises to advocate for legal change and improve access to justice. We published reports on topics such as: [The Age of Consent](#) (a review of law in 22 jurisdictions); [The Rights and Protection of Vulnerable Victims in Criminal Proceedings](#) (in nine EU member states); [Corporate Liability for Forced Labour and Human Trafficking in Supply Chains](#) (in eight

jurisdictions: the UK, the USA, Qatar, Japan, Brazil, Russia, South Africa and the United Arab Emirates); [The European Refugee Crisis; Sextortion in the Digital Age](#), and [Expression Abridged: A Legal Analysis of Anti-LGBT Propaganda Laws](#) (in nine jurisdictions).

Where possible, these research studies are published on our [website](#) and distributed widely, ensuring that more organisations working in the sector have access to the material and the impact is amplified further.





## CROSS-BORDER RESEARCH

### CASE STUDY: LGBT PROPOGANDA LAWS

In 2016 TrustLaw – in partnership with IGLYO, the largest LGBT+ youth and student network in the world, and top law firms – released a legal analysis of ‘anti-LGBT propaganda’ laws, exploring the legal arguments surrounding current or proposed laws which curtail the expression of LGBT+ culture and identity.

Nine countries in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia have attempted or succeeded in passing legislation that claims to protect children from exposure to information that can harm their wellbeing and development. In the vast majority of these contexts, however, the type of information that was deemed to be harmful has to do with diversity of sexual orientation.

The report, [Expression Abridged: A Legal Analysis of Anti-LGBT Propaganda Laws](#) was accompanied by a launch event at the European Parliament, in Brussels, hosted by Linnea Engstrom MEP, Vice President of the European Parliament Heidi Hautala, IGLYO, and the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

“We believe that this report and the work provided by TrustLaw and the law firms was invaluable to our organisation and that this research will play a vital role in supporting civil society organisations to challenge similar proposed and enforced laws. This report was novel and necessary to help support human rights NGOs in Europe, Central Asia and beyond to fight against propaganda laws and to challenge the growing discourse around traditional gender and family roles.”

*Euan Platt, IGLYO*



## CROSS-BORDER RESEARCH

### CASE STUDY: USING THE LAW TO END FGM

“There are 55 million girls at risk of FGM in Africa today – half those girls live in three countries that already have laws and 30% live in the six countries that don’t have laws.”

#### [28 Too Many](#)

28 Too Many is a UK-based charity that aims to eradicate female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) in the 28 countries in Africa where it is still practised. In an effort to influence policymakers and advocates on the ground, and empower grassroots organisations to help end FGM, the charity develops country profile reports which outline the practice and history of FGM. 28 Too Many contacted TrustLaw to request pro bono assistance to produce country reports setting out the legal framework and status of FGM/C in the 28 African countries.

Through TrustLaw more than 120 lawyers – coordinated by [Latham & Watkins](#) and including lawyers from [Shearman & Sterling](#), [Cleary Gottlieb, Reed Smith LLP](#), [Omer Abdelati Law Firm](#), [Sharkawy & Sarhan Law Firm](#) and [Udo Udoma & Belo-Osagie](#) – worked tirelessly to [produce ground-](#)

[breaking reports](#) that highlighted examples of best practice, lessons learned, and recommendations for the formation of sound legal frameworks that will contribute to the global elimination of FGM/C.

The ground-breaking reports are already having an impact in multiple African countries and are being used by a range of stakeholders.

“The impact has been profound. It has made our advocacy work in the communities, churches and with government a lot more scientific and easier. The document is a door-opener for us in our advocacy programmes for village leaders as well as engagement with state and non-state actors in Nigeria.”

*Dr Chris N Ugwu, the Society for the Improvement of Rural People (SIRP) in Nigeria*



# ANNUAL TRUSTLAW AWARDS

2015 - 2017

This is our annual ceremony to celebrate ground-breaking pro bono work undertaken by lawyers with, and for, NGOs and social enterprises all around the world. We celebrate success in the following categories:



## IMPACT AWARD

projects that demonstrate significant, wide-ranging impact for an NGO or social enterprise, their community, and beyond.

### PREVIOUS WINNERS

**2017**  
White & Case and Unchained at Last - "Ending child marriage in the US, one state at a time."

**2016**  
Kirkland & Ellis and Equality Illinois - "Legal research provides grounds to ban conversion therapy for LGBT youth."

**2015**  
Orrick and UnLTD - "How to lock social mission into social purpose businesses."



## INNOVATION AWARD

Projects that feature not only a new and exciting idea or enterprise, but a legal team that uses creativity in addressing the issues faced.

### PREVIOUS WINNERS

**2017**  
Weil, Gotshal & Manges & Micro Rainbow International "First safe house for LGBTI refugees."

**2016**  
Microsoft, Ashu Thakur & Associate and Bempu Health "Supporting innovation to save newborn babies."

**2015**  
Perez Alati, Grondona, Benites, Arntsen & Martinez de Hoz, Hewlett-Packard Company, Garcia Sayan Abogados, Ferrada Nehme Limitada, Posse Herrera Ruiz, Romero Arteta Ponce Asociados Cia Ltda, Machado, Meyer Sendacz e Opice and Guevara & Gutierrez SC - Servicios Legales, Techo - "Research on laws relating to the right to housing, forced evictions and "squatters rights" (or Prescripcion Adquisitiva)".



## COLLABORATION AWARD

projects that showcase excellent working relationships between legal teams, NGOs and social enterprises.

### PREVIOUS WINNERS

**2017**  
J. Sagar Associates, Torys and Prajwala - "Policing cyberspace to fight sex crimes and child porn in India."

**2016**  
Latham & Watkins and IRC - "Law firms step up pro bono support to address European refugee crisis."

**2015**  
Paul Hastings and Reporters without Borders - "Handbook on Freedom of Expression for Journalists and Bloggers for Reporters without Borders."



## LAWYER OF THE YEAR AWARD

An individual lawyer or team of lawyers who have provided exceptional pro bono support.

### PREVIOUS WINNERS

**2017**  
Constanza Connolly - Estudio Beccar Varela in Buenos Aires, Argentina / Rebecca Marques-Shearman & Sterling in London, UK

**2016**  
David Birnbaum, Evan Knobloch and Jonathan Man from Kirkland & Ellis in Chicago, US

**2015**  
Yo Joo Kim, Aoife McCabe, Katie Peek and Frances Stocks from Latham & Watkins in London, UK.



## LEGAL TEAM OF THE YEAR AWARD

Teams that demonstrate dedication and enthusiasm in supporting pro bono clients in three categories: domestic law firm; international law firm, and in-house legal team.

