

Annual Report 2025



Contents

Foreword by LAW's Executive Director	1
A message from LAW's Board – Simon Black	4
In Memoriam: Sir Geoffrey Bindman KC (Hon)	5
01 LAW at a glance	6
Who we are and What we do	6
Where we work	8
How we work	8
Approaches and principles	10
02 Country Highlights	12
Middle East	13
Asia	20
Africa	30
Europe	39
03 Global Programmes	42
Justice and accountability for aid workers	43
Gender Justice Practitioner Hub	45
04 Financials	47
05 Thank You	50

Foreword by LAW's Executive Director



I am proud to present Legal Action Worldwide's 2025 Annual Report. This year has tested the international community's commitment to human rights, gender equality, international law, and international justice like never before. From the first full year of Syria's post-Assad transition and the deepening catastrophe in Palestine, to the continued targeting of aid workers on an unprecedented scale, 2025 has laid bare both the timidity of States to use existing legal tools and avenues to combat impunity, and the fierce determination of those who refuse to let international justice be undermined by political expediency. Through it all, LAW's staff and partners have been on the frontlines and in the courtrooms, working with victims and survivors.

Together, we continued to find strategic, creative and courageous avenues to ensure accountability and justice for those who rightfully demand it. Despite repeated and blatant violations – sometimes documented live on TV and social media – international law is alive and fighting hard. From Ethiopian migrant workers in Lebanon, to conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) survivors in Myanmar, human rights defenders have relentlessly fought for essential principles. Moreover, they have been defending existing, binding and actionable legal tools, designed precisely to protect the most vulnerable from atrocities, impunity, and chaos.

In **Syria**, 2025 marked a historic opening. With the Assad regime gone, an interim administration took its first steps toward transitional justice, including the formal establishment of a National Commission for Transitional Justice and a National Commission for Missing Persons. LAW opened an office in Damascus and, when our partner, the Syrian Centre for Legal Studies and Research, was entrusted with over 450,000 files recovered from the former Terrorism Court, it created both an extraordinary opportunity and a profound responsibility. Despite severe resource constraints, the Centre launched a digitisation initiative, preserving records tied to years of repression. In parallel, our legal team pivoted to address new protection needs, successfully lifting arbitrary travel bans and securing the release of several individuals detained in the post-transition period. In December, we published the first nationwide public opinion survey on justice and accountability conducted inside Syria since the start of the transition – ensuring that the voices of over 1,100 Syrians across 13 governorates can shape the transitional justice debate from within.

In **Lebanon**, the formation of a new government under Prime Minister Nawaf Salam brought cautious optimism after years of paralysis. Progress on judicial reform and the resumption of the Beirut port explosion investigation renewed hope for the families of the victims. We also ensured that victims were heard directly by the EU Special Representative for Human Rights. Against this backdrop, LAW supported Meseret Hailu, an Ethiopian migrant worker, as she gave historic testimony before an Investigative Judge in

Beirut. This marked the first time that a survivor has testified in Lebanon in a case alleging slavery and slave trading under the Kafala system. If this case proceeds to full trial, it will send a powerful message that exploitation can result in criminal accountability. We also delivered our first accredited university Masters course, Public International Law in Action, at Lebanese American University (LAU).

2025 was a catastrophic year for the communities across **occupied Palestinian territory**. In Gaza, thousands continued to be killed while Israel's blockade worsened already unbearable humanitarian and human rights conditions. Multiple UN experts and human rights organisations characterised Israel's conduct as genocidal, and the case of South Africa v. Israel before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) continues. In the West Bank, settler violence reached an all-time high, while aid workers were also injured and killed while protecting others. LAW's Palestine programme continued its vital work, representing Palestinians before judicial fora, and bringing Palestinian, Israeli, and international actors together to develop legal strategies to protect Palestinian human rights. As impunity continues to prevail, creative legal thinking and solidarity are more critical than ever.

In **Ukraine**, we greatly expanded our work with our Ukrainian partners and survivor communities, providing legal assistance to over 700 people and securing 19 favourable court decisions, including an in-absentia conviction of a Russian soldier for CRSV as a war crime. We launched the Global Tracking of Fugitives initiative, profiling 45 suspects and monitoring their movements in real time. When high-level peace negotiations threatened to overlook justice entirely, Ukrainian survivor-led groups firmly rejected proposals for blanket amnesties – and through our advocacy, their voices were heard at the most important fora around the world.

In **Sudan**, LAW and our partner, the Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa (SIHA) Network, responded to the atrocities endured by women and girls through a survivor-centred access to justice intervention. Our work focused on supporting those living with the consequences of grave violations, including mass displacement and conflict related sexual violence, while also expanding assistance along the Chad–Sudan border – where more than 440 survivors accessed legal awareness sessions and consultations, and over 630 survivors were referred for psychosocial support and medical care. Dozens of survivor case files were documented to international evidentiary standards. We also helped establish a survivor led first responder mechanism through the Restore Hope Survivors' Network, and submitted critical documentation to the UN Fact Finding Mission on Sudan concerning international crimes in Gezira State, as well as to the ICC on behalf of 22 Darfuri women survivors of CRSV.

In **Bangladesh**, 2025 was transformative for our **Rohingya programme**. We concluded and launched our landmark report on the lasting impact of genocide on Rohingya children, "They Wanted to Erase Us:" Myanmar's 2017 "Clearance Operations" through the Eyes of Rohingya Children and Genocide, delivered our most ambitious community outreach campaign to date – reaching over 21,000 individuals – and continued to be the only INGO documenting serious international crimes against the Rohingya in Rakhine State, Myanmar while maintaining a permanent presence in the camps in Cox's Bazar. A historic milestone was reached when the UN Human Rights Council, for the first time, explicitly called upon Myanmar to provide reparations to victims (Resolution A/HRC/RES/59/2, para. 14). LAW advocated for these revisions and continued to lead discussions on innovative financing for these measures, including the establishment of a victims' trust fund to ensure reparations are tangible and accessible. We were also invited by the Government of Bangladesh to participate in the high-level Rohingya stakeholders dialogue, ensuring survivor priorities reached the UN General Assembly.

In **Myanmar**, four years after the unlawful coup, CRSV and other atrocity crimes continued with impunity. With our partners, LAW documented nearly 790 CRSV cases, supported three survivor networks, and in October submitted a complaint under the principle of universal jurisdiction on behalf of ten survivors. We also began engagement with authorities in an additional jurisdiction on an open investigation into torture and war crimes. The Alliance Against CRSV-Myanmar, a coalition of 13 women-led organisations which LAW helped establish, formalised its structure and long-term advocacy goals. LAW's comprehensive report "They Thought We'd Stay Silent:" Survivors of Brutal Sexual Violence Fight Impunity in Post-Coup Myanmar, revealed a dramatic escalation of CRSV in regions where such patterns were not previously recorded.

In **Sri Lanka**, the year began with a landmark trafficking conviction – 15 years’ imprisonment for perpetrators who had forced Indonesian women into sexual slavery, in one of the few cases securing a conviction on trafficking charges for sexual slavery. The Gender Justice Legal Network, now 77 lawyers strong, continued to provide pro-bono legal services, and our groundbreaking “HOME” social media campaign and “PRAYAAMA” charity concert reached over a thousand people with critical messages about domestic violence and child abuse. We also supported the submission of key proposals to the Minister of Justice on urgent legal reforms, some of which were identified for immediate implementation.

Our global programmes also broke new ground. The **aid workers programme** – the only one of its kind – provided legal advice and representation to 94 individuals across 13 countries, and 16 individuals detained for their humanitarian work were released, including Tunisian aid workers Mustapha Djemali and Abderrazek Krimi, after 18 months in detention. In September, 113 states signed the Declaration on the Protection of Humanitarian Personnel. As I said at the Sakharov Prize ceremony in Strasbourg: for their commitment to humanity, aid workers were killed, tortured, raped, threatened, and detained. They sacrificed their lives to help others. This cannot go unanswered.

The **Gender Justice Practitioner Hub**, now in its first full year, also made important strides – launching its “Standing Up for Gender Equality” project to counter the well-funded anti-gender movement, and co-organising the Gender Justice in International Criminal Law Conference, which brought together over 1,400 participants in The Hague and online. The conference’s most powerful message was clear: building solidarity means bridging divides. As one participant put it, “this felt like a family reunion – a reminder that these networks are essential to resilience and progress.”

As we look ahead to 2026, the past-year’s successes reinforce our determination to address the immense remaining challenges. International law is under sustained attack, impunity remains entrenched, and the anti-gender movement is gaining ground. But we have built a momentum. We obtained 109 favourable decisions for our clients setting crucial precedents. We supported hundreds of survivors to move from victims to advocates. This tells us something important. Justice is not a distant aspiration, but it is being built, case by case, voice by voice, in courtrooms and communities around the world. And it is very much a realistic, tangible, and accessible outcome, worth fighting for. I am deeply grateful to our team, our Board, our partners, and our donors. Above all, I am grateful to the survivors whose trust, leadership, and courage is the most significant success for us. Together, we will keep fighting for a more just and accountable world.

Moreover, LAW continued its intensive preparations for the historic oral hearings on the merits in *The Gambia v. Myanmar* at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), managing the selection and rigorous preparation of a delegation of witnesses and victims who will travel to The Hague to participate in the hearings. This represents a historic milestone, as it will be the first time Rohingya survivors testify directly before the World Court.



Antonia Mulvey

Founder and Executive Director,
Legal Action Worldwide

A message from LAW's Board – Simon Black



I am honoured to write this message on behalf of Legal Action Worldwide's Board at the close of a year marked by extraordinary suffering, but also by extraordinary courage. Across the world in 2025, civilians continued to bear the devastating cost of armed conflict, repression, and systematic violence. International humanitarian law and human rights law have been openly violated, selectively applied, and too often discounted when politically inconvenient. The resulting erosion of accountability risks normalising cruelty and fostering despair.

Yet this is precisely where LAW has chosen to stand firm. In a global environment where cynicism toward justice is growing, LAW has remained resolutely committed to the belief that accountability is not optional, aspirational, or symbolic, but essential. The organisation has continued to place victims and survivors at the centre of every strategy, case, and advocacy effort, supporting them not only as recipients of justice, but as leaders in its pursuit. Under the exceptional leadership of Antonia Mulvey, and with the dedication of LAW's teams and partners, the organisation has met 2025's challenges with resilience, creativity, and principle. From historic openings for justice in Syria, to survivor-led resistance against amnesties in Ukraine; from Rohingya survivors preparing to testify before the world's highest court, to Ethiopian migrant workers confronting slavery in Lebanon's courts; from aid workers emerging from unjust detention, to women survivors speaking up in Sudan, Myanmar, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Somalia, and beyond; LAW has demonstrated what survivor-centred justice looks like in practice.

These achievements required courage in the face of threats, flexibility in volatile political landscapes, and an unwavering refusal to compromise on fundamental rights. They also required trust. A trust placed in LAW by survivors who continue to share their stories and persist in their demand that the world listen. To those survivors, I express the Board's admiration and deepest gratitude. Your strength, determination, and leadership define this organisation's purpose. By standing with LAW, you are not only asserting your own right to justice; you are helping to ensure that others know they are not alone, and that accountability remains possible even in the darkest times. The Board also extends its sincere thanks to LAW's staff, partners, and donors. Together, you ensure that LAW remains a lifeline for victims and survivors, and a steadfast defender of international law when it is most under threat. I am profoundly proud of what LAW has accomplished in 2025. The organisation has demonstrated that justice is not an abstract ideal, but a tangible process, built case by case, voice by voice. LAW will keep pushing forward until accountability is no longer the exception, but the expectation.

Simon Black

Director of the board & Swiss Committee

In Memoriam

Sir Geoffrey Bindman KC (Hon)



3 January 1933 – 4 November 2025

Legal Action Worldwide mourns the loss of our board member, mentor, and friend, Sir Geoffrey Bindman KC (Hon), who passed away on 4 November 2025 at the age of 92. His loss is felt profoundly by the countless survivors whose lives have been touched, directly and indirectly, by his decades of unwavering service to the cause of human rights.

Geoffrey was one of the defining human rights lawyers of his generation. Born in Newcastle upon Tyne and educated at Oriel College, Oxford, he qualified as a solicitor in 1959 and went on to help shape modern British equality and civil liberties law. He served as legal adviser to the Race Relations Board from 1966 and then to the Commission for Racial Equality until 1983, building and enforcing the legal framework against racial discrimination in the United Kingdom. In 1974, he founded Bindman & Partners (now Bindmans LLP) on the enduring principle that the law should protect the rights and freedoms of ordinary people.

His influence reached far beyond the United Kingdom. He investigated apartheid as part of an International Commission of Jurists delegation to South Africa, edited the resulting volume *South Africa and the Rule of Law*, and later served as a United Nations observer at that country's first democratic election. He represented Amnesty International's interests in the Pinochet proceedings before the House of Lords – a case that did much to establish the modern reach of universal jurisdiction. He helped found the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture, chaired the British Institute of Human Rights, and served on the boards of REDRESS, Lawyers for Palestinian Human Rights, the International Centre of Justice for Palestinians and, to our great fortune, Legal Action Worldwide (LAW).

