



iProbono INDIA

ENABLING JUSTICE



iProbono India enables people to access their rights. We bring together the expertise of our carefully curated community of panel lawyers, ground-level insights of our grassroots partners, and the ethos of social action litigation to advance justice and equality.

Tools

Legal Support

iProbono India provides direct legal support to vulnerable individuals before courts and other grievance redressal bodies across the country. We also seek to bring about systemic shifts in law and policy through strategic and social impact litigation. We work on these cases in close collaboration with panel lawyers and partner NGOs.

Comprehensive Care

We provide holistic support to children in need of care and protection referred to us by Child Welfare Committees (CWCs), which includes interventions related to their educational, medical and safety needs.

Research & Policy Advocacy

We draft recommendations, conduct research studies, make submissions before government bodies, and engage with key stakeholders to disseminate legal knowledge on our areas of focus.

Capacity Enhancement

We enhance the capacities of NGOs, government stakeholders and the legal community through training sessions, legal education tools, and direct legal support for NGOs.

Storytelling

We rely on the power of stories to change hearts and minds, and seek to amplify the voices of the disenfranchised so that they may be heard more widely.

Child Protection

iProbono India represents child survivors of sexual abuse and other children in need of support, ensuring that the protective measures enshrined in law are extended to them. We also provide comprehensive care to these children, assisting them in accessing medical care, continuing their education, navigating the legal system, and ensuring their safety. We represent children who are in conflict with the law, a demographic that is often overlooked due to the societal stigma against them. We engage with the larger systemic issues we see in the child protection ecosystem in the course of our work through research, advocacy efforts and strategic litigation.

- iProbono India's RTI-based study titled "Incarceration of Children in Prisons in India" found that at least 9,681 children had been wrongly incarcerated in adult prisons across the country between 2016 and 2021. We are now addressing this issue through research and advocacy efforts.
- *Abhishek Yadav v. Delhi State Legal Services Authority & Ors*: In September 2024, iProbono India secured a significant victory at the Delhi High Court which significantly streamlined the victim compensation process in Delhi. This landmark ruling has made it easier for victims of child sexual abuse to receive compensation. Key improvements include a unified process across all District Legal Services Authorities, the ability for victims outside Delhi to receive compensation locally, faster processing times for compensation orders, and clear guidelines for biometric verification and data storage.
- iProbono India's recommendations, informed by our experience as a support person organisation, are incorporated into the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)'s 2024 "Model Guidelines with respect to Support Persons under Section 39 of the POCSO Act, 2012".

Housing & Land Rights

We work on housing justice issues where our goals are to prevent the unlawful eviction of residents of informal settlements and uphold their rights in cases of forced evictions. Our timely court interventions have prevented a number of illegal evictions over the years, and we also seek to ensure that those who are evicted are properly rehabilitated.

We are also dedicated to safeguarding the rights of the Van Gujjar community in Uttarakhand—a nomadic, forest-dwelling pastoral group often affected by state developmental policies. These policies often result in evictions and demolitions. We provide robust legal representation and advocacy to defend their rights, navigate legal challenges, and support their resilience amidst development pressures.

Mottalya. vs Government of NCT of Delhi: In January 2022, Delhi Development Authority (DDA) officials threatened to evict the residents of a basti in Manglapuri village without following due process. We, along with our panel lawyer, gathered evidence and got a favourable order from the Delhi High Court to halt the eviction. We also filed a contempt petition when this order was violated the very next day. Our interventions prevented approximately 200 basti residents from becoming homeless in the middle of the pandemic.





Disability Justice

iProbono India drives disability justice by challenging ableist norms in policies and practices, fostering inclusivity, and dismantling societal barriers. We focus on strengthening key bodies under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Act 2016 (RPwD Act) to ensure its full implementation. By offering pro bono legal representation, we empower persons with disabilities to protect their rights and dignity through greater access to justice. Through critical advocacy and stakeholder engagement, we work to fortify legal protections and address gaps in the enforcement of disability rights, promoting a more equitable and just society.

In January 2024, we convened a multi-stakeholder roundtable to examine the functioning of the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD) and State Commissioners for Persons with Disabilities (SCPDs). This forum brought together government officials, legal experts, civil societies, and persons with disabilities to discuss the practical implementation of disability laws. Key challenges were identified, and best practices were explored to enhance the effectiveness of these commissions. iProbono India is now pursuing a Supreme Court petition seeking guidelines to improve the functioning of these offices and ensure better access to justice for persons with disabilities.



Criminal Justice

iProbono India is dedicated to enhancing justice within the criminal justice system by providing essential legal representation to individuals in custody. By extending support through quality legal representation, we aid prison inmates to secure bail, premature release, parole, etc. and ensure the exercise of available safeguards throughout the trial process. In addition to our direct legal services, we engage in extensive research and advocacy to address systemic issues, such as improving the functioning of sentence review boards and promoting best practices in releasing individuals who have secured bail.

The Uttarakhand High Court in a suo moto matter directed the release of 27 undertrial prisoners who had already been granted bail. To assist with this effort, iProbono India shared a detailed research note to the Uttarakhand State Legal Services Authority (SLSA) addressing bail conditions, personal bonds, relevant schemes, and eligibility criteria. This note forms part of the instructions issued by the SLSA to the District Legal Services Authorities across the state. Prisoners are being released due to this intervention.



Strengthening Civil Society

Direct Legal Support:

iProbono India enables NGOs to focus resources on their core work, without having to worry about legal difficulties, by providing them free advice through our experienced and accomplished community of lawyers. Advice includes legal support on intellectual property disputes, regulatory compliance, drafting contracts or internal policies, and internal policies.

Capacity Building & Training:

We enhance the capacities of NGOs across the country through training sessions for their staff and beneficiaries on legal issues related to child protection, domestic violence and housing justice. Our Legal A-Z series breaks down laws relevant to NGOs for ease of understanding and compliance.

Knowledge Development & Legal Education:

We strengthen the capacity of the Indian legal community through training sessions for lawyers and law students, and publishing accessible legal resources. The Justice Leila Seth Fellowship seeks to create a new generation of passionate lawyers dedicated to social justice issues.

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