### INTERNATIONAL LAW FIRM

**2017**  
Hogan Lovells

**2016**  
Latham & Watkins

**2015**  
Dechert

### DOMESTIC LAW FIRM

**2017**  
Vieira de Almeida

**2016**  
Norton Rose Fulbright South Africa

**2015**  
Tilleke & Gibbins

### IN-HOUSE LEGAL TEAM

**2017**  
Merck/MSD

**2016**  
HPE

**2015**  
Citi

# ANNUAL TRUSTLAW AWARDS 2015 - 2017



## WHAT WE DO

### TRUSTLAW INDEX OF PRO BONO

Launched in [2014](#), and subsequently offered in [2015](#) and [2016](#), the **TrustLaw Index of Pro Bono** is the first global survey measuring the amount of pro bono practised by law firms around the world.

Designed as a tool to support the pro bono sector, firms all over the world are asked to provide information on how they organise their pro bono practice and how much pro bono they do in the different countries and jurisdictions in which they operate. The findings have allowed TrustLaw, for the first time, to not only track pro bono engagement country by country, but also to understand what elements of a pro bono practice have the biggest impact in terms of encouraging pro bono. This data helps firms with fledgling practices to know how to build structures within their firm to embed a culture of pro bono, as well as supporting firms to understand how best to allocate their pro bono resources by providing detailed local benchmarks.

The data gathered through the Index is represented by two key measures:

- the average number of pro bono hours performed annually by lawyers at each firm
- the percentage of lawyers at each firm that has undertaken 20 or more hours of pro bono over the previous year.

This information is organised jurisdiction by jurisdiction so that, for the first time, comparisons can be made on a like-for-like basis.

In order to ensure consistency across the Index, the **TrustLaw team developed a new definition of pro bono** that functions irrespective of the jurisdiction and allows firms to determine whether their activities are considered to be pro bono. This definition has now been adopted by a number of firms.

## TRUSTLAW PRO BONO INDEX 2015 & 2016

In 2015, more than 140 law firms in 77 countries provided data for the Index, representing 49,000 lawyers. Though the number of firms that provided data in 2016 dropped to 130, this represented 64,500 lawyers (an increase of more than 30%). On average, lawyers provided approximately 40 hours each of pro bono time per year – roughly a working week – across both indices.



# OUR IMPACT

## WHAT IS IMPACT?



We are committed to achieving positive, long-lasting change for our members and for society.

**We define our impact as the difference we make to the ability of our members to create more positive social and environmental change.**

Whether we support grassroots organisations to employ their first staff members, help a group of vulnerable women access loans to start a business, or enable NGOs to promote ground-breaking legal and policy reforms, our work has impact on local communities, on society and on the environment.

Our **theory of change** captures the intended effects of the TrustLaw service on our members, and on society in general.

Monitoring and assessing the impact of our work enables us to communicate more clearly how we are achieving our mission and how we remain relevant in the rapidly-changing world.

Importantly, it also allows us to discover and assess areas where our impact is less than, or different to, what we expected. Understanding the impact we have supports and informs our strategic choices, including allocation of resources, and our communication with the communities and organisations we support.

We systematically capture evidence of impact through our staff across our regional hubs, our partners, beneficiaries of our activities, and from external sources. The evidence is linked to our Strategy 2020 and integrated in our corporate KPI framework.

# OUR THEORY OF CHANGE



MISSION

**SPREADING THE PRACTICE OF PRO BONO TO DRIVE SOCIAL CHANGE**

*Intended broader and longer term change*

IMPACT

**Stronger civil society and social enterprises serving the needs of people, communities and the environment globally**

*Expected primary changes from our work*

OUTCOMES

**Better business outcomes, stronger operations, and powerful action for change for NGOs and social enterprises**

Better legal advice tailored to the needs of the non-profit and social enterprise sector

Better understanding of commercial and strategic legal issues by NGOs and social enterprise around the world

OUTPUTS

- Stronger pro bono practice at leading law firms and within corporations enables them to provide more free legal advice
- Better access to pro bono matters for lawyers

Greater access to free legal assistance and legal tools and resources to support business decisions, operations and advocacy

ACTIVITIES

**a. Strengthen TrustLaw’s global membership, maximising the reach and impact of pro bono legal support to NGOs and social enterprises around the world**

**b. Develop tools that enable lawyers to better understand legal challenges NGOs and social enterprises face and identify potential solutions**

**c. Develop tools that enable NGOs and social enterprises to better understand legal and commercial challenges they face and identify potential solutions**

**d. Raise profile of pro bono work and the spread of best practice**

- TrustLaw Global Index of Pro bono
- TrustLaw training: Social enterprise and impact investing
- TrustLaw awards and regional events
- Tools and resources to help embed pro bono within legal companies

**e. High quality research that can raise awareness and facilitate adoption of emerging policies and drives legal and policy change**

- High-impact legal research focussed on key social and policy issues

# OUR IMPACT

## LEGAL AREAS OF WORK

By connecting NGOs and social enterprises with leading law firms, TrustLaw ensures those who have developed ground-breaking solutions to promote social justice can establish projects that have a life beyond their launch, and transform the lives of some of the most vulnerable people in the world.

TrustLaw connects NGOs and social enterprises with leading law firms on a range of legal issues, including:



### INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND TECHNOLOGY:

Trademark registration, copyright, patents and licensing



### FUNDING:

Partnership or funding agreements



### CORPORATE LAW & STRUCTURING:

Selecting the right legal entity for your NGO or social enterprise



### TAX



### STAFFING:

Employment and volunteer agreements



### MANY OTHERS:

Including advocacy and research.

# OUR IMPACT





## INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND TECHNOLOGY

### CASE STUDY: TECHNOLOGY IN THE FACE OF ATROCITY

The project **'eyeWitness to Atrocities'** believes that the most heinous crimes around the world would never have been brought to justice without brave eyewitnesses. To verify the footage captured, they developed a smartphone app as a tool for human rights defenders, documenters, journalists and other courageous citizens to use when filming footage related to international atrocity crimes.

In January 2016, eyeWitness to Atrocities approached TrustLaw seeking assistance with guidelines on the admissibility of digital evidence in jurisdictions where international atrocity crimes are widespread, but the rule of law is weakest. They were connected to Tilleke & Gibbins in Myanmar and D. L. & F. de Saram in Sri Lanka to develop guides which determined the type of videos, photographs and audio evidence that meet admissibility standards in local courts. Using the guidelines, eyeWitness was able to adapt its technology to anticipate and better respond to potential defence challenges, which in turn would increase the chances of prosecution.