For LAW, Geoffrey was an invaluable presence from the outset. His command of strategic litigation, his insistence on intellectual rigour, and his refusal to settle for timid advocacy strengthened every initiative he touched. He asked the hardest questions, and urged us toward the bolder path, always rooted in principle. His approval was hard won and all the more meaningful for it. Beyond the boardroom, he was a source of warmth, wit, and quiet encouragement, generous with his time to junior and senior colleagues alike.

Knighthood in 2007 for services to human rights and appointed Honorary King's Counsel in 2011, Geoffrey wore his distinctions lightly. What animated him was not accolade but principle, including the conviction that human rights stand above and beyond politics, and that the law is at its best when wielded on behalf of those who most need it.

We are immensely grateful to have walked a stretch of that path alongside him. The mantle now passes to all of us to carry his work forward.

The Board and Team

Legal Action Worldwide

LAW at a glance



Who we are and what we do

Legal Action Worldwide is an independent non-profit association composed of creative human rights lawyers and jurists, unified in our belief that those who have experienced grave human rights violations, should receive targeted, survivor-centred, gender-competent and trauma-informed support to access the justice they deserve. LAW's team works on the ground in conflict contexts combining national and international expertise with a deep understanding of victim and survivor needs and wishes. This approach provides a unique opportunity to address violence experienced; to bring national, regional and international attention to the situation and to break the cycle of impunity and recurrence.



LAW places survivors at the centre of the drive for justice and empowers them in transforming from victim, to survivor to advocate. We work directly with survivors and their communities, building their capacity to meaningfully engage with justice and advocacy processes. Alongside this, we provide technical assistance to strengthen justice institutions to ensure they are equipped to deliver the justice that survivors need, and work with legislators to promote accountability and the rule of law. In collaboration with survivors, their communities and national justice actors, LAW undertakes creative accountability strategies, including strategic litigation at national, regional and international levels. These initiatives are driven by victim and survivor justice priorities, whether this be criminal justice, state accountability, reparations or truth – transformative justice, tailored to the needs of those who need it most.



Our Vision

"A world where all victims and survivors have access to justice, so that impunity is not a barrier to sustainable peace."



Our Mission

"To empower individuals and communities who have suffered from human rights violations and international crimes to obtain justice and strengthen institutions to deliver justice to them."

Where we work



LAW works across 5 main geographical areas:

Africa	Asia-Pacific	Middle East	Americas	Europe
Ethiopia, Kenya (regional office), Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tunisia	Bangladesh (regional office), Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Australia	Jordan, Lebanon (regional office), Iraq, occupied Palestinian territory, Turkey	Argentina, US	Switzerland (HQ), Ukraine

How we work



Legal aid: We empower survivors and their communities to regain agency by providing legal information, assistance and representation to those who have experienced serious human rights violations and abuses, including gender-based violence, in conflict-affected areas.



Strategic litigation: We seek to bring about transformative changes in the law, practice or public awareness by bringing carefully selected cases in domestic, regional and international courts and other justice mechanisms. In doing so, the security and protection of claimants and witnesses is paramount.



Technical Assistance: We provide advice and mentoring to legal, justice and civil society actors, strengthening their ability to protect, assist, and represent victims and survivors. We work with justice institutions and national partners to strengthen their ability to deliver effective, survivor-centred, gender-competent justice and to uphold human rights and the rule of law.



Advocacy: We amplify the voices of survivors and raise awareness and understanding of their issues, experiences, and their fight for justice. We place survivors at the centre of advocacy efforts and increase their capacity to design and implement their own initiatives. All of LAW's work is supported by in-depth research and policy analysis.

LAW's key thematic focuses are:



Addressing Discrimination

Discrimination often underlies the human rights violations faced by survivors and victims assisted by LAW. Many clients, including minors, experience discrimination based on gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, expression, and sex characteristics. This gender-based discrimination can manifest as sexual and gender-based violence, affecting individuals across the gender spectrum. Discrimination also occurs due to other inherent traits like race, nationality, ethnicity, or disability. These various forms of discrimination frequently intersect, compounding challenges for individuals. LAW recognizes that addressing these interconnected issues is crucial in its work to protect human rights and support victims.



Ending Impunity

The lack of accountability for perpetrators of serious human rights violations and international crimes is a central factor in the continuation of these acts. LAW works to ensure that where such conduct occurs, those most responsible are held accountable, be they state actors, military actors, non-state actors, humanitarian actors, other private individuals, or corporate entities.



Securing transformative Justice

Justice must bring about change for those who need it – victims and survivors must not end up in a situation which is the same or worse than that in which they started. This may require reparations, legislative or policy reform, or significant changes in attitudes. Transformative justice seeks to provide guarantees of non-recurrence rights violations and promote truth-telling. It must be locally driven and inclusive, recognising that different communities and different individuals (men, women, children, LGBTQI+ communities, etc) experience conflict and human rights violations in different ways: not only in the types of violations but also in terms of their long-term impact.



Strengthening Access to Justice and the Rule of Law

Working towards the removal of the barriers that prevent victims and survivors from accessing justice. This entails adopting a survivor-centred approach when supporting and working directly with the communities and victims that LAW represents and supporting other actors in adopting a survivor centred approach, strengthening justice institutions to better accommodate survivors and victims, no matter their background or social status, gender identity, sexual orientation, nationality, race, ethnicity, age or other status.

Approaches and Principles

Holistic and Trauma-informed:

LAW works in coordination with other organisations to build robust referral systems to ensure that survivors and victims receive a holistic set of services, including medical, psychosocial and other essential services. All legal services are trauma-informed.

Gender Proactive:

LAW recognises the different experiences of women, men, girls and boys, as well as members of LGBTQI+ communities, affected by human rights violations and abuses. Their concerns and experiences are fundamental in the design, implementation, and approaches of LAW's legal assistance programmes. Additionally, LAW works directly on gender equality and gender justice issues – tackling head-on deeply rooted stereotypes and prejudices which prevent the meaningful participation of these groups in justice, transition or peacebuilding efforts. LAW recognises that without addressing gender discrimination, cycles of violence will continue – within families, communities and even on an international scale.

Intersectional and Feminist:

In addition to being gender proactive, LAW's approach is explicitly feminist. It seeks to dismantle patriarchal structures which perpetuate discrimination and inequality, and which undermine peace and security. Alongside this, LAW acknowledges that multiple identities, (including race, class, ethnicity, sexuality, disability) may shape individual experiences – we seek to centralise voices which have traditionally been marginalised, address other structural drivers of inequality and foster inclusivity at all levels.

Survivor and Victim-Centred:

Understanding the justice priorities and demands of the victims and survivors with which LAW works takes precedence and informs project design, including objectives, from retributive

justice, through to reparations and non-recurrence. Moreover, where safe and appropriate to do so, LAW will seek to empower survivors and victims by enabling them to lead justice efforts. This approach amplifies survivor voices in their fight for justice and ensures that they play a directing role in advocacy initiatives. Through this process survivors are empowered to act as advocates for themselves, their community, as Champions for Justice.

Locally driven:

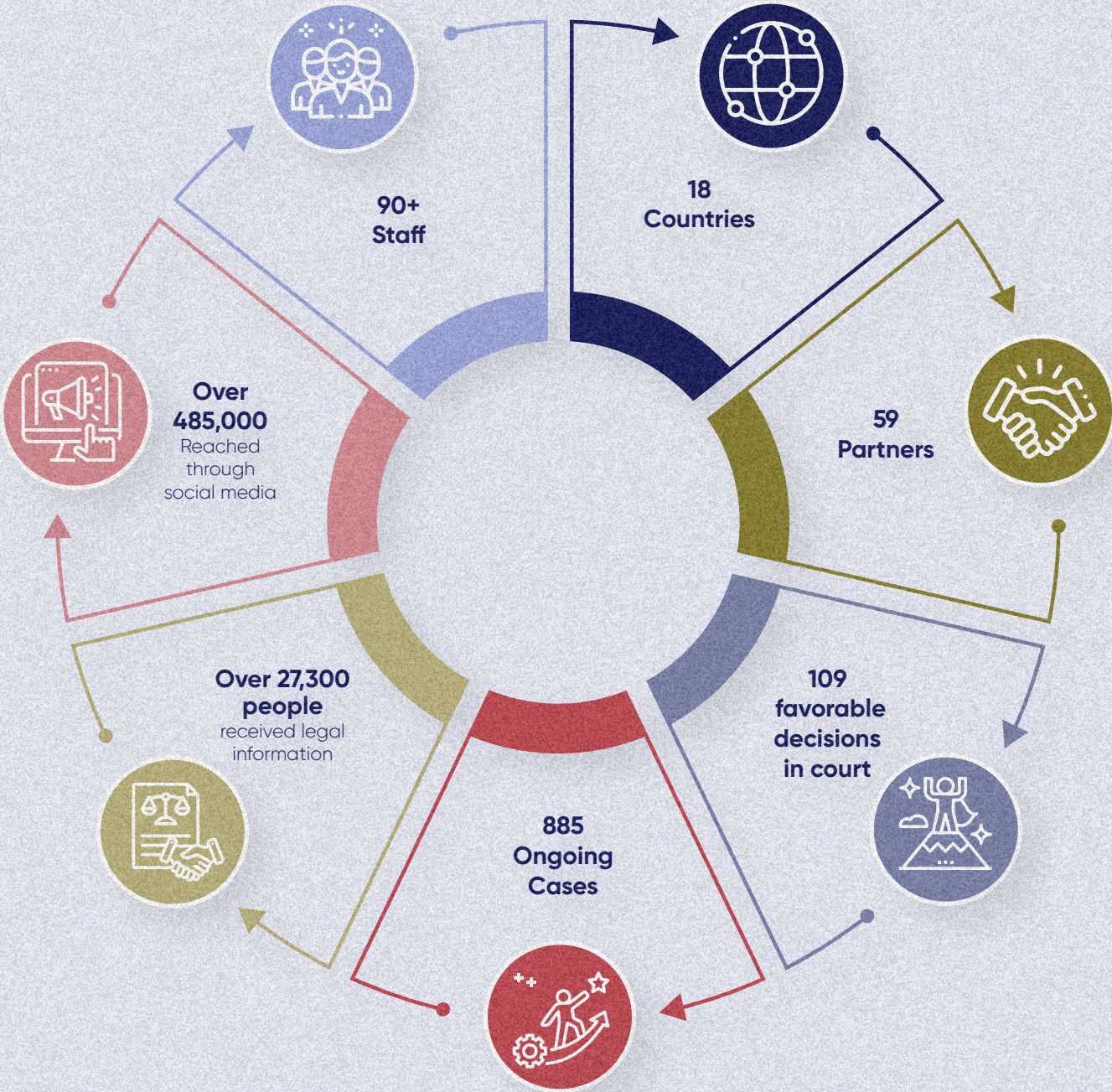
LAW understands that, where possible, justice at home is often more tangible for a larger number of beneficiaries. Additionally, the impact of technical assistance to national justice institutions has far more impact on the reestablishment of the Rule of Law and plays a role in guarantees of non-recurrence of mass human rights violations and international crimes.

LAW prioritises working intensively over extensively:

With a long-term presence in the field, LAW forms significant and lasting relationships with survivors and victims. In doing so, these individuals and communities benefit from the ability to ask questions over time and to be continually consulted and updated (victims / survivors) and mentored and advised (justice actors). Equally, LAW benefits from an in-depth knowledge of community desires, needs and interests as they evolve over time, learning from their feedback and providing input into projects.

Collaborative and supportive:

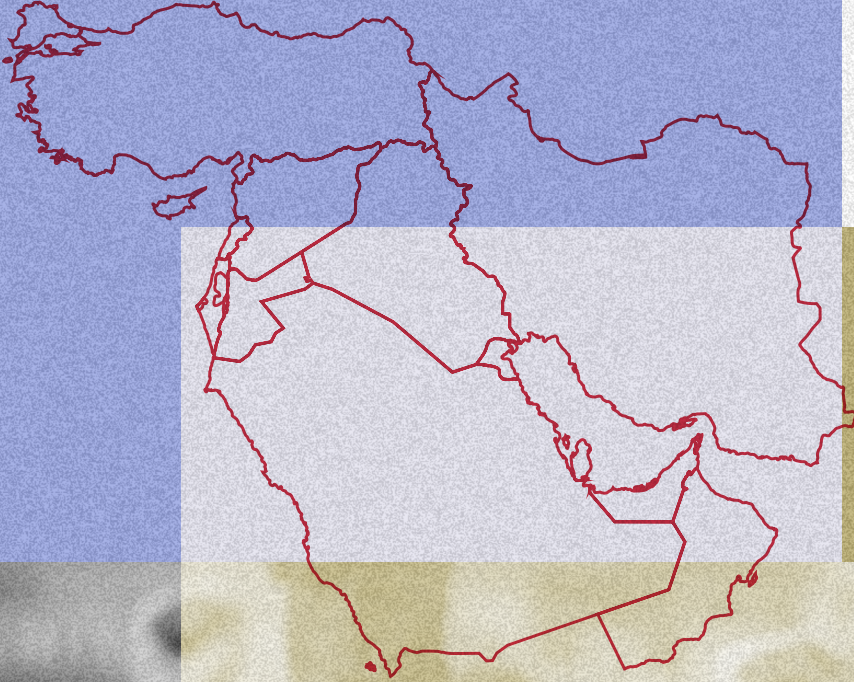
LAW leverages existing expertise and seeks to foster impactful partnerships and networks – both externally and internally. By creating working groups, mentorships, and allowing for flexibility in work arrangements when possible, LAW strives to create an environment that balances the professional and personal lives of all who work for LAW and with LAW.