**"eyeWitness faces the unique challenge of needing to understand and respond to the local legal framework in target countries, while having a product general enough for global reach. This challenge is heightened by the fact that digital evidence is an evolving area of law in every jurisdiction. The legal guidelines gave us a better understanding of the challenges faced by lawyers and activists in different countries and informed our work in expanding the reach and impact of the app. Through pro bono legal assistance, we were able to empower individuals on the ground to seek justice beyond their borders in a more accessible way."**

*eyeWitness*



**513**

for



**346**

in



**73**

Intellectual Property  
and Technology projects

NGOs and Social  
Enterprises

jurisdictions



Bempu Health

## INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND TECHNOLOGY

### CASE STUDY: SUPPORTING INNOVATION TO SAVE NEWBORN BABIES

Microsoft's in-house legal team and specialist healthcare and intellectual property law firm Ashu Thakur & Associates were connected with Bempu Health through TrustLaw to patent an innovative temperature-monitoring bracelet, and to support Bempu's commercialisation strategy in the fight to reduce child mortality in India.

Following the comprehensive legal advice, Bempu Health were positioned to be selected as one of the 17 awardees for the USAID Saving Lives at Birth grant and one of Time Magazine's The 25 Best Inventions of 2017.

**"As of May 2016, we have distributed the hypothermia alert device among more than 100 public and private health centres across India and helped protect around 1,500 babies in 11 states. This is a remarkable first step towards achieving our organisation's five-year goal of preventing 10,000 deaths and 1 million instances of hypothermia."**

*Bempu Health*



## CORPORATE LAW

### CASE STUDY: PHILANTHROPY AND SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN SWITZERLAND



**699**

Corporate Law projects

for



**495**

NGOs and Social Enterprises

in



**72**

jurisdictions

For many social entrepreneurs, generating revenue from their enterprises is a key driver, ensuring financial sustainability, generating returns for investors and avoiding the need to rely on charitable donations or grants. On the other hand, other entrepreneurs wish to pursue a mission solely focused on the promotion of public utility purposes and, when possible, benefit from related tax exemptions.

Swiss law does not have any legal entities specially designed for social ventures so, in 2017, TrustLaw, leading Swiss business law firm Froriep, and innovative Swiss boutique law firm Sigma Legal, developed a guide to the Swiss legal framework that was intended to help social entrepreneurs and philanthropists select the most appropriate legal structure for their venture. Through TrustLaw members, the guide was republished widely by NGOs and charity associations in Switzerland.

**“We were really delighted to collaborate with TrustLaw in the publication of this guide. The guide has been very well received both by the non-profit sector and umbrella associations working in the field and authorities. It allows them to give to social entrepreneurs at the beginning of their journey first-hand information on the various legal forms available, so the entrepreneurs better understand the options available instead of replicating what their friends have done in other ventures.”**

*Froriep*



## COMMERCIAL CONTRACTS

### CASE STUDY: DATA PRIVACY FOR LGBT ONLINE PLATFORM

Fighting stigma, educating the public and breaking down barriers of prejudice is not easy. ‘ABC do LGBT’, a Brazilian social enterprise working on LGBT+ rights, knows this all too well. In 2015, they decided to develop an online platform, which would be Brazil’s first digital LGBT+ library, to collect, organise and promote information on the cross-cutting themes that affect LGBT+ communities and thereby break down barriers of discrimination.

The online platform allowed its users to create personal profiles, organisational profiles and online groups. Unsure of the issues surrounding data privacy ABC do LGBT contacted TrustLaw for legal assistance. TrustLaw connected the enterprise with KLA – Koury Lopes Advogados – to advise them on terms and conditions for the platform and provide data protection advice on the laws relating to users’ privacy. The legal advice allowed ABC do LGBT to protect themselves and their users, and to comply with the relevant legislation, while promoting collaboration in the Brazilian LGBT+ community.

**“By being aware of the legal aspects of my business, it was possible to draw a more realistic plan of action to achieve the goals of my organisation.”**

*ABC do LGBT*



**495**

Commercial Contracts projects

for



**349**

NGOs and Social Enterprises

in



**57**

jurisdictions



AccessEd, The Brilliant Club

## COMMERCIAL CONTRACTS

### CASE STUDY: INTERNATIONAL EXPANSION TO SUPPORT UNDER-PRIVILEGED PUPILS TO ATTEND UNIVERSITY

The Brilliant Club supports pupils in the UK from under-represented backgrounds to attend university. TrustLaw connected the charity with law firm Dechert to set up a separate company to expand their work internationally.

The new company has completed a pilot with 100 children from townships in South Africa and is planning to expand into the USA, Hong Kong and three other countries over the next five years, providing support to 5,000 pupils a year.

**We approached TrustLaw for support in creating a new and different legal structure. We were partnered with Dechert LLP, who provided extensive guidance in reviewing the options available, drafting and re-drafting the articles of association and even filing our incorporation documents. The impact of the project was significant. First, the quality of support was very high and we felt that we were treated like a paying client would be. Second, the ability to access pro bono at this early stage meant that we were able to divert all of our resources towards programmes, including funding a pilot for 100 young people in South Africa. Third, the project laid great foundations for the organisation's future governance, which has remained stable and effective.**

*Simon Coyle, The Brilliant Club*



## FUNDING

### CASE STUDY: LOAN ADVICE FOR A PERUVIAN SOCIAL ENTREPRENEUR



**170**

Funding projects

for



**119**

NGOs and  
Social Enterprises

in



**46**

jurisdictions

Agora Partnerships, a South American organisation, empowers entrepreneurs with the resources and community they need to transform the world. They strengthen entrepreneurs' business models and prepare them to access the impact investment market through custom business services, world-class consultants, and global network access.

In 2016, Agora was planning to issue a loan to a social enterprise in Peru and contacted TrustLaw for legal advice on any regulatory or tax requirements they must comply with to issue the loan. With the assistance of Rodrigo Elias & Medrano Abogados, they were able to issue the loan.

**"The assistance allowed us to crowdfund successfully one more loan on the Kiva Platform to help a female entrepreneur in Peru scale her operations."**

*Agora Partnerships*



## FUNDING

### CASE STUDY: LEVERAGE PROGRAMME FUNDING

Through TrustLaw, Urí Menéndez law firm and HP Enterprise Spain were connected to Alianza por la Solidaridad.

The legal teams helped the Spanish non-profit to acquire over USD 700,000 to fund local development programmes in Morocco, Senegal and Mauritania, a global citizenship initiative in Spain and Nicaragua, a women's rights initiative in Palestine, and a humanitarian project in Haiti.