Country Highlights



Middle East



27 May 2025: Meseret Hailu, an Ethiopian migrant worker enslaved and abused in Lebanon's Kafala system for over eight years, testified for the first time before an Investigative Judge at Baabda Palace in Beirut.



Lebanon

In 2025 Lebanon took a significant step out of political paralysis with the formation, in February, of a full government headed by Prime Minister Nawaf Salam, ending four years of caretaker rule and ushering in a period of cautious optimism. Salam and his cabinet set out an ambitious reform agenda aimed at restoring public trust in the state and strengthening key institutions after years of economic and political crisis. Among the most notable developments was progress on judicial reform. Parliament

approved a new law on the independence of the judiciary that introduced greater self-governance for judges, expanded internal elections, and tasked the Supreme Judicial Council with developing a judicial code of conduct. Although the law was sent back to Parliament for reconsideration by President Joseph Aoun, it represents a significant, albeit incomplete, step toward judicial autonomy. **At the same time, investigative Judge Tarek Bitar resumed the long-stalled probe into the 4 August 2020 Beirut port explosion** after more than two years of delay, renewing summonses and moving procedures forward with the support of the new government. This offered families of victims a renewed sense of hope for accountability in one of the nation's most painful unresolved tragedies.

Against this backdrop of cautious institutional reform and renewed accountability efforts, LAW continued working to ensure that Lebanon's justice system becomes genuinely people-centred—expanding access to justice for the most vulnerable, amplifying victims' voices, and reinforcing judicial performance through strategic litigation, legal empowerment, and international engagement.

In March 2025, we organised a roundtable with eight NGOs and other stakeholders to discuss legal barriers, stigma, and possible reforms concerning marginalised individuals, especially LGBTQI+ persons. On behalf of the Beirut blast victims, we also continued our advocacy and survivor support efforts, and pressure for accountability by continuing to demand a transparent and independent investigation by Lebanese authorities and continued to seek other justice avenues.

In May 2025, LAW supported Ethiopian migrant worker Meseret Hailu as she gave **historic testimony** before an Investigative Judge in Beirut. Her appearance marked the first time ever a survivor has testified in Lebanon in a case alleging slavery, slave trading, torture, and racial and gender discrimination under the Kafala system. Meseret's bold testimony follows her groundbreaking 2020 complaint against her former employer and recruitment agency, in which she described years of exploitation, abuse, passport confiscation, non-payment of wages, and severe restrictions on her freedom.

Despite significant personal and security challenges, Meseret travelled to testify from rural Ethiopia, demonstrating extraordinary courage in confronting her alleged abuser in court. Her case represents a critical test of accountability within Lebanon’s Kafala system. This case should proceed to full trial, including to send a clear message to employers in Lebanon and across the region that exploitation and abuse can result in criminal accountability, and to **reinforce efforts to combat human trafficking**. The decision on whether the case will advance now rests with a three-judge panel, with a ruling expected in early 2026.

“What I went through still haunts me. It’s not easy to move on, to work, to live, after such trauma. But being able to speak my truth in front of a judge is a powerful step. I hope it becomes a turning point, not just for me, but for all migrant workers who deserve justice, dignity, and a voice.”

Meseret Hailu, Ethiopian migrant worker enslaved and abused in Lebanon’s Kafala system for over eight years



Meseret Hailu, from Ethiopia, is the first ever survivor to testify in Lebanon in a case alleging slavery and slave trading under the Kafala system.

Public International Law in Action



Dr. Mourad Wahba, Acting Head of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), joined the final session of our university-level course at LAU alongside Antonia Mulvey.

In Autumn 2025, **LAW delivered its first-ever accredited university-level Master’s course**, Public International Law in Action, in partnership with Lebanese American University (LAU). Led by LAW’s Executive Director Antonia Mulvey, the course brought international law to life through a dynamic, practice-oriented curriculum grounded in real cases and current accountability efforts.

Through immersive case studies – including proceedings before the International Criminal Court (ICC), regional human rights courts, and domestic courts applying universal

jurisdiction – students engaged directly with contemporary accountability efforts in Bangladesh, Myanmar, Ethiopia, Lebanon, and beyond. A hallmark of the course was its distinguished guest faculty, highlighted by a special final lecture from Mourad Wahba, Acting Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

In November 2025, LAW supported the mission of the EU Special Representative for Human Rights to Lebanon by ensuring that victims’ voices were directly reflected in high-level EU engagement. We facilitated and supported victims of the Beirut port explosion to engage with the EUSR, enabling them to raise their demands for justice, accountability, and judicial independence directly with EU representatives.

2025 marked the first full year in Syria without Assad family rule in over half a century.



2025 marked the first full year in Syria without Assad family rule in over half a century, following the collapse of the previous regime in late 2024 and the formation of an interim administration tasked with steering a multi-year transition. A provisional constitutional framework was introduced to govern this period, alongside a national dialogue process aimed at setting priorities for institutional reform, civil liberties, and political restructuring.

Central to this new phase has been **the formal establishment of transitional justice mechanisms**, including a National Commission for Transitional Justice mandated to address systematic violations committed under the former regime, and a National Commission for Missing Persons tasked with clarifying the fate of the missing and disappeared. At the same time,

the Ministry of Justice has initiated investigations into former officials associated with repression during the Assad era, including figures such as former interior minister Mohammad al-Shaar and head of the Air Force Intelligence Directorate Ibrahim Huweiji, signalling a notable shift away from entrenched impunity. While these steps represent significant institutional developments, the processes remain at an early and delicate stage, constrained by limited capacity, political sensitivities, and high public expectations from victims and survivors seeking credible, inclusive, and independent accountability.

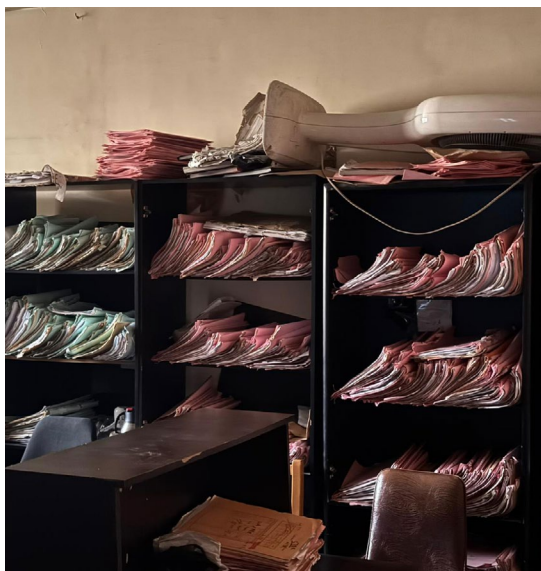
In this new and rapidly shifting context, LAW adapted its legal strategies to respond to emerging protection needs, safeguard critical evidence, and lay foundations for future accountability and transitional justice. In the aftermath of the regime's collapse, the Ministry of Justice entrusted our partner, Syrian Centre for Legal Studies and Research, with an estimated **450,000+ files recovered** from the former Terrorism Court. This unprecedented handover created both an opportunity and a profound responsibility to safeguard an immense body of legal records tied to years of repression.

Despite severe resource constraints, the Centre launched a digitisation initiative to begin preserving and organising this material. To date, more than **820 files have been digitised**, including records relating to detention, enforced disappearance, human rights violations, and judicial and security decisions. While this represents only a small fraction of the total archive, it marks an important first step in securing highly vulnerable documentation that might otherwise be lost, damaged, or misused.

Alongside digitisation, the Centre began organising essential information from these files into a centralised legal database, laying the groundwork for future legal review and accountability processes. Work has also started to connect related records in order to better understand patterns of violations and institutional responsibility. Although the scale of the task far exceeds current capacity, this initiative establishes a foundation for preserving legal memory and ensuring that critical evidence remains accessible for future justice efforts.



In February 2025, LAW's team visited the records room in Palestine Branch which had been torched by the Assad regime when it fell.



Over 450,000 files were recovered from the former Terrorism Court in the aftermath of the Assad regime's collapse.

As 2025 progressed, individuals who had been persecuted under the former regime began encountering new and complex legal challenges, reflecting the difficulties of navigating a transitioning legal and political system. Our legal team in Syria redirected its efforts toward **addressing arbitrary travel bans** imposed for political and security-related reasons. Dozens of travel ban orders were reviewed, revealing significant procedural and constitutional violations. In response, our lawyers filed appeals before administrative courts and relevant authorities, submitting urgent requests to suspend the execution of the bans. These efforts resulted in the lifting of travel bans in nearly all cases handled, including the successful removal of entry bans affecting two entire families, comprising eight individuals. In parallel, LAW represented three individuals arrested during the post-transition period for violations related to freedom of movement, privacy, and expression. All three were successfully released. Together, these interventions reinforced due process protections and affirmed core civil liberties during a fragile and evolving transition.

“Justice means equality before the law and recognition of the rights of every human being without discrimination.”

A 31-year-old Syrian man shares his views on justice as part of LAW's landmark perceptions of justice survey in Syria



Moreover, through LAW's office in Damascus and our mobile justice units, primarily operating in Aleppo and Idlib governorates, we provided free legal advice and legal support in community settings, including to underserved and remote communities.

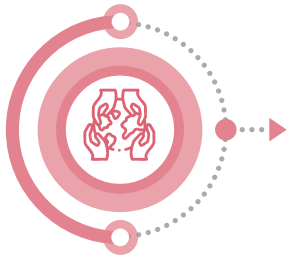
In December 2025, LAW published **A Call for Transformative Justice: Perceptions of Justice in the Syrian Arab Republic in the Early Phase of Transition**.

The report presents the findings of the first nationwide public opinion survey on justice and accountability conducted inside Syria since the start of the country's transitional phase. Based on responses from 1,101 Syrians across 13 governorates and diverse ethnic, religious, and socio-economic backgrounds, the study provides an empirically grounded snapshot of how Syrians themselves define justice, assess trust in institutions, and prioritise transitional justice mechanisms. It offers one of the most comprehensive datasets to date on domestic perceptions of justice in Syria—ensuring that transitional justice policy debates are informed not only by legal frameworks and international practice, but by the voices of Syrians themselves.

Key findings of the perceptions of justice report include:



Justice is defined in transformative terms: Nearly half of respondents define justice as the restoration of rights, with others emphasising equality, the rule of law, and rebuilding the foundations of peaceful coexistence.



Justice is essential for peace: 91% of respondents say justice is necessary to achieve lasting peace in Syria.



Accountability remains central: 63% rank punishment of perpetrators as their top priority, and 83% place it among their top three justice measures.



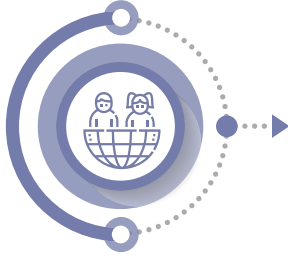
Blanket amnesties lack public support: 84% reject blanket amnesties for serious crimes.



Truth matters: 89% say an accurate and accessible historical record of the conflict is important or very important.



Survivor participation is a core expectation: 85% say victim participation in justice processes is important or very important, rising to 76% among those who experienced detention.



Women and minorities articulate the strongest demands for rights, equality, protection, and institutional reform.

Occupied Palestinian Territory



In the West Bank, Israeli-sanctioned violence and settlement expansion further continued in 2025.

2025 was a catastrophic year for people living in the occupied Palestinian territories. In Gaza, Palestinians continued to be killed in the thousands, while Israel's blockade on aid and its restrictions on electricity, water, fuel, and other essentials sharply worsened already alarming humanitarian conditions. Multiple UN experts and human rights organisations continued to characterise Israel's conduct as genocidal. These experts' views were reflected in the case of *South Africa v. Israel* for breaches of the Genocide Convention, pending before the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

Despite the ICJ case, Israeli attacks against schools, hospitals, and those delivering humanitarian assistance have largely gone unaddressed. In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, Israeli-sanctioned violence and settlement expansion further continued, as attacks against Palestinian communities by Israeli settlers reached an all-time high in 2025. While a number of states formally recognised Palestine throughout the year, an overall inaction to prevent atrocity crimes from being committed meant the continuing lack of adherence to international law. This also enabled impunity to breed more violence, with increased suffering for Palestinians.