**"We requested the legal support of TrustLaw and thanks to the advice of Urí Menéndez law firm and HP Enterprise Spain the legal doubts dissipated."**

*Alianza por la Solidaridad*



## FUNDING

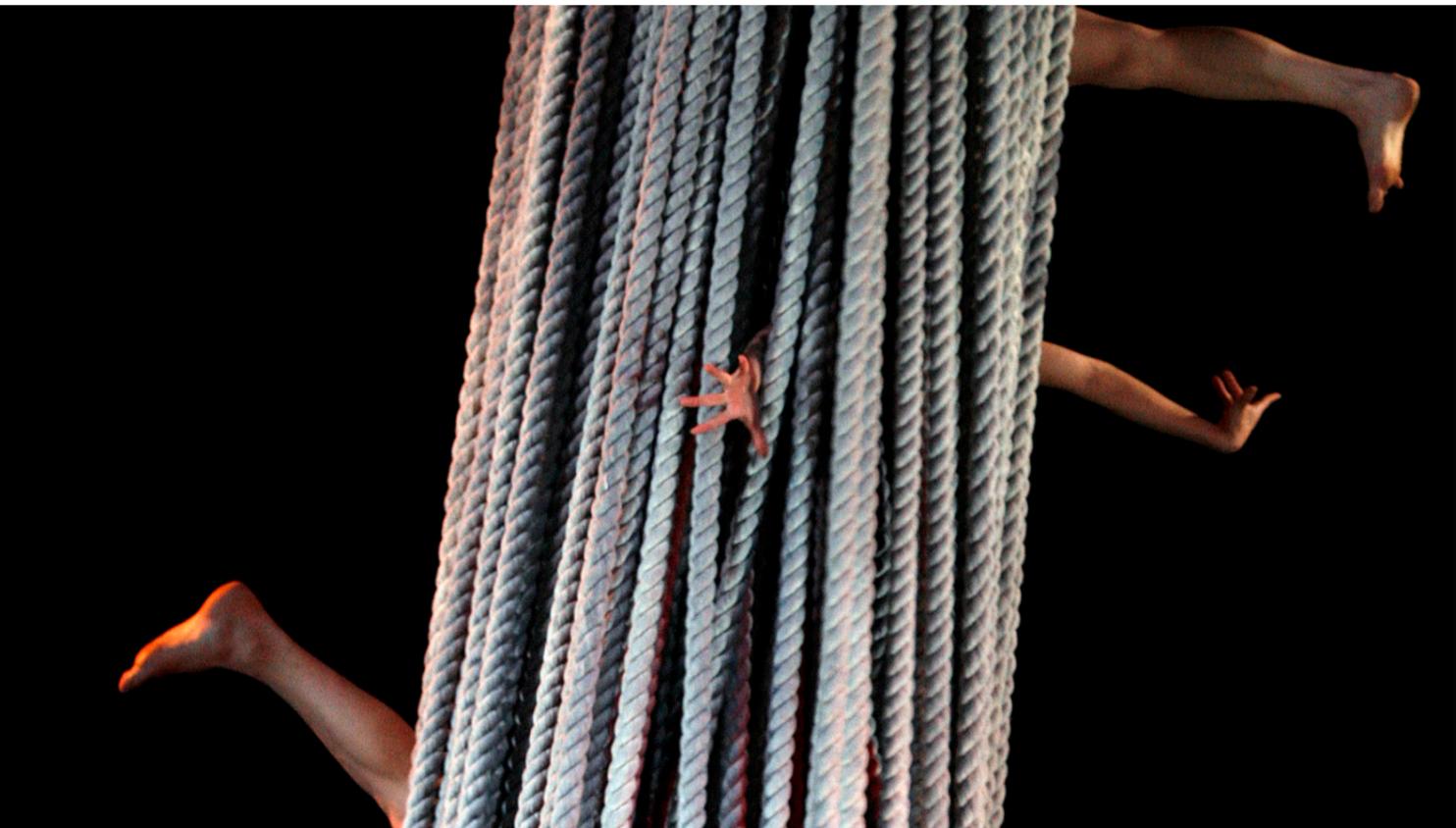
### CASE STUDY: IMPROVE FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

REACH, a Vietnam-based NGO that specialises in vocational training, career advice and job placements for disadvantaged young people set up a for-profit structure with the help of Grünkorn & Partner Law Co that led that led to an investment of USD 60,000 from a Japanese social impact investment firm, and was used to set up a Japanese catering and delivery business in Hanoi.

**"Through TrustLaw [we were able] to see what options were available to us. This service added great value to our work. The lawyers were able to structure the relationship with our Japanese partner which enabled us to receive an investment of USD 60,000."**

*REACH*





## FUNDING

### CASE STUDY: FUNDING AGREEMENTS FOR YOUTH CIRCUSTRAINING

Through TrustLaw, Norton Rose Fulbright South Africa provided legal advice on a loan management and mortgage agreement to Zip Zap, an NGO using Circus Training as a tool for youth empowerment and social transformation. This helped Zip Zap to move premises and expand its operations, allowing them to reach more young people.



## STAFFING

### CASE STUDY: EMPLOYMENT IN NEPAL

According to Diyalo Foundation, two out of three Nepali children leave school at 16. The foundation works with Nepali communities holistically, integrating their primary education and agriculture programmes into the rural communities' daily life.

Diyalo Foundation contacted TrustLaw for legal assistance regarding employee contracts both in their US office and in Nepal. TrustLaw connected the Foundation to Pradhan, Ghimire & Associates, a Nepalese law firm who advised them on their staffing questions, allowing Diyalo Foundation to draft agreements for their employees, independent contractors and volunteers.

**"It was a great experience to assist an organisation which is working in the education/school sector, as this sector is one of the most important areas for building an educated and self-reliant populace."**

*Pradhan, Ghimire & Associates*



**385**

Employment projects

for



**289**

NGOs and Social Enterprises

in



**58**

jurisdictions



Micro Rainbow International

## TAX

### CASE STUDY: TAX AND SOCIAL INVESTMENT FOR LGBTI COMMUNITY

Every year, about 2,000 LGBTI people seek refugee status in the UK. LGBTI communities, and women, are often bullied by their own families and peers, and don't escape discrimination even after crossing borders and reaching refugee camps.

Even if asylum seekers are granted a refugee status, they are regularly subjected to continued physical and verbal abuse by fellow refugees in their shared accommodation.

Witnessing so many live through this nightmare is what propelled Micro Rainbow International (MRI), an LGBTI rights social enterprise, to create a safe house operated exclusively for LGBTI refugees and asylum-seekers.

Given the pioneering structure and the substantial finances required to jumpstart the project, MRI sought pro bono tax and structuring advice, through TrustLaw, in February 2016. The project marked the start of a long-term pro bono partnership with the international law firm Weil, Gotshal & Manges. A team of 11 lawyers across a variety of practice areas have since dedicated more than 210 hours, for free, to support Micro Rainbow on issues related to the structuring of the social investment, tax matters, as well as other property issues.

Through the pro bono legal assistance, MRI was able to qualify for Social Investment Tax Relief (SITR), a tax incentive which enables qualifying individuals to receive 30% tax relief on their investment. In October 2017, MRI opened the first safe house for LGBTI refugees in the UK.



# 470

Tax projects

for



# 289

NGOs and  
Social Enterprises

in



# 68

jurisdictions

.....

**"TrustLaw's input facilitated both a ground-breaking initiative and a successful partnership between MRI and Weil Gotshal. The pro bono support we have received from the law firm exceeded the original request and has supported the on-going development of MRI's project."**

*Sebastian Rocca, Founder and CEO, Micro Rainbow International*



Micro Rainbow International

# OUR IMPACT

## THEMATIC WORK

By connecting NGOs and social enterprises with pro bono lawyers, TrustLaw strengthens civil society, helps place human rights at the heart of law-making and improves the lives of the world’s most vulnerable people. While TrustLaw partners with organisations working across a broad range of development issues, we focus particularly on five areas of impact which reflect the Thomson Reuters Foundation’s mission:

**Modern Slavery, Women’s Rights, Climate and Resilience, Social Innovation, and Refugee Rights.**



**MODERN SLAVERY**



**WOMEN'S RIGHTS**



**CLIMATE AND RESILIENCE**



**SOCIAL INNOVATION**



**REFUGEE RIGHTS**

# OUR IMPACT



**case study:** first safe house for LGBTI refugees in the UK

**UNITED KINGDOM**



**case study:** policing cyberspace to fight sex crimes and child porn in India

**INDIA**



**case study:** “know your rights”: training migrants and refugees in thailand

**THAILAND**



**case study:** fishing for fairness: ending slavery and labour exploitation in the fishing industry

**PHILIPPINES**



**case study:** a social enterprise structuring guide



## OUR IMPACT

### MODERN SLAVERY

Modern slavery is a crime most often hidden from view, and conviction rates are extremely low the world over. TrustLaw works with its NGO and legal members to map how existing laws are being used to counter modern slavery, and recommend what more needs to be done to combat this crime.

Since 2015,  
Trustlaw has connected

**76**



NGOs and Social Enterprises working on



+



modern slavery

refugee rights

with leading legal teams around the world.



“This research is vital to further our efforts to protecting and empowering marginalised fisherman. TrustLaw fills an important gap in legal knowledge that we, service providers, don’t have. The research gives us an opportunity to lobby for reforms, conduct dialogues and share information with our partners!!”

*Cecilia Flores Oebanda, Visayan Forum Foundation*



## MODERN SLAVERY

### CASE STUDY: FISHING FOR FAIRNESS: ENDING SLAVERY AND LABOUR EXPLOITATION IN THE FISHING INDUSTRY



Visayan Forum Foundation, a non-profit working towards ending modern day slavery in the Philippines, pioneered an advocacy campaign to improve the working conditions of fishers in the island country, particularly within the controversial pa-aling fishing industry.

TrustLaw connected Visayan Forum Foundation to seven law firms, led by Linklaters, to lead a critical examination of the rules and standards that protect fishers across 14 jurisdictions throughout Asia-Pacific, Europe, Africa and the US.

[Pa-aling fishing describes a 40-day expedition whereby a group of 250 male fishers go deepwater fishing under perilous and inhumane circumstances that are equivalent to forced labour.](#)

The report, published in November 2015, revealed that one of the major hurdles for fishers is that they are not explicitly categorised as ‘employees’ and hence do not enjoy the rights and protection provided by employment laws.

There was no dedicated ministry overseeing the fishing industry in the Philippines, and the responsibilities are instead divided up among a multitude of government agencies, which has inevitably led to the policing of fishers’ rights falling through the net.

Following the publication of the research, Visayan Forum Foundation was invited to participate in the pre-boarding checks for fishers, effectively placing the NGO in the frontline of the fight to eliminate unacceptable work practices in the fishing industry. As a result, in June 2016, the Department of Labour and Employment released the Philippines’ first rules and regulations governing the working and living conditions of fishers.



## OUR IMPACT

### WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Upholding the rule of law is fundamental to making progress in the fight for women's rights. TrustLaw connects leading NGOs in the field with top law firms providing crucial legal pro bono support across a range of issue areas where women's rights are threatened. In addition to providing NGOs with free legal assistance, lawyers produce authoritative pro bono research, giving those on the frontline effective tools to demand policy change and ensure the rule of law is used to drive the fight for women's rights.

Since 2015,  
TrustLaw has connected

# 434



NGOs and Social Enterprises working on



women's rights  
with leading legal teams around the world.



"TrustLaw has been instrumental in helping us launch and sustain cutting edge projects that protect the rights of girls and women both nationally and internationally. They have supported our work with Orrick to combat online sexual violence, identified by the FBI as the fastest growing threat to children and teens. The work has been published in a highly acclaimed report "A Call to Action: Ending Sextortion in the Digital Age."

*Carol Robles-Román, President and CEO, Legal Momentum*



## WOMEN'S RIGHTS

### CASE STUDY: PROTECTING VICTIMS OF 'SEXTORTION' WORLDWIDE



'Sextortion' is a pervasive, yet under-reported, form of corruption involving sexual exploitation. Instead of extorting money or material goods from a victim, a 'sextorter' will extract sexual favours from the victim by using intimidation, fear and blackmail. The cost of sextortion is exceptionally high for women's equal rights as citizens, their health and their basic human dignity. Yet corruption involving sextortion generally escapes measurement in standard corruption analyses and is less likely to be reported or prosecuted than other forms of corruption.

In 2015, TrustLaw, in collaboration with the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ) and a global team of law firms (Marval, O'Farrell and Mairal, Hogan Lovells, Mishcon De Reya, Norton Rose Fulbright South Africa, Simba & Simba Advocates, Torys LLP and Rakhee Ditta) launched the guide 'Combating Sextortion: [A Comparative Study of Laws to Prosecute Corruption Involving Sexual Exploitation](#)'.

The study outlined laws and practices relating to the crime in nine jurisdictions, spanning six continents: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Kenya, Mexico, Taiwan, Uganda and the United Kingdom. In 2016, TrustLaw, Legal Momentum and law firm Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe produced a report entitled '[A Call to Action: Ending 'Sextortion' in the Digital Age](#)', taking a more specific look at the United States and at how sextortion has evolved.

Following the publication of the research, Legal Momentum and Orrick embarked on a nation-wide advocacy campaign to update state laws to take into account 'sextortion'. Within a few months, Utah, Arkansas and Alabama had passed the first pieces of legislation in the US which make 'sextortion' a punishable crime.

In 2016, TrustLaw, Legal Momentum and law firm Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe produced a report entitled 'A Call to Action: Ending 'Sextortion' in the Digital Age', taking a more specific look at the United States and at how sextortion has evolved.



## OUR IMPACT

### SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

**35%**

of TrustLaw's members are classified as  
**social enterprises**

The social enterprise movement is expanding rapidly and has vast potential for growth. An important part of TrustLaw's work is collaborating with our network to amplify the impact of this powerful movement for social change and demonstrate what can be achieved through mission-led business models.