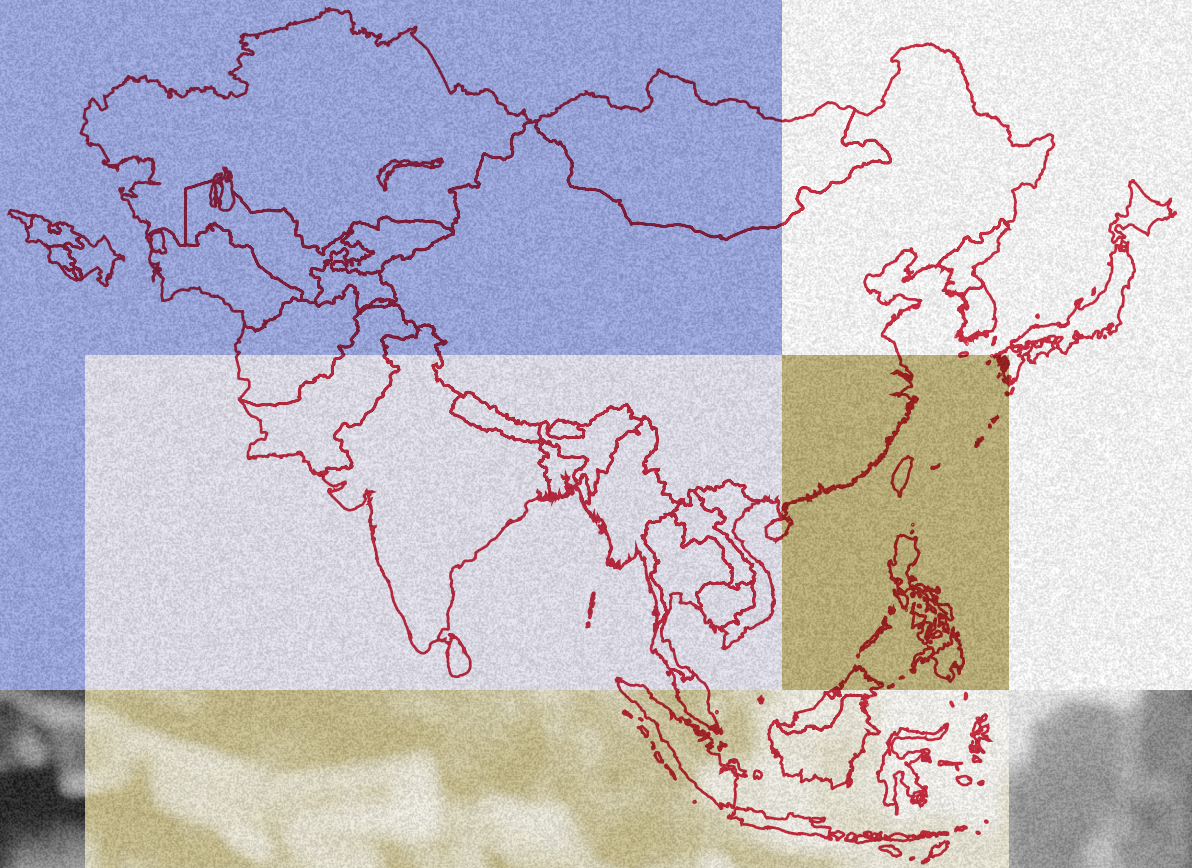
At its core, LAW's Palestine programme centres on bringing Palestinian, Israeli, and international actors together to **develop legal strategies to protect Palestinian human rights**. These dialogues were critical in allowing creative legal thinking, the sharing of expertise, and support for the development of essential litigation initiatives. We further support a number of strategic legal cases related to Palestine taking place in jurisdictions around the world, including through challenges before Israeli courts, and ensure dozens of Palestinians who have experienced human rights violations are supported in accessing justice.

In 2025, alongside partners, LAW supported Fahkri and Amina Abu Diab, community leaders from East Jerusalem, whose home was destroyed by Israeli police, in their communication to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing.

“*The police arrived in the morning, sealed off the area, and stormed the house brutally. It felt like they came to kill us, not just demolish our home. My wife, children, and I were forced outside as the bulldozers moved in, destroying everything. They erased our past, our memories, and our future. Can one sleep peacefully after being uprooted from the place that holds their most beautiful memories?*”

Fahkri and Amina Abu Diab, Occupied East Jerusalem

Asia



Rohingya Crisis



The Kutupalong refugee camps, in Bangladesh, host over a million people, including hundreds of thousands of children.

LAW is currently the only INGO working on the documentation of serious international crimes committed against the Rohingya in Myanmar while maintaining a permanent presence in the camps. 2025 was a transformative year for LAW's work in Bangladesh, marked by significant strides in research, international litigation, and the deepening of the Rohingya survivor-led movement for accountability. Operating against a backdrop of regional instability, including escalating conflict in Myanmar's Rakhine State and a shifting political landscape in Bangladesh, LAW remained steadfast in ensuring that Rohingya survivors are not merely beneficiaries of justice, but its primary architects.

Large-scale Information Dissemination

The unstable situation and limited access to education, particularly legal education, in the refugee camps in Cox's Bazar remains a breeding ground for rumours and misinformation in relation to international justice mechanisms. It also leads to mismatched expectations and frustrations with international law and courts within the Rohingya community. In order to reduce these rising tensions, and utilising LAW's roster of information series videos, we executed our most ambitious outreach campaign to date in 2025. The multi-tiered strategy was designed to bridge the gap between understanding complex legal proceedings in The Hague and the daily reality of the Rohingya in the camps.



Survivor-Led Outreach: LAW's network of 70 Survivor Advocates served on the frontline, conducting weekly community sessions that reached **11,459 individuals** across several refugee camps in 2025.



Professional Dissemination: A specialised team of trained Rohingya disseminators conducted intensive in-person sessions for an additional **9,698 community members**, focusing on sharing technicalities of the ICC and ICJ processes and current updates in all on-going accountability efforts. These sessions achieved a 97.6% satisfaction rate in participant understanding.



Digital Reach via Influential Community Voices: To achieve mass scale information sharing, LAW collaborated with Influential Community Voices – Rohingya leaders and digital creators with vast social media followings. By producing social media content based on LAW's animated educational videos, the campaign generated over **302,111 views**, effectively countering rumours and managing community expectations.

A Frontline Movement: The Survivor Advocates Network

The **Survivor Advocates** network remains the heart of LAW's permanent presence in Cox's Bazar. This group of 70 dedicated individuals, comprising 31 women, 31 men, and 8 members of the hijra (third gender) community, are frontline advocates and champions for international justice and supporting accountability efforts related to their community.



Capacity Building: Throughout 2025, LAW delivered 49 comprehensive training sessions, covering international justice mechanisms, Women, Peace and Security frameworks, gender equality, and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS).



Representation and Leadership: Beyond their work in the camps, the Survivor Advocates acted as the community's diplomats, meeting with high-level international delegations, including EU Parliamentarians and various Ambassadors, to advocate for their rights and provide community perspectives on the Rohingya crisis.

“Koioyyasiri village had 2,500 people but only 100 people are left now. They [Arakan Army] killed everyone in that village ... They burned the whole village, killed people, shot everyone. I was with them when they were doing all this; I was trying to convince them to stop. After a point, I sat down and started crying, it was so unbearable.”

RU (male, 29, former teacher, arrived in Bangladesh October 2025)

“There is a war going on between the Arakan Army and Myanmar Military and Rohingya are being forced to participate. The AA is putting the Rohingya at the frontline so that we die first, instead of the Mog [Rakhine] people. The AA would also take young girls from our village if they saw them grazing cattle in the field. The girls used to cry a lot after they were released. All the villagers were afraid to ask them what the Arakan Army did to them.”

FB (female, 26, widow, arrived in July 2025)

“Our group of survivor advocates (Shanti Mobila/Peace Women) fight for justice for the Rohingya. We work to hold Myanmar accountable for the violence our community suffered: the killings, the burnt houses, the forcible displacement. When we manage to bring sensitive information about people's suffering before international courts such as the ICC and the ICJ, it makes me feel really proud.”

Salma, Rohingya Survivor Advocate



In October 2025, Antonia Mulvey visited Cox's Bazar and met with the Rohingya survivor advocates, including Yousuf, Salma* and Monaira,* who were preparing to travel to The Hague for the full merits hearings on The Gambia v. Myanmar genocide case, scheduled in January 2026.

Monitoring on-going atrocities in Rakhine State

Following a significant influx of newly arriving refugees fleeing the recent fighting, LAW continued to conduct interviews and information-gathering sessions. This documentation is vital for providing fresh evidence to the ICC and the Independent Investigative Mechanism on Myanmar (IIMM) regarding the continued targeting of the Rohingya.

As conflict intensified in Myanmar throughout 2024 and 2025 (see section on the Myanmar post-coup programme), we adapted our documentation efforts to capture the realities of the on-going violence in Rakhine State.



In Cox's Bazar, LAW works with the women-led survivor group Shanti Mohila (Peace Women), to disseminate legal information within the refugee camps.

“Justice is essential for the Rohingya – we have been persecuted for more than 50 years in Myanmar. In 2017, many of us were driven out of our country and forced to take refuge in Bangladesh. If those responsible for this injustice are held accountable, this cycle of torture and persecution can finally end! The Rohingya no longer wish to be victims of genocide and displacements.”

Yusuf, Rohingya Survivor Advocate

A Historic Shift for Reparations: The 59th Session of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC)

In July 2025, a significant milestone was reached at the UN Human Rights Council (HRC). For the first time, the HRC resolution on the Situation of human rights of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar, explicitly called upon Myanmar to **ensure “reparations” for the victims and survivors** of the past and on-going grave human rights violations and atrocity crimes committed at the hands of the Myanmar military (Resolution A/HRC/RES/59/2, para. 14). LAW advocated for these revisions and continues to lead discussions on innovative financing for these measures, including the establishment of a victims' trust fund to ensure reparations are tangible and accessible.

High-Level Stakeholder Dialogue: A Roadmap for Justice and Repatriation

In a significant recognition of its expertise, LAW was invited by the Government of Bangladesh to participate in the high-level Rohingya stakeholders dialogue held in Cox's Bazar in August 2025. The dialogue featured an opening address by Chief Adviser Dr. Muhammad Yunus and served as a critical platform for shaping the discussions at the UN General Assembly (UNGA) later in the year, ensuring that survivor priorities were integrated into high-level international policy.

LAW advocated for a roadmap where justice extends beyond courtrooms to include the restoration of citizenship, identity, and the implementation of reparative measures. This approach ensures that any future return to Myanmar is anchored in the fundamental rights and dignity of the survivors.

Impact of Genocide on Children



December 2025 saw the conclusion and global launch of our landmark research report: **“They Wanted to Erase Us:” The Lasting Impact of Genocide on Rohingya Children**. This multi-disciplinary work – launched at the ICC ASP in The Hague – provides the first comprehensive look at the long-term physical, psychological, and social consequences of the 2017 “clearance operations” on the younger generation of Rohingya.

The study was built on a deeply participatory methodology, featuring screenings of 86 individuals and 40 in-depth clinical interviews conducted by psychosocial experts to document specific harms. By documenting how atrocities uniquely impacted children, LAW sought to ensure that international mechanisms including the ICC, the ICJ, and other courts recognise the full, multi-generational scope of the Rohingya genocide.

Hundreds of thousands of people were displaced following the deadly earthquake in February 2025 in Myanmar.



Myanmar (post-Coup)

February 2025 marked the fourth year since the Myanmar military junta's unlawful coup. During the year, Myanmar remained marked by escalating armed conflict, deepening humanitarian need, and on-going human rights violations both by the military as well as armed resistance groups. The 28 March earthquake in Sagaing, which killed nearly 4,000 people and displaced hundreds of thousands, further intensified risks to civilians, while emergency response efforts were obstructed by active hostilities and military restrictions.

Despite announcing a ceasefire, the junta continued air and artillery attacks, withheld humanitarian assistance, and blocked international media access, while intensifying operations ahead of its December 2025 sham election. These conditions, especially for women, children, and older persons, further undermined access to safety, livelihoods, and essential services, **heightened the risk of CRSV**, and drove continued cross-border displacement into Thailand and Bangladesh.

Against this backdrop, accountability for CRSV and other crimes committed since the coup remained a central priority for survivors, and in 2025 LAW continued working closely with primarily women-led civil society and survivors to address justice needs, close accountability gaps, and raise awareness of on-going CRSV across Myanmar.

For the past three years, we have supported civil society in their continued documentation of CRSV in order to provide support to survivors and identify avenues for justice and accountability. To date, LAW's grassroots partners have documented **789 CRSV cases**. Throughout 2025, LAW and consortium partners continued to support these documentation efforts, as well as **three established survivor** networks bringing together **87 CRSV** survivors in Thai-Myanmar border areas and in Bangladesh. Four research reports were published by four grassroots partners reflecting the nature and patterns of CRSV. At the end of 2025, LAW significantly expanded its client base, all of whom are survivors of atrocity crimes—including incidents of torture, deprivation of personal liberty, persecution, and sexual violence—committed since the 2021 coup.