Our social enterprise members combine their mission with a commercial outlook, developing pioneering products and services in a wide range of sectors including healthcare, disability, education and renewable energy. As well as connecting them to law firms able to provide free legal services, we work in partnership with social enterprise incubators and other intermediaries to ensure our work has the widest possible reach.



since 2015,  
Trustlaw has connected

**379**

NGOs and Social Enterprises working on



**social innovation**  
with leading legal teams around the world.



## SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

### CASE STUDY: A SOCIAL ENTERPRISE STRUCTURING GUIDE

Around the world, social entrepreneurship is thriving. More and more organisations are taking a market-based approach to finding sustainable solutions and having a positive social impact.

Southeast Asia is no exception – investment continues to blossom, and individuals and organisations that support the space are finding new and diverse ways to help the growing number of social entrepreneurs. In the last few years, governments in the region have started to play an increasingly active role in supporting the sector's evolution.

A key priority for TrustLaw is to support innovative organisations who are addressing environmental, humanitarian and social problems across the globe. TrustLaw – in partnership with law firm Tilleke & Gibbins, the British Council, and United Nations ESCAP – developed the ASEAN Social Enterprise Structuring Guide in 2017 and launched it in Bangkok in March 2018.

The guide identifies the advantages and disadvantages of each structure and sets out the relevant registration procedures, regulatory and governance considerations, tax treatment and finance and fundraising options – an understanding of all of this is so crucial to ensuring the sustainability, good governance and success of a social venture.

**“This guide fills a much-needed gap in the Southeast Asian social enterprise sector for practical corporate structuring advice. As always, TrustLaw identified a very real need and a very practical solution for resolving it, and we were immensely proud to work with them to help achieve that resolution.”**

*Eric M. Meyer,*  
*Tilleke & Gibbin*





## OUR IMPACT

### CLIMATE & RESILIENCE

TrustLaw connects NGOs and social enterprises that are fighting against climate change and building resilient communities around the globe.

Since 2015,  
Trustlaw has connected



# 399

NGOs and Social Enterprises working on



environment



climate change

with leading legal teams around the world.



**“Pro bono is an important way for us to connect people together. It breaks down a lot of internal barriers, and that’s particularly the case for the TrustLaw cases because they often involve working across a number of different jurisdictions, so we get lawyers from different offices and practice groups around the world working on a single project. Not only does the client benefit from multi-jurisdictional advice, but we become a better, more connected global business, so it’s a virtuous circle.”**

**Nicolas Patrick,**

*Partner, International Head of Pro Bono and Corporate Responsibility, DLA Piper*



## CLIMATE & RESILIENCE

### CASE STUDY: CLIMATE POLICY IS GOOD BUSINESS



In December 2015, for the first time in history, the world’s nations came together to agree on tackling climate change. Their goal was to prevent dangerous and irreversible levels of climate change – which is estimated at 2C of warming above pre-industrial times.

This ambitious effort and responsibility to combat climate change and adapt to its effects does not just fall on governments, but on affected businesses all around the world.

In 2015, Business for Social Responsibility (BSR), a non-profit business association and member of a leading business coalition, contacted TrustLaw for legal assistance to gain a better understanding of the policy positions of the 2015 Climate Agreement, COP21.

TrustLaw connected BSR with DLA Piper, who developed a climate policy report setting out key proposals which the business community wanted included in a new global climate agreement. BSR shared this publication widely with negotiators and other delegates intending to participate in COP21. They hoped the research would encourage governments to turn the Paris agreement from a diplomatic settlement between countries into a catalytic instrument for the real economy.

**“We have been absolutely delighted with DLA’s consistent and high-quality partnership on this piece of research and could not have done this without them.”**

**Edward Cameron,**

*Partnership Development and Research (PDR)*



## OUR IMPACT

### REFUGEE RIGHTS

In a world where nearly one person almost every two seconds is forcibly displaced as a result of conflict or persecution, supporting the rights of refugees and asylum seekers is more important now than ever.

Since 2015,  
Trustlaw has partnered with



**100+**

NGOs and Social Enterprises on



international law



refugee rights

with leading legal teams around the world.



**“We represent over 500 displaced families from Syria, Iraq, Somalia and elsewhere, who are desperate to find safety in the United States. Despite the time-sensitive and unpredictable nature of the project, the pro bono lawyers produced high-quality materials to ensure that these vulnerable individuals and their legal representatives are aware of the legal framework and can confidently navigate complex legal processes. Their work has impacted the lives of thousands of people who are affected by the travel ban, including refugees who are persecuted due to their work with the US military, their LGBTI status, or their history as a victim of sexual violence.”**

*Becca Heller, IRAP's Director*



## REFUGEE RIGHTS

### CASE STUDY: DEFENDING THE RIGHTS OF IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES IN THE US



The world is facing the largest refugee crisis since World War II, as of the end of 2017, 68.5 million people are displaced from their homes. The US has long prided itself on championing human rights and the rights of those fleeing persecution – between 1980-2016 the country received approximately 70,000 refugees annually.

Yet on 6 March 2017, US President Donald Trump issued an Executive Order that suspended the US Refugee Admissions Program for 120 days, and banned people from six majority-Muslim countries - Syria, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen - from entering the country for 90 days.

The revised order came on the back of the original travel ban, signed on 27 January, which attempted to bar citizens from seven countries from crossing the US border, and which was blocked by federal judges amidst national protests.

The International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP), a leading non-profit providing legal representation to refugees, immediately mobilised thousands of pro bono lawyers at airports to assist incoming immigrants

and refugees. In addition to offering direct legal advice on the ground, IRAP identified an urgent need to create an online ‘one-stop shop’ to inform affected individuals on their rights and available legal options.

Within a week of the original order being issued TrustLaw teamed up with IRAP, Journey's End Refugee Services and key international law firm partners to put together a ‘Know-Your-Rights Guide’ for those immediately affected. The question-and-answer guide explains the rights of those impacted, as well as available legal recourse, and directs them to relevant hotlines and resources for further support. Federal courts in Maryland and Hawaii have since blocked the order, a decision that was upheld by the Fourth and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

In June 2017, however, the Supreme Court ruled that the order could be implemented on a limited basis, the only exemptions being those who can give evidence of a ‘bona fide relationship’ to a person or entity in the US. Because the court did not provide detailed clarification of what exactly constitutes a ‘bona fide relationship’, the current implementation of the ban has been subject to ambiguous interpretations and ongoing litigation.



## OUR IMPACT

### MEMBERS & SOCIETY

There are many challenges facing the global community, including human rights violations, humanitarian crises, poverty and climate change. By spreading the practice of legal pro bono, TrustLaw drives social change around the world. We support NGOs and social enterprises to create solutions, address global challenges and create sustainable solutions to the world's pressing issues. Over the past three years, TrustLaw's service has created sustainable impact and improved the lives of the world's most vulnerable people.

.....

**"TrustLaw has provided the legal world with a tremendous service, bringing together clients in need with law firms who want to help. It has significantly expanded the marketplace of pro bono activity, helping us live up to our obligation to be good citizens, individually and as a firm."**

*Hugh Verrier, Chairman, White & Case LLP*



## MEMBERS & SOCIETY

### CASE STUDY: LEGAL RESEARCH PROVIDES GROUNDS TO BAN CONVERSION THERAPY FOR LGBT YOUTH



In December 2014, TrustLaw connected Equality Illinois, an NGO dedicated to advancing LGBT rights and social justice, with a team of lawyers at Kirkland & Ellis, facilitating a pro bono research partnership looking at federal and state laws regarding the banning of gay conversion therapy, as well as gay and transgender panic defence.

**"We are incredibly pleased with the outcome of this partnership, which was possible through TrustLaw and the Thomson Reuters Foundation. Kirkland & Ellis' research provided us with the factual foundation needed to educate legislators on this important issue, which was critical in passing the legislation. This law literally saves lives."**

*Angelo Barone,  
Equality Illinois*

Despite lack of scientific evidence on their efficacy to change sexual orientation or gender identity, LGBT youths have long been subjected to conversion therapies, fuelled by the perception that being gay or transgender is a mental disease that should be cured.

**Gay or transgender panic defence is a tactic invoked against charges of assault or murder, wherein the defendant claims to have acted in a state of temporary insanity triggered by the victim's sexual orientation or gender identity.**

Equality Illinois and international law firm Kirkland & Ellis successfully joined forces to produce robust legal research to advocate for the ban of conversion therapy for LGBT youth in Illinois. In May 2015 the Youth Mental Health Protection Act was passed, banning the practice of conversion therapy on minors in Illinois. Illinois became one of only six US jurisdictions with laws which explicitly forbid the use of conversion or reparative therapy, a harmful practice that falsely claims to change a person's sexual orientation, gender identity or expression. The legislative victory was achieved, in great part, thanks to the relentless advocacy efforts of Equality Illinois.



## MEMBERS & SOCIETY

### CASE STUDY: ENDING CHILD MARRIAGE IN THE US, ONE STATE AT A TIME



Susan Landmann

It is increasingly recognised worldwide that child marriage, defined as a formal marriage or informal union before the age of 18, is a human rights violation and a serious barrier to socio-economic development. The US named the fight against child marriage a foreign policy objective, yet early or forced marriage of children continues to be a ubiquitous issue within its own borders.

While most US states set 18 as the minimum age for marriage, exceptions in every jurisdiction exist which allow children younger to wed, typically with parental consent or judicial approval.

As a result of such legal loopholes, Unchained At Last, the only US non-profit dedicated to ending child and forced marriage in the country, estimates nearly a quarter of a million children were married in the US between 2000 and 2010.



Despite the impact on the married girls' health, education and economic welfare, Unchained at Last and other advocates in the same space continue to face overwhelming legal and practical barriers when trying to help child brides.

In March 2016, Unchained at Last approached TrustLaw for free legal advice to underpin their advocacy efforts and outlaw child marriage in New Jersey. Connected by TrustLaw, international law firm White & Case developed a legal memorandum which provided the backbone for the non-profit's campaign to gain legislative support for A3091, the first bill to end child marriage in New Jersey.

The pro bono lawyers examined existing New Jersey laws that relate to child marriage and identified gaps that would justify legal reform. Issues addressed include emancipation rights, minors' ability to access domestic violence shelters and initiate legal action, age of consent for sexual intercourse and the use of marriage as a defence against statutory rape claims.

Despite New Jersey Governor Chris Christie's conditional veto to the bill, Unchained at Last continued its partnership with White & Case and TrustLaw, writing, introducing and advocating for legislation state by state. On 9 May 2018, after years of lobbying US legislators and raising awareness, Unchained saw Delaware become the first state to ban all child marriage without exceptions. On 22 June 2018, New Jersey became the second state in the US to end child marriage. Its founder Fraidy Reiss and her team are already looking to the next state.

**“With TrustLaw and White & Case’s support, the Unchained team and I were able to help achieve an incredible victory. We helped Delaware become the first US state to end child marriage. One down, 49 to go.”**

**Fraidy Reiss,**  
*Unchained at Last*



## MEMBERS & SOCIETY

### CASE STUDY: “KNOW YOUR RIGHTS”: TRAINING MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES IN THAILAND



Across Thailand and in nine camps along the Thai-Myanmar border, 3 million refugees, displaced people and migrants from Myanmar are living in limbo, with limited access to basic education and healthcare. They are unsure of their right to work and stay in Thailand and reluctant to return home to uncertainty.

For more than 30 years, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) has been providing relief to these populations in Thailand, supporting those most vulnerable to be safe, healthy and empowered to make decisions about their lives. In 2017, through TrustLaw, the IRC received legal assistance from the international law firm DLA Piper to research the rights of these refugees and migrant workers and prepare resources and training materials. In a pioneering project, DLA Piper lawyers then led workshops for refugees, migrant workers and IRC staff—empowering them with information on their legal rights and status.

**“For us, one of the great things about this project was the opportunity to work with the IRC in Thailand and actually go into refugee camps to run workshops. I think that was a real life-changing experience for our lawyers who really wanted to find a way to contribute and give back to that community. And I think it was an exceptionally valuable opportunity as well for the refugees and asylum seekers who were able to come, not just to learn about their legal rights, but to also meet lawyers and business people from Thailand, and learn more about the community that they were coming into”**

*Nicholas Patrick,  
DLA Piper*



## MEMBERS & SOCIETY

### CASE STUDY: POLICING CYBERSPACE TO FIGHT SEX CRIMES AND CHILD PORN IN INDIA

In February 2017 Sunitha Krishnan, Founder of Prajwala, an anti-trafficking non profit based in India, received a live video of a 12-year-old girl being gang-raped by eight men, which was circulated on Whatsapp.

Her recommendations included the establishment of a central investigative body that would specialise in cases involving videos of sexual violence, and the creation of a mechanism to allow citizens to submit anonymous reports on such videos without automatically becoming plaintiffs. Importantly, she called for search engines and social media networks to be held responsible for the policing and removal of abusive sexual content circulated on their channels.

The Supreme Court subsequently scheduled a hearing for 21 February 2017, requesting the presence of leading tech companies including Google, Microsoft, Facebook and Yahoo. The court gave Prajwala one week to find out how other countries have addressed this issue, and that’s where pro bono legal help became crucial.