“Everyone in Myanmar knows, for over 70 years under military rule ... if I go to court for something, or to a police station, the authorities take time, and a lot of money is spent and still there is no accountability.”

Myanmar female survivor of CRSV

In October 2025, on behalf of ten of these survivors we represent, LAW submitted a landmark **complaint in Australia under the principle of universal jurisdiction alleging international crimes** committed in the post-coup context and not yet addressed by other universal jurisdiction filings related to crimes committed in Myanmar. Combining witness evidence and open-source intelligence (OSINT) such as satellite imagery, social media evidence, videos, and photographs, the complaint presents a detailed factual and legal analysis on crimes against humanity and war crimes, including murder, imprisonment or severe deprivation of physical liberty, torture, cruel treatment, and outrages upon personal dignity, rape and sexual violence, persecution on political grounds, as well as other attacks against civilians.



LAW's grassroots partners have documented 789 CRSV cases following the 2021 military coup in Myanmar.

In August and September 2025, LAW began engagement with authorities in additional jurisdictions, with whom we are now working on an **open investigation regarding potential incidents of torture and war crimes** committed inside Myanmar. We are continuing to work with survivors to pursue additional avenues for strategic litigation which address accountability for post-coup crimes.

Throughout 2025, LAW also continued to collaborate closely with civil society and partners to successfully increase awareness for CRSV and on-going atrocity crimes. Alongside consortium partners the Mukwege Foundation and ALTSEAN-Burma, we continued to support the growth and development of the **Alliance Against CRSV-Myanmar (“Alliance”)**, established in 2024 and consisting of 13 local women-led grassroots organisations and nearly 60 members. In August 2025, LAW and consortium partners hosted the **Alliance’s three-day strategic workshop**, from which the Alliance formalised its structure, governance, and long-term advocacy goals. The White Flower Campaign, which was launched in 2024, was conducted in 2025 during the 16 days of activism and reached more than 300 users. Additionally, in 2025, Alliance members participated in two international advocacy efforts with our support: Alliance members participated virtually and in person at a side event at the CEVAW conference entitled **“Justice Denied: Fighting widespread impunity for conflict-related sexual violence”** in June 2025, as well as at the **ASEAN People’s Forum** in September 2025.



LAW's grassroots partners Antonia Mulvey participated in a high-level briefing and panel discussion co-hosted by Katrien Coppens, the director of the Mukwege Foundation, and the Dutch Embassy in Thailand, to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict in Bangkok, June 2025.

Throughout 2025, LAW, in collaboration with civil society partners, also continued to produce high-quality advocacy tools to raise awareness and advocate to the international community about the on-going perpetration of CRSV in Myanmar. This included an **advocacy video** highlighting—through survivors' own words—the life-long psychological trauma, enduring harm, and livelihood struggles faced by survivors living in Thai-Myanmar border areas. Developed by our civil society partner, the Phandeyar Foundation, in October 2025, LAW also launched an **online, self-paced course, "Understanding Sexual Violence"** on CSO Academy, an e-learning platform designed for CSO professionals in Myanmar. In October 2025 alone, 10 organisations participated in the course and 128 individual learners were enrolled¹ A series of CRSV stories to raise awareness and represent survivors' voices were produced by another one of our partners – Sisters2Sisters.

In 2025, LAW's Myanmar Programme work on post-coup CRSV culminated in the publication of a comprehensive report entitled **"They Thought We'd Stay Silent:" Survivors of Brutal Sexual Violence Fight Impunity in Post-Coup Myanmar**, which analyses the scope, scale, and prevalence of CRSV committed since the 2021 coup.

The report, based on interviews with survivors and survivor groups as well as civil society partners documenting CRSV, reveals a dramatic escalation of CRSV in regions where such patterns were not previously recorded, as well as systematic patterns of sexualised torture in notorious detention centres. In the report, LAW emphasises survivors' demands for justice along with their on-going resilience and courage, while also calling for urgent, coordinated action from stakeholders.

“We do not ask for pity. We demand justice. Our voices testify not only to suffering but also to resilience and the determination to break this cycle of violence. We refuse to let our pain be forgotten, and we refuse to allow perpetrators to escape accountability because of rank, power, or political compromise”

The Survivors United for Rights and Justice – SURJ



1. To access the course, please visit: <https://www.csacademymm.org/courses/understanding-sexual-violence-2>.

In October, Antonia Mulvey met the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Dr. Harini Amarasuriya, to pledge support to address the prevalence of SGBV in Sri Lanka.



Sri Lanka



In Sri Lanka, the level of domestic and sexual violence remains high. LAW has been working together with Sri Lankan law makers to ensure that survivors can access justice and that legal mechanisms address these issues as a priority.

Landmark Trafficking Conviction

The start of 2025 was marked by a significant legal victory for survivors of sexual slavery and human trafficking. The Colombo High Court delivered a landmark judgment in the case of five Indonesian women who were trafficked into Sri Lanka, securing justice for the victims and establishing a critical precedent for the protection of trafficked persons and the prosecution of traffickers in a country where such crimes have often gone unpunished.

In 2020, five Indonesian women were lured to Sri Lanka with the promise of legitimate employment as massage therapists. On arrival, they were sexually enslaved – they were forced to work as sex workers without pay. In November 2021, the police raided the “brothel” where the women were held, and the women were arrested and charged with prostitution in the Magistrates’ court. LAW represented the women in court and secured the release of all five women. Subsequently, LAW requested that the owner of the “brothel” was charged with human trafficking and sexual slavery concerning the five women. Following multiple interventions by LAW, there was a court trial and a successful conviction of the owner of the “brothel”, who was sentenced to 15 years’ imprisonment and ordered to pay financial compensation. The judgment serves as a watershed moment for Sri Lankan jurisprudence and the rights of those who have been sexually enslaved and abused.

“It is one of the few cases where there was a conviction on trafficking charges for sexual slavery. By utilising the Brothels Ordinance to exonerate the women, the court reinforced the vital legal principle of victim decriminalisation, ensuring that trafficked persons are not prosecuted for acts they were forced to commit.”

Jerusha Crossette-Thambiah, LAW lawyer representing the victims

Gender Justice Legal Network (GJLN)

The Gender Justice Legal Network (GJLN) is a network of specialised Sri Lankan lawyers working on SGBV and child abuse cases. We launched the network in October 2020 to connect victims and survivors with lawyers who can assist them, represent them, and advocate for them in their interactions with the justice system.

In practice, the GJLN provides direct legal aid and representation in individual cases, and links survivors to essential services beyond court representation. It also builds local legal capacity through mentoring and training of lawyers, while trying to improve survivor centred practice within the justice system more broadly. **The GJLN now includes 77 lawyers**, who continued to provide legal representation to victims and survivors throughout the country, with nearly 1,000 of them having benefited from the pro-bono legal services provided by GJLN lawyers since the inception of the network in 2020.

The “HOME” Campaign: Combating Domestic Violence and Child Abuse

In order to combat the **prevailing domestic violence** and child abuse in Sri Lanka, LAW launched a groundbreaking social media campaign called “HOME,” which aimed at raising awareness through multiple posts in three languages addressing domestic violence and child abuse. The content covered various aspects of domestic violence, including economic abuse, and provided informative posts on identifying early signs of abuse, how to respond to domestic violence and use helplines, how bystanders can support victims, and how to build safe and healthy relationships.

As part of this campaign, LAW helped organise “PRAYAAMA,” a charity concert at Nelum Pokuna Theatre, Sri Lanka’s largest, **attended by more than 1,000 people**. Leading Sri Lankan artists used the event to speak out in support of victims and survivors of SGBV, and to condemn domestic violence and child abuse. Survivors from shelter homes were invited to attend free of charge, many for whom it was a rare opportunity to be publicly included in a space of solidarity rather than isolation.

The concert raised funds for Meththa Safe House and Surakshi Safe House, two shelters that provide far more than temporary accommodation. For victims and survivors of SGBV, the safe houses offer immediate physical safety, confidential shelter, protection from further abuse, and a stable place from which to seek medical care, psychosocial support, and legal assistance. They often serve as the key difference between remaining trapped in violence and having a realistic path toward recovery and justice. In June 2025, 1,000,000 LKR (approximately \$3,333), was donated to each safe house.



LAW organized the PRAYAAMA concert to raise awareness on domestic abuses in Sri Lanka.

Legal and Policy Advocacy

LAW also gathered and submitted key proposals by a group of prominent Sri Lankan lawyers to Hon. Harshana Nanayakkara, the Minister of Justice, on addressing domestic violence and child abuse in an effective and timely manner. The submission called for urgent legal and procedural reforms. The Minister identified certain proposals that can be implemented immediately, including:



Strengthening Access to Justice

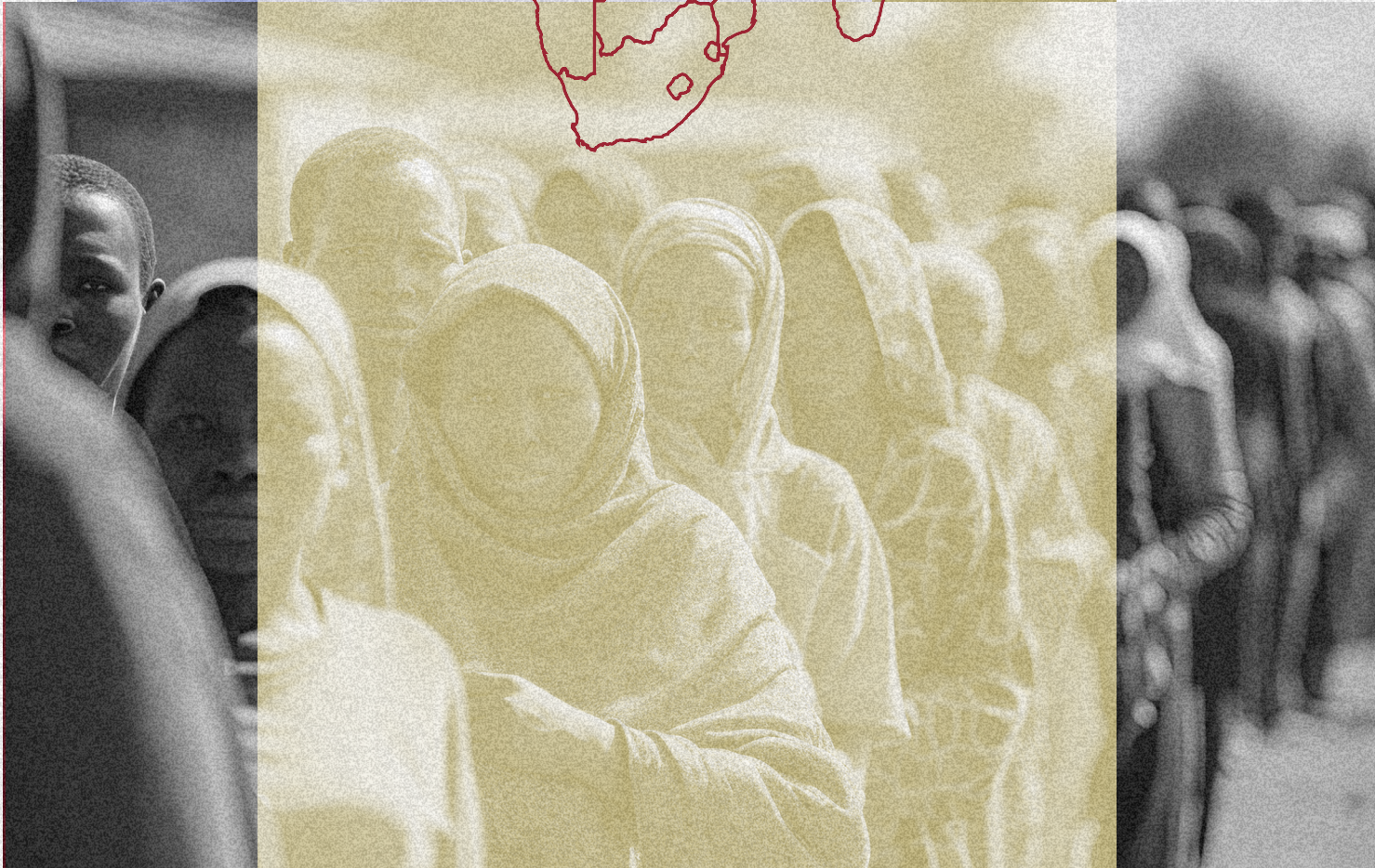
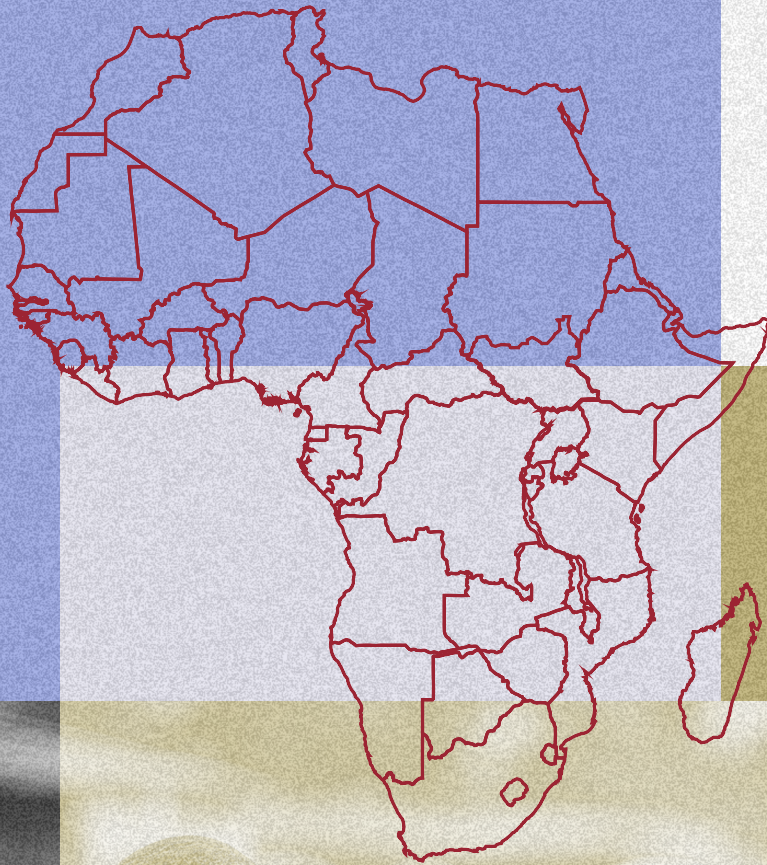
LAW's efforts to **improve access to justice for vulnerable groups** were further enhanced through the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the National Authority for the Protection of Victims of Crimes and Witnesses (NAPVCW) and the Police Protection Division on handling SGBV victims. Consultative workshops were held with the NAPVCW prior to drafting the SOPs. Following their completion, a validation meeting was held for 10 NAPVCW members and another 10 members of the Police Protection Division.