**Public interest litigation is the use of the law to advance human rights and equality, or raise issues of broad public concern. It helps advance the cause of minority or disadvantaged groups or individuals.**

**“This case is a great example of ethical legal work – the lawyers on this project have shown an exemplary commitment to serving society and the public interest. They have demonstrated that even in a commercial environment, the need to protect fundamental human rights can take precedence over business interests.”**  
– Sunitha Krishnan, Prajwala

Prajwala made an urgent plea to TrustLaw to rally an international team of local and foreign-qualified lawyers who could offer expert advice on existing, relevant laws in India, and best practices in other countries, for the reporting and blocking of sex crime videos. Pro bono lawyers from J. Sagar Associates and Torys responded immediately and worked around the clock to canvass a legal memorandum on relevant federal, provincial and state laws in the US, Canada and India which impose sanctions against the distribution of images and videos of sexual violence. The research showed what legislation in India should look like to address this problem and served as the basis for Prajwala’s final submission to the Supreme Court.

Following the hearing, the Supreme Court launched a special technical committee tasked with creating a mechanism for the mandatory reporting and blocking of online content of rape and child porn. Based on the recommendations of the committee, which includes representatives of all tech firms and Prajwala’s own pro bono counsel, the Supreme Court is expected to issue relevant guidelines on the policing of images and videos of sexual violence.



## MEMBERS & SOCIETY

### CASE STUDY: ADVANCING PROPERTY RIGHTS IN LATIN AMERICA

In Latin America, more than 134 million people live in urban settlements known as “slums”, completely cut off from basic services such as schooling and medical care. Slum dwellers do not have any formal rights over the properties they live in. As a result, they face substantial social exclusion, and are at constant risk of eviction.

TrustLaw connected TECHO, a non-profit dedicated to the promotion of housing rights, to PAGBAM and seven other firms. The lawyers worked together to conduct extensive research into property rights across Latin America, looking at issues ranging from informal housing to forced evictions and even “squatters rights”.

In particular, the law firms analysed how Argentina’s federal supreme court had historically framed individual housing rights within the context of international human rights legislation. The result of over a year’s work, [Derecho a una vivienda digna en Latino america](#) is a comprehensive report highlighting best practices in housing inclusion, together with some of the generational consequences related to the lack of property rights across Latin America. The guide is currently being used by TECHO to influence policymakers in the region.

**“This report forms the basis of the right to housing as a human right, a right to decent housing, for families that really need this right to be implemented.”**

*Felipe Correa,*  
TECHO



## MEMBERS & SOCIETY

### CASE STUDY: ENSURING JUSTICE FOR SURVIVORS OF ACID VIOLENCE



Acid violence is on the rise with several thousand attacks occurring across the world every year. However, only a few countries have passed specific laws in relation to the crime.

One of the biggest challenges faced by NGOs working on this issue is a lack of information on the effectiveness of existing laws and the way they have been interpreted by the courts.

TrustLaw connected Acid Survivors Trust International with Baker & McKenzie, J. Sagar Associates, Linklaters and P&A Asia to produce a comparative study on laws and case law relating to acid violence. [Justice? What justice?](#) Tackling acid violence and ensuring justice for survivors analyses data from four different jurisdictions – Cambodia, Colombia, India and the United Kingdom – presenting a comparative legislative framework on how acid attack survivors are

treated and how perpetrators are punished. The report is now being used by Acid Survivors Trust International as an advocacy tool to secure political and judiciary support and to ensure justice for the survivors.

**“The final report proved an essential evidence based component to ASTI’s advocacy and awareness raising work. The report informed much of our work when developing policy briefings to parliamentarians and representatives from the British Government’s Home Office.”**

*Jaf Shah,*  
ASTI

## QUALITY OF OUR SERVICE

The work we do in providing a platform that connects NGOs and social enterprises with pro bono legal support relies not only on the quality of our membership but also on our internal structures and processes. Our ability to expand our reach across the world depends on our ability to meet the changing needs of our membership. We continuously improve and innovate to make sure the programme adapts to the needs of our clients and continue to connect pro bono projects in a timely manner.

**95% of the pro bono clients** who provided feedback **found the pro bono lawyers who assisted them to be helpful**, as they were approachable, had the relevant expertise and explained complex legal issues in plain language.

**We work with more than 850 law firms around the world who provide their lawyers' time, free of charge, to work on pro bono matters generated through TrustLaw. In 2017, 93% of law firms were satisfied with our service and the quality of pro bono clients they assisted.**

Our client members reported that the pro bono assistance received supported the achievement of their social mission, improved understanding of legal issues, and improved their organisational effectiveness. More than half of the client members who responded to the survey reported that the scheme helped them make financial savings that could be used towards their programmes and services.

Law firms found that by working on the pro bono matters curated by TrustLaw it really helped them understand various social issues and, most importantly, it gave them the feeling of being active contributors to social and environmental change.

At TrustLaw we see it as our role to help the wider community of NGOs and social enterprises have strong legal infrastructure and have a good understanding of their legal needs. Between 2015 and 2017, TrustLaw pro bono clients consistently reported that the legal assistance received helped improve their understanding of their organisational legal needs and contributed to achieving their social and environmental impact by being able to divert their funds and staff time to achieving their social mission, instead of spending valuable resources on their legal needs.

## SPREADING PRO BONO PRACTICE 2015 - 2017

**In 2017, 97% of our pro bono client members who provided feedback reported that they were satisfied with the TrustLaw service. This is in comparison with 81% in 2015 and 87% in 2016. Almost three quarters of them stated that the service exceeded their expectations.**



pro bono client member satisfaction



Almost **3/4** of them stated that the service **exceeded their expectations**

**“Dentons’ partnership with TrustLaw has played a key role in allowing us to grow our pro bono practice. Our lawyers have worked on numerous cases supporting charities in our local communities in the UK as well as collaborating with colleagues across our global network, advising on multi-jurisdictional cases.”**

*Bernadette O’Sullivan, CSR Manager, Dentons*



**We have worked with TrustLaw for many years and they are a consummate, highly collaborative, partner. They have invested in getting to know our firm, connecting us with uniquely well-suited opportunities and enabling us to expand our global pro bono programme across so many jurisdictions.”**

*Wendy Atrokhov, Public Service Counsel and Director of Global Pro Bono, Latham & Watkins LLP*



**“More and more around the world, barriers to pro bono are falling, participation is up, and lawyers are excited to make a difference in their jurisdictions and beyond. This sea change is happening in no small part thanks to the TrustLaw Pro Bono Index. The Index plays a vital role in monitoring and encouraging global pro bono. It is an aspirational tool for us to gauge how we’re doing, and inspires us to do more.”**

*Louis O’Neil, Counsel, White & Case*



**“Our lawyers always enjoy the projects we receive from TrustLaw more than the pro bono projects we find on our own, as they present more complex legal issues to work on. More importantly, we know these projects are mission-critical to our pro-bono clients. Through this work, we can have a real impact on the future of the client’s operations. Our firm more than tripled the number of hours devoted to pro bono work over the last year. This great result would not have been possible without the ongoing efforts and support of the TrustLaw team”**

*Andrew Stoutley, Director of Administration, Tilleke & Gibbin*