We also submitted the Report on Proposals to the Judicial Service Commission on proposed judicial interventions to enhance access to justice for victim and survivors of SGBV. The proposal contained a comparative legal analysis of various jurisdictions and practices applied for improved access to justice. LAW was also invited as a knowledge partner to develop a Public Engagement Strategy for Government Institutions providing justice services. We facilitated two consultative workshops with stakeholders at the national and local level, held in preparation for the "Know Your Neethi" legal aid and awareness clinic. The two-day event in Badulla was conducted as a pilot project in order to develop the public engagement strategy for government institutions, to be applied in other districts of Sri Lanka.



On 13 June 2025, a group of Sri Lankan lawyers, legal experts, and members of civil society submitted a set of recommendations to the Minister of Justice of Sri Lanka, Hon. Harshana Nanayakkara identifying specific measures to expedite justice for SGBV and child abuse cases in Sri Lanka.

Africa



250 out-of-school Sudanese refugee girls living in Uganda participated in a project titled 'Future is Female: From Victims to Advocates'.



Sudan

2025 unfolded against the backdrop of a devastating and protracted armed conflict in Sudan, which began in April 2023 and continued to drive one of the world's largest humanitarian and protection crises. Fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) persisted across multiple regions, including Khartoum and Darfur, resulting in widespread civilian harm, mass displacement, and the collapse of essential state institutions. Serious violations of international humanitarian and human rights law – including indiscriminate attacks, ethnically targeted violence, and CRSV – remained pervasive, with women and girls disproportionately affected.

Amid this context of insecurity and institutional fragmentation, **access to justice within Sudan remained extremely limited.** The formal justice system has been severely weakened by the conflict, with courts non-functional in many areas and law enforcement structures either absent or implicated in violations. Survivors of atrocity crimes, particularly SGBV, faced significant barriers to reporting abuses or seeking redress, including stigma, fear of reprisals, and lack of safe, confidential services. At the international level, accountability efforts continued to evolve, including on-going investigations by the ICC into crimes committed in Darfur, as well as increased attention from UN mechanisms and civil society documenting violations across the country.

Within this highly constrained and volatile environment, LAW's Sudan programme focused on bridging critical gaps in access to justice by centring survivor agency, strengthening documentation for future accountability processes, and integrating legal support with psychosocial and medical services.

In partnership with the Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa (SIHA Network), we successfully implemented a survivor-centred access-to-justice intervention for Sudanese victims and survivors of SGBV. Key achievements include the **institutionalisation of a one-stop, confidential, and survivor-centred service model**, integrating legal information, case management, and referral pathways to medical and psychosocial support. Survivors were empowered to make informed decisions about justice pathways while prioritising safety and agency.

Over **547 SGBV survivors** accessed structured legal awareness sessions and individualised legal consultations. Through **365 confidential legal consultations**, survivors were supported to understand their rights under international law, assess risks and options, and engage with accountability pathways in line with their safety, consent, and psychosocial well-being.

Recognising that access to justice is inseparable from psychosocial and medical stabilisation, the project operationalised an integrated referral system linking legal assistance with complementary services. Through this system, **637 survivors** were referred to and supported with psychosocial and/or medical care—more than double the original target. This included **26 group psychosocial support sessions** reaching over **400 survivors**, **197 individual counselling sessions**, and **40 medical referrals** addressing serious and long-standing health conditions related to sexual violence. These interventions were critical in stabilising survivors and enabling sustained engagement with justice and protection mechanisms.

A central achievement of the project was the establishment of a survivor-led first responder mechanism. **Fifty (50) survivor advocates were trained in psychosocial first aid and survivor-centred SGBV response**, with 35 advocates receiving advanced capacity-building. Through seven structured mentorship sessions, the Restore Hope Survivors' Network was operationalised as a survivor-owned structure with elected leadership, ethical standards, safety protocols, and referral mechanisms. Survivor advocates now function as trusted first responders, facilitating early identification of cases, safe referrals, peer support, and community-level stigma reduction.

With regards to accountability, LAW submitted detailed documentation to the UN Fact-Finding Mission on Sudan (FFM) concerning alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Gezira State between October and November 2024, directly amplifying survivor evidence within international accountability mechanisms. We filed a legal brief with the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) on behalf of **22 Darfuri women survivors** of conflict-related sexual violence and other grave international crimes perpetrated by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) since at least 2023, while ensuring the preservation of survivor testimonies for future accountability processes.



A moderator in Adré, Chad actively contributes during a legal awareness session on 8th August 2025, sharing ideas and messages on a collective board as part of an interactive community engagement activity.

Education Cannot Wait – Future is Female Project

The on-going crisis in Sudan has disrupted the lives of millions of children, depriving them of safe, continuous access to education, with uncertainty persisting even in areas less directly affected by the conflict. Girls and young women have borne a disproportionate share of this impact. Insecurity, displacement, and heightened risks of gender-based violence have significantly curtailed girls' access to education both inside Sudan and in displacement settings. Refugee girls are far less likely to be enrolled in school than boys, with pronounced gender disparities observed in host countries such as Uganda and Kenya.

These challenges are compounded by economic hardship, restrictive cultural norms, and increased caregiving responsibilities, particularly within female-headed households. Against this backdrop, we supported SIHA Network to implement a project titled "Future is Female: From Victims to Advocates" in Uganda. The project targeted **250 out-of-school Sudanese refugee girls** living in Kampala and Kiryandongo Settlement and was implemented in collaboration with SIHA member organisations, including the Uganda Refugee Disaster Management Council (URDMC) and Kandakiat Organization for Women Empowerment and Development (KOWED).

“ *Even when war took away my classroom, it did not take away my voice. Education is not just something useful; it is my right.* ”

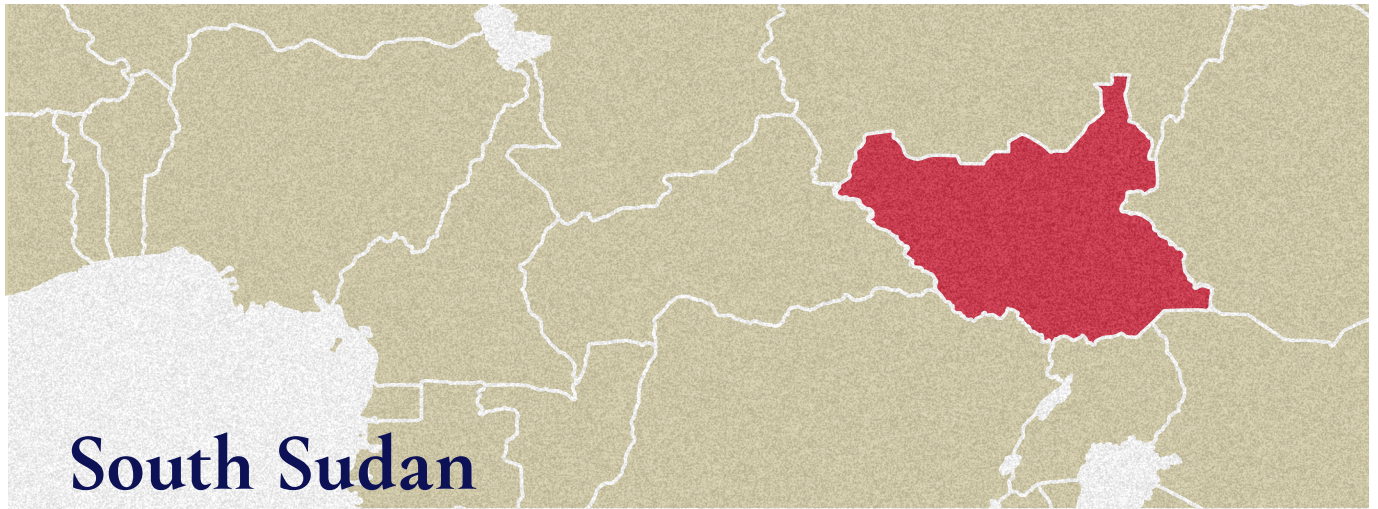
Yumna Mustafa Mohammed, 15-year old Sudanese girl living in Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, Uganda



From Victims to Advocates: Sudanese refugee girls in Kampala and Kiryandongo settlement take the lead in the 'Future is Female' project.

The project delivered a holistic, gender-responsive legal education programme designed to address barriers to education while strengthening girls' empowerment. Through legal education, advocacy training, and support for school re-enrolment, the initiative equipped refugee girls with critical knowledge, agency, and leadership skills, enabling them to move from being victims of conflict to empowered advocates for change within their communities and beyond.

The broader impact of LAW's work under the Education Cannot Wait project, ensuring that education in emergencies is not limited to classrooms alone, includes protection, empowerment, and access to justice.



South Sudan



South Sudanese women lawyers participate in training on Transitional Justice, in Juba.

In 2025, South Sudan experienced increased conflict in Upper Nile, Unity, and Jonglei States, marking a deterioration of the 2018 Revitalised Agreement for the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS). In March 2025, **clashes intensified** between the South Sudan People's Defence Forces (SSPDF) and Sudan People's Liberation Army-in-Opposition (SPLA-IO) White Army, resulting in hundreds of deaths and mass displacement. Notably, the clashes in Malakal and Nasir which resulted in attacks on UN assets and civilian objects such as an MSF Hospital, signalled a dangerous erosion of ceasefire commitments, while the arrest of the First Vice President critically undermined the peace process. During this period, CRSV escalated with women and girls reporting rape, gang rape, and sexual slavery.

LAW continues to support South Sudanese survivors of CRSV. In July 2025, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) decided that the Communication we filed on behalf of 35 South Sudanese women who were subjected to sexual violence, including gang rape and sexual slavery. This decision provides a precedent acknowledging that South Sudan has a case to answer before the CEDAW Committee for failing to protect women and girls during the 2017 conflict. The communication is on-going and we await the merits decision in 2026.

“I am happy to see there is progress in this case, we have waited for many years and many of us had begun to lose hope. We thank LAW for persisting in advocating for us, this makes me happy to know we are not alone.”

Victim in the CEDAW case

While there have long been barriers impeding the establishment of the Hybrid Court in South Sudan, LAW and its partners filed the first war crimes criminal complaint in South Sudan using the Geneva Conventions Act. We represent three South Sudanese women that were victims of CRSV, with two having been children at the time of the incident. We also continued to follow-up the war crimes case with the relevant prosecutorial authorities to ensure it is registered, investigated, and prosecuted.

“We have suffered from stigma from the community because of the rape and we want justice. I am happy that this case is opened, it has been long overdue, we have been looking forward to this”.

AK, victim in LAW’s Geneva Conventions Act case

Since 2022, LAW has operated Justice Confidence Centres (JCC). In 2025, the JCCs provided free legal assistance, advice, and representation to over **89 (56 women, 33 girls)** victims and survivors of gender-based violence and discrimination and secured 14 victories in the courts for victims and survivors of rape, gang rape, forced marriage, domestic violence, and attempted murder. The JCC’s work highlights the importance of legal aid including on the likelihood of obtaining commensurate sentences and compensation for survivors. In one case, a survivor of attempted/domestic violence was offered \$35 USD and the perpetrator sentenced to two years – the JCC lawyers appealed this decision, and a more commensurate sentence was imposed.

LAW has continued to build the capacity of domestic lawyers and civil society members on transitional justice, gender sensitivity, and advocacy. We held two training sessions for 10 South Sudanese women lawyers and 10 civil society members (8 women and 3 men, and 13 women).

Through its two partners, the Centre for Inclusive Governance, Peace and Justice and the Assistance Mission for Africa, we further continued to work with **201 survivors** from seven different survivor groups to create their own transformative justice mechanisms and advocate for the implementation of transitional justice mechanisms. These survivors are also trained on how to curate their own advocacy strategies. One survivor stated that “The lives of educated people are different from the lives of uneducated people. When we come here for trainings, we feel very happy.”



Training of South Sudanese civil society organisations on transitional justice and survivor centred approaches, Juba, June 2025.



Somalia

Sexual violence in Somalia remains widespread and deeply entrenched, with women, girls, and increasingly boys in camps for internally displaced persons being the most affected. Perpetrators are rarely prosecuted, which can be attributed to stigma, lack of confidence in the Somali legal system, local customs, intimidation, and (credible) fear of reprisals.

For the past eight years, LAW has been supporting Somalis residing in the IDP camps by empowering them through legal awareness sessions. These sessions have been instrumental in helping communities understand their legal rights and the appropriate avenues to report incidents of SGBV. In 2025, LAW trained ten Community Champions on conducting legal information sessions in the six IDP camps in Mogadishu. This led to over 6,400 individuals participating in the legal information sessions on legal avenues for gender-based violence and other referral pathways including psychosocial support. LAW also recruited and trained two Somali lawyers who provided legal assistance and representation to 80 people (47 women, 28 girls, 4 boys, and 1 man) who are survivors of SGBV.

In 2025, LAW recorded 17 positive decisions in which perpetrators of sexual violence were convicted and survivors provided with compensation.



Members of our two community-based mechanisms – the Independent Complaint mechanism (ICM) and the Civilian Oversight Board (COB) – participate in a training on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) with support from NORAD in Mogadishu, 21 August 2025.



Members of our two community-based mechanisms – the Independent Complaint mechanism (ICM) and the Civilian Oversight Board (COB) – after completing training on gender-based violence (GBV) and GBV case management with support from NORAD in Mogadishu, 25 June 2025.

“Without LAW’s assistance, I would not have achieved this much. I feel empowered and relieved, and I want to share this hope with other survivors of abuse and violence in our communities.”

F.A., domestic violence survivor

LAW also continued its engagement with the Members of Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights, with two high-level advocacy meetings held in Mogadishu. The meetings were aimed at engaging key stakeholders and lobbying members of the Federal Parliament of Somalia to address critical gaps in human rights protections.

In 2026, LAW intends to continue providing legal information, assistance, and representation to victims and survivors in Mogadishu’s IDP camps. Additionally, we plan to strengthen the capacity of Somali female lawyers and civil society organisations in providing survivor-centred assistance as well as in participating in the universal periodic review cycles.

We also continue exploring legal and advocacy avenues to end female genital mutilation (FGM) in Somalia, including potential public interest litigation before the African Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. This is following Somalia having recently become a State Party to the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.

On 14 May 2025, LAW together with its partner, the Pan African Lawyers Union (PALU), submitted its arguments before the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) on behalf of 11 Tigrayan victims.



Despite the 2022 Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA), the situation in Ethiopia remains extremely volatile. In 2025, tensions in Tigray re-emerged after internal divisions within the Tigrayan

People's Liberation Front (TPLF), raising fears of renewed all-out violence. Areas such as Amhara experienced intense fighting that resulted in civilian casualties and displacement.

On 14 May 2025, LAW together with its partner, the Pan African Lawyers Union (PALU), presented its arguments before the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) on behalf of **11 Tigrayan victims**. The communication was filed in 2022 against the Federal Government of Ethiopia, alleging violations of its obligations under the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights during the conflict. In October 2022, the African Commission had issued an order for emergency provisional measures requesting Ethiopia guarantee an end to allegations including of extrajudicial killings and sexual violence. Following the hearing, the African Commission decided in August 2025 that the communication was admissible. This provides hope to victims and survivors and opens the door for them to raise complaints against States for serious human rights violations. LAW awaits the ACHPR's decision on whether Ethiopia violated its obligations under the African Charter and must remedy the victims.

“Your efforts give hope not only to these survivors, but to millions of Tigrayans who have endured unimaginable suffering. This hearing is a vital step toward accountability.”

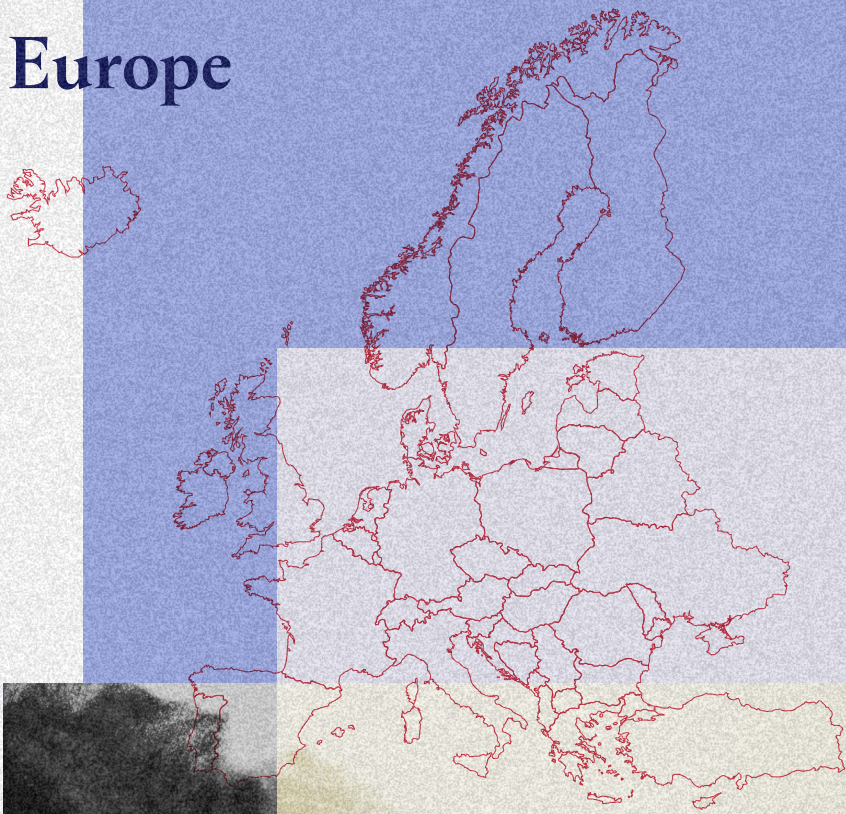
A representative from a Tigrayan civil society network

In 2026, LAW intends to explore alternative legal strategies relating to the **groundbreaking universal jurisdiction criminal complaint** filed in 2024 before the German Federal Public Prosecutor, which alleged that 12 senior Ethiopian and Eritrean government officials and military officers committed war crimes and crimes against humanity, including CRSV during the conflict.

“I've lost two of the most important people in my life in this war: my younger brother and my mom. The suffering and agony continue in Tigray, Tigrayans are still dying every day. We urgently need to bring to justice those who orchestrated and engineered these unimaginable crimes in Tigray. This would bring peace of mind to me and to the people of Tigray.”

A representative from a Tigrayan civil society network

Europe



LAW's Executive Director speaks with survivors of Russian occupation in Kyiv-oblast.



Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Widespread hostilities have since resulted in significant civilian casualties, mass displacement, and extensive infrastructure

destruction. The conflict has been characterised by serious violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, including attacks on civilian objects, unlawful detention, torture, and CRSV.

Since the full-scale invasion, **Ukraine has become a central focus of international accountability efforts**. Investigations have been undertaken by Ukrainian authorities alongside international mechanisms, including the ICC, which has issued arrest warrants related to alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity. At the same time, domestic courts in Ukraine and proceedings in third states under the principle of universal jurisdiction continue.

In Ukraine, LAW coordinates a women-led Consortium of organisations including JurFem, OPORA, and PROJECTOR that provide legal assistance and representation to Ukrainian victims and survivors throughout the country, particularly survivors of SGBV and CRSV. In 2025, we greatly expanded our work with survivor communities – we provided legal assistance to 703 people, and legal representation to 47 people. LAW and partners secured 19 favourable decisions in Ukrainian courts, including an in-absentia conviction of a Russian soldier for conflict-related sexual violence as a war crime.

“By representing victims and survivors in court, we not only support them directly but also advance our strategic goals. Our work helps shape survivor-centred and trauma-informed legal practice and embed these approaches in the work of law enforcement agencies in Ukraine.”

Yuliia Nikitina, JurFem legal assistance coordinator

Strategic litigation and case-building

Through our frontline work with victims and survivors, LAW deepened our understanding of the patterns of international crimes and human rights violations committed by Russian forces in Ukraine. In 2025, we continued investigations on priority areas including unlawful detention and torture and CRSV. LAW's team met with clients in Ukraine and European countries interested in **pursuing cases under the principle of universal or extraterritorial jurisdiction** as well as other international justice mechanisms such as UN Treaty bodies.

We also initiated the **Global Tracking of Fugitives (GTF)** initiative alongside our partner InterJust. Piloted in Ukraine, the initiative seeks to maximise the chances of apprehending suspects of atrocity crimes through cutting-edge open-source investigations (OSINT) supported with advocacy for better coordination. We profiled 45 suspects on atrocity crimes, monitored their movements in real time, and presented the GTF initiative to European prosecutors and law enforcement who will be the primary recipients of information.

Capacity building and mentoring

An essential part of our work in Ukraine is support for civil society organisations and local authorities, emphasising underserved parts of the country. Alongside PROJECTOR, we began a new series of training sessions for Ukrainian law enforcement and prosecutors on working with the LGBTQ+ community. We **trained 84 participants** this year, improving Ukrainian authorities understanding of issues facing the LGBTQ+ community, and mainstreaming gender-sensitive approaches. In the long-term, we hope to see increased trust from traditionally marginalised communities and thereby meaningful access to justice.

“Knowledge gained through the training is helpful, as investigators don’t always clearly understand how to properly classify war crimes under the Geneva Conventions and distinguish [conduct].”

Ihor, Investigator of the Main Directorate of the National Police in Odesa Region, participant in the training

Platforming Ukrainian survivors

Many times over the year, high-level diplomatic peace negotiations between Ukraine and Russia overlooked justice completely. In November 2025, Ukrainian survivor-led groups and civil society organisations firmly rejected a leaked peace proposal that suggested blanket amnesties for international crimes. Through our advocacy, LAW ensures that Ukrainian survivor voices are heard at the most important fora around the world.



PROJECTOR and LAW deliver a training session in the Odesa police academy.



Liza Dmitrieva speaking about her experience of Russian occupation at the ICC ASP side event.

“Today, I’m standing here not to be pitied. I’m here to be heard, so you know what is happening to children in occupied territories right now.”

Liza Dmitrieva, who lived through Russian occupation as a child

In December, 18-year-old Liza Dmitrieva travelled abroad for the first time to speak at LAW’s side event at the ICC ASP. She recounted her harrowing experiences of Russian occupation alongside children and young adults who lived through conflict and atrocity crimes in Myanmar, Sudan, and Palestine.

Global Programmes



Justice and accountability for aid workers

“In 2023, we said it was the most dangerous year to be an aid worker. We said the same in 2024. 2025 was, again, the deadliest year on record. For their commitment to humanity, aid workers were killed, tortured, raped, threatened and detained. They sacrificed their lives to help others.”

Antonia Mulvey, Sakharov Prize ceremony, European Parliament, Strasbourg, 17 December 2025

Attacks against humanitarian personnel have become an increasingly visible feature of modern armed conflict, reflecting a broader erosion of respect for international humanitarian law (IHL). Aid workers, tasked with delivering life-saving assistance in some of the world's most dangerous environments, have faced rising levels of violence, including killings, abductions, arbitrary detention, and harassment. Despite the protections afforded to them under international law, violations remain widespread, often occurring in contexts marked by protracted conflict, political instability, and weak accountability mechanisms. In many cases, perpetrators operate with impunity, and attacks on aid workers are insufficiently investigated or prosecuted at the national level.

Building upon the global focus on improving accountability for attacks on humanitarian personnel, in September 2025, 113 States (as at the date of publication) signed the **Declaration on the Protection of Humanitarian Personnel**, committing to upholding and championing international humanitarian law and driving action to protect humanitarian personnel before, during, and after conflict.



Nick Leddy, LAW's head of litigation, signed the Declaration on the Protection of Humanitarian Personnel in New York, September 2025.

LAW is the only international organisation implementing a programme dedicated to providing legal information, assistance and representation to aid workers and humanitarian organisations, undertaking innovative action to improve their protection through access to justice and accountability. The programme is supported by the European Union through the Protect Aid Workers² consortium, and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. It addresses the critical needs of humanitarian personnel who are victims and survivors of crimes, particularly when they could constitute violations of international law, and with a focus on violence specifically targeting and affecting women humanitarian personnel and women-led humanitarian organisations.

Through a three-pronged, holistic and unique approach, the programme seeks to:



Increase legal services to humanitarian personnel who have been targeted, including referral for psychosocial and medical support,



Facilitate investigations and accountability processes through the creation of a lawyers for aid workers network, and



Ensure that survivors and victims' voices are amplified and that they meaningfully participate in discussions with Member States and humanitarian actors.

2. <https://protectaidworkers.org>

To date, LAW has provided legal advice and representation to 14 national and 16 international humanitarian organisations, on behalf of 94 individuals killed, tortured, arbitrarily detained or threatened, concerning 30 situations, in 13 countries. **With the programme's support, 16 individuals detained for their legitimate humanitarian work were released.** Legal representation is ongoing in 11 cases of humanitarian workers killed, arbitrarily detained, tortured, or threatened.

Justice prevails: Aid workers released in Tunisia

After 18 months in detention, Tunisian aid workers Mustapha Djemali and Abderrazek Krimi were released on 25 November 2025. LAW's team was with their families in Tunis for the hearing and as they were discharged from prison late in the night.

81-year-old Mr Djemali and Mr Krimi, in his 60s, had endured challenging conditions while detained, kept in overcrowded cells. They were both arrested in May 2024 for providing legal humanitarian support to refugees in Tunisia, via their organisation Tunisian Council for Refugees (CTR), an implementing partner of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). After several rescheduling, the court finally held the hearing on the substance on 25 November 2025. A verdict came late in the evening, with the two men sentenced to two years in prison and given a suspended sentence for the remaining months to serve – meaning they were immediately free to go.



"The support that we received, us and, crucially, our families, was the only source of comfort we had during our detention."

LAW provided legal assistance and representation to the families of Mr Djemali and Mr Krimi, as they navigated the confusing and often intimidating Tunisian legal process. They also received support from the **Protect Aid Workers** mechanism.



Sakharov Prize ceremony, European Parliament, Strasbourg, 17 December 2025.

Survivors' voices are at the centre of all initiatives, discussions and decision making. Bilateral diplomatic engagement and multilateral advocacy led by victims, survivors, and humanitarian organisations themselves, to increase the protection of humanitarian personnel, and particularly women, is crucial. Survivors and families of victims represented have been and will continue to be at the centre of all advocacy events and initiatives, including side events to the Human Rights Council, Protection of Civilians Week, European Humanitarian Forum, and Humanitarian Network and Partnerships Week, giving them opportunities to share their experience and recommendations in crucial international forums.

Impact

According to the Strategic Review and Learning exercise conducted by an external consultant at the end of the pilot project “Accountability for atrocities committed against aid workers”, “Referrals have increased to such an extent [...] signalling both the demand and the credibility the programme has established.[...] LAW is now regarded as a credible and authoritative actor, regularly invited to speak on the issues, contribute to briefings, and participate in multilateral meetings. Its insights and recommendations are increasingly sought by stakeholders seeking to engage on this issue. “Justice and accountability is now part of every conversation.” [according to an external interviewee]”. In its report, the consultant adds, “Taken together, these successes demonstrate the project’s unique contribution to building a credible and practical response to violence against aid workers. The programme has not only elevated justice and accountability for aid workers as a priority issue but has also put in place the mechanisms, relationships and tools needed to take meaningful action.”

Gender Justice Practitioner Hub

The Gender Justice Practitioner Hub (GJP Hub) was launched in December 2024 and is currently being incubated by LAW. In its first year, the GJP Hub made strides in fulfilling its mandate: to foster collaboration, strengthen coordination, and facilitate experience-sharing amongst practitioners all over the world to ensure better gender justice outcomes for survivors of core international crimes.

Standing Up for Gender Equality

The GJP Hub initiated its first project: Standing up for Gender Equality. In recent years, a well-funded, well-organised anti-gender movement has gained momentum globally, undermining gender equality efforts by spreading misinformation, influencing policies, and restricting rights, creating a significant challenge for practitioners and institutions advocating for inclusive justice.

The impact of the anti-gender movement can be clearly seen in legislative and policy reform reversing, limiting and/or slowing progress towards gender equality around the world. There have also been impacts at an operational level within justice and accountability institutions. With this in mind, the GJP Hub launched a series of online discussions that are bringing practitioners together to explore the impact of this movement, with a view toward developing tools, support mechanisms, and strategies for countering these challenges.

Gender Justice in International Criminal Law Conference 2025

In times of mounting backlash against gender equality and international law, convening is itself an act of resistance. Over two powerful days, the Gender Justice in International Criminal Law Conference brought together over **1,400 participants** in the Hague and online, uniting practitioners, academics, civil society leaders, and survivors to discuss charting the future of gender justice.



Michelle Jarvis, then Deputy Head of the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism (IIIM) for Syria, during the Gender Justice in International Criminal Law Conference, in September 2025 in The Hague.

The conference took place on 29 and 30 September and was co-organised by LAW, the Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice, the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) of Erasmus University Rotterdam, and the GJP Hub.

This year, the SWANA (South West Asia and North Africa) region was selected as a key geographic focus. Specific panels took place on gender in the context of Palestine, Syria, and across the SWANA region as a whole. Arabic interpretation was available throughout the Conference.

The urgency of this year's discussions could not have been clearer. Around the world, political regression and toxic authoritarianism are threatening the safety and rights of women, girls, men, boys, and LGBTQIA+ people. On-going atrocities, including genocidal acts in both Palestine and Sudan, and sanctions targeting the International Criminal Court (ICC), illustrate how fragile the landscape has become. As one speaker reminded us: the pushback against gender is real, and those in conflict settings are paying the highest price. Participants repeatedly underscored the need for solidarity and to stand together. Gender justice advocates face a well-funded, organised coalition opposed to equality, and fragmented efforts will not suffice. Solidarity, however, does not mean uniformity. It means learning across contexts, supporting each other's struggles, and building stronger, transnational coalitions. As one participant described, this conference felt like a "family reunion"—a reminder that these networks are essential to resilience and progress.



During the Gender Justice in International Criminal Law Conference, Antonia Mulvey stressed the specific challenges faced by women in accessing international justice. September 2025.

Perhaps the most powerful message was that building solidarity means bridging divides. As Rima Hussein (Lebanon – participant in the MENA regional strategy panel discussion) admirably put it, *"War starts with divide and conquer—but in coming together like this, we're starting to bridge those divides."*

"Palestinian women unable to travel to meet Syrian and Lebanese colleagues exemplifies the barriers—but also the resilience—of those who continue to gather and strategise without them," said Antonia Mulvey, Executive Director of LAW, in her closing remarks. She further emphasised that *"The task is daunting, but the beams of hope are clear. New tools, bold thinking, and strengthened networks offer real opportunities for progress. LAW, together with our partners at the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS), Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice, and the Gender Justice Practitioner Hub (GJP Hub), is committed to keeping these conversations alive—through potential regional convenings, thematic gatherings, and on-going collaboration."*

As the conference closed, one key message resonated above all: this cannot be a one-off. The struggle for gender justice is long, but stronger coalitions and collective imagination will shape the accountability systems of the future.

LAW and the GJP Hub at the 2025 Assembly of State Parties

On 5 December 2025, LAW, the GJP Hub, and the Australian Embassy in The Hague hosted a side event to the ICC ASP focused on the crime against humanity of gender persecution. The event reflected on advancements in 2025 and explored opportunities to advance jurisprudence and accountability in contexts including Sudan, Afghanistan, Colombia, Ukraine, and Myanmar. Panellists also examined the essential role of accountability in safeguarding gender equality.

Financials



Over two powerful days, the Gender Justice in International Criminal Law Conference brought together over 1,400 participants in the Hague and online. September 2025.

2025 Income (grants & donations)	\$ 10,402,016
2025 Expenditure (programme & operations)	\$ 9,061,497
2025 Income increase from 2024	5.84%
Anticipated funds for 2026	\$ 11,210,558

Consolidated Income Statement

INCOME	2025 USD	2024 USD
Donations received <i>of which restricted</i>	2,294,658 2,294,658	855,228 855,228
Contributions from public authorities Other income	8,037,914 69,444	8,963,641 9,105
TOTAL INCOME	10,402,016	9,827,974
EXPENDITURE		
Salaries	3,952,551	3,787,227
Travel	632,891	608,500
Premises expense	316,349	296,302
Office expenses	254,928	175,172
Professional and consultant fees	3,716,907	2,685,582
Workshop and training	162,822	229,675
Other expenses	25,049	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	9,061,497	7,782,458
OPERATING RESULT	1,340,519	2,045,515
FINANCIAL RESULT	100,586	88,405
EXTRAORDINARY RESULT	2,295	473
RESULT BEFORE CHANGE IN FUND CAPITAL	1,438,811	1,957,584
Change in fund capital	652,787	1,724,894
ANNUAL RESULT	786,024	232,690

Consolidated Balance Sheet

ASSETS	2025 USD	2024 USD
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	5,124,557	3,312,374
Other short-term receivables	335,994	354,106
Accounts receivable	552,413	768,831
Prepaid expenses	23,243	25,669
	6,036,207	4,460,980
Non-current assets		
Financial assets	52,614	46,361
TOTAL ASSETS	6,088,821	4,507,341
FUNDS AND LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Trade payables and other liabilities	18,743	71,571
Accrued expenses	948,760	589,117
Restricted funds	3,899,417	3,410,776
	4,866,920	4,071,464
Funds		
Capital fund	435,877	203,188
Result of the current year	786,024	232,690
Total funds	1,221,901	435,877
TOTAL FUNDS AND LIABILITIES	6,088,821	4,507,341

Thank You



Antonia Mulvey meets with Shanti Mohila (Peace Women) survivor advocates group at LAW's office in Kutupalong refugee camps, Bangladesh, ahead of the ICJ full merits hearings on the genocide case at the International Court of Justice.

LAW's Board and Committee Members	Former board members
Briene Zijlmans	André Collomb
Carine Tohme	Alexander Davidoff
Daniel Machover	Christine Van Nieuwenhuys
Dennis McNamara	Geoffrey Bindman †
Helen Alderson	Imad Salamey
Ingrid Gubbay	Raj Chada
Myrna Nakad	Shamsul Bari
Nada Abdelsater	
Rein Nieland	
Rima Hussein	
Ruth McCoy	
Simon Black	
Yusuf Hassan	

List of Partners	
Action Contre la Faim (ACF)	Jenner & Block LLP
Allen & Overy LLP	Latham & Watkins
ALTSEAN-Burma	LingvaLexa Foundation for the Rights of Disadvantaged Populations
Artolution	Midmar
Assistance Mission for Africa	OPORA's Center for Assistance of War Crimes Documentation
Association of Political Prisoners of the Kremlin	Pan African Lawyers Union
Burmese Research Institute (formerly Chin Association of Maryland (CAM))	Paxus LLP
Burmese Women's Union (BWU)	Phandeeyar
Centre for Equality and Justice (CEJ)	PROJECTOR
Centre for Inclusive Governance, Peace and Justice (CIGPJ)	Protect Aid Workers
Centre for Information Resilience (CIR)	Protect Humanitarians
Chin Human Rights Organization (CHRO)	Redress
Civitas Maxima	Shanti Mohila
Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP	SHiFT
Clooney Foundation for Justice	Sisters 2 Sisters
Covington & Burling LLP	StewardWomen
Crown the Woman	Stop Online Harm
Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP	Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa
Debevoise and Plimpton LLP	Syrian Center for Legal Studies and Research
Dr. Denis Mukwege Foundation	Syrian Forum USA
Eritrea Focus	Syrians for Truth and Justice
European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR)	Truth Hounds
Foley Hoag LLP	Ukrainian Women Lawyers Association (JurFem)
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP	UN Team of Experts on Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict
Hashtag Generation	Women's Fund Asia Limited
Helem	Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice
Human Rights Documentation Initiative (HRDI)	Women's League of Burma (WLB)
Ifrah Foundation	Yale School of Public Health Humanitarian Research Lab (Yale Humanitarian Research Lab)
Interagency Security Forum	
InterJust Global	

List of Donors	
Australia (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade)	OAK Foundation
Canada (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)	Foundation to Promote Open Society (OSF)
Canton of Geneva	Swiss Solidarity
Education Cannot Wait (ECW)	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
European Union	U.S. Department of State
France (Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs)	
The Netherlands (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)	
Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad)	



Annual Report 2025

 Rue de Varembe 3, 1202 Geneva, Switzerland

 info@legalactionworldwide.org

 www.legalactionworldwide.org/

 <https://x.com/LegalActionWW>

 <https://www.facebook.com/LegalActionWorldwide/>

 Legal Action Worldwide (@legalactionworldwide)