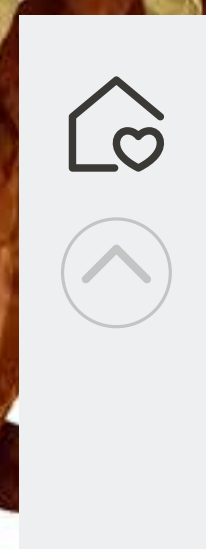


Pro Bono

IMPACT REPORT
2023





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01/ FOREWORD

That our pro bono clients need expert legal support remains a constant, reflecting the turbulent world we live in. But what those legal needs are and how we meet those needs is always changing. Our pro bono practice has been at the forefront in ensuring we're adaptable in how we respond to these changes. No matter what, our people are always committed to doing what it takes to use our legal skills to address unmet legal need.

Giving legal advice to our pro bono clients is a huge privilege and we never take their trust for granted. We strive to ensure each of them receives exceptional support and considered advice from our partners and expert teams.

A special thanks to Eithne Lynch, Head of Pro Bono and Amy Martin, Pro Bono Lawyer. Together with our wider team, they have forged new partnerships and collaborations to ensure we achieve the greatest impact.

Throughout 2023, our people across the firm stepped up and gave their time and energy to:

- support those fleeing war and persecution
- reunited separated minors with their families
- advocate for those needing social housing supports
- carry out legal research advancing the rule of law
- give organisational support to our civil society and social enterprise partners.

We hope this report – our first such pro bono Impact report – offers valuable insight into the depth and breadth of the legal work undertaken by our people this year.

It's only by working with our friends in civil society and social enterprise that we can create innovative solutions to old and complex problems.

We greatly admire their contribution to society and we're grateful to partner with them through our Pro Bono practice.

To our pro bono clients, our partners and everyone at A&L Goodbody, thank you for making this life-changing work possible.

David Widger

Managing Partner, ALG



02/ LEADING WITH INTEGRITY: ALG'S PRO BONO PRACTICE

The principle of universal access to justice and legal services is essential to the rule of law, the vindication of rights and the functioning of democratic society. That's why access to justice remains the cornerstone of our pro bono practice. It informs the work we take on, the projects we pursue and the partnerships we foster and develop.

Since we launched our responsible business strategy *Our future with purpose - ALG's commitment to sustainability* in 2022, pro bono has remained a key driver in putting ESG (environmental, social and governance) at the heart of our business. Not only is our pro bono practice a full practice within our firm, it's also recognised by the Law Society as a trainee seat for the purposes of qualification.

Our people are central to ALG's success and to our thriving pro bono practice. With more and more of our people participating, pro bono has become a vibrant part of our lawyers' everyday practice. Our pro bono team truly appreciates our colleagues' contributions over the past year.

Equally, our pro bono partners continue to inspire us by their extraordinary dedication to justice. We consider it a great privilege to work with them and to help the individuals they aid.

Our pro bono team



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02/ LEADING WITH INTEGRITY: ALG'S PRO BONO PRACTICE

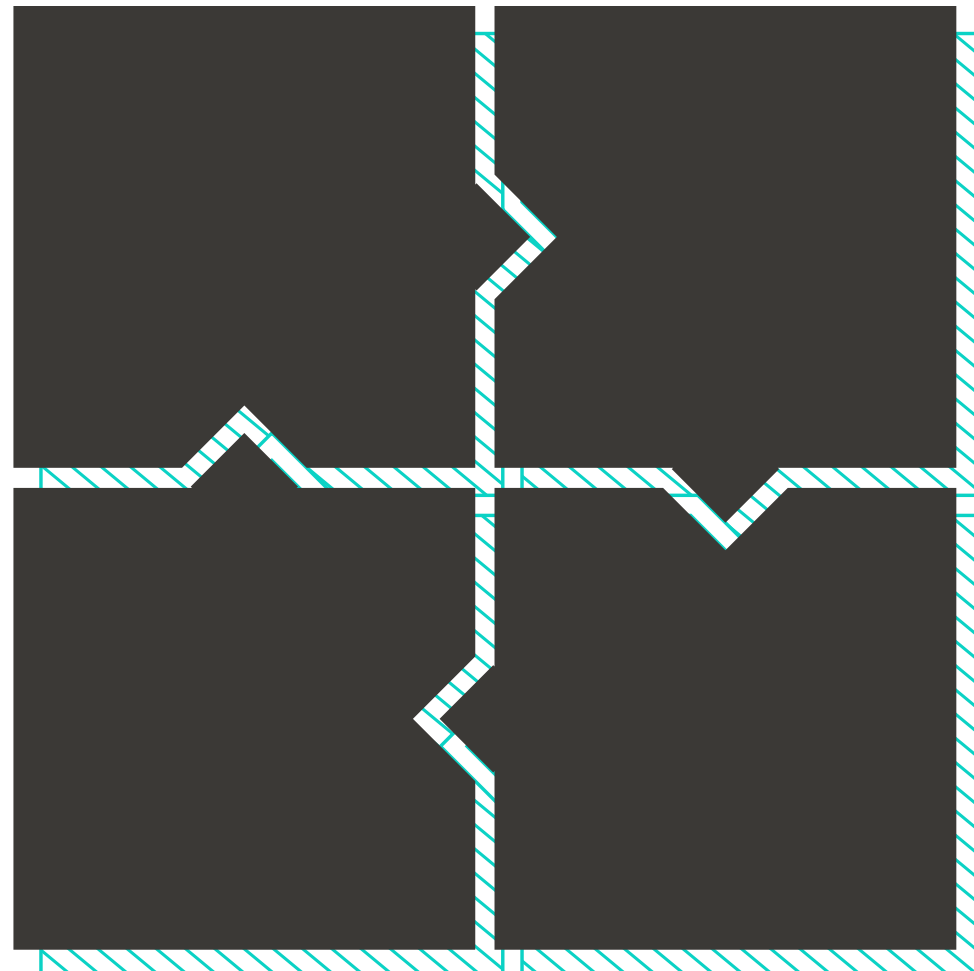
Aiming high: our pro bono practice goals

Unlock the potential of social enterprise

We help unlock the potential of social enterprises to tackle systemic issues and to secure a sustainable future for all through strategic partnerships.

Support a vibrant civil society

We support a strong and vibrant civil society by giving legal help that meets the need of our pro bono organisational clients.



Promote legal education and information

We enhance legal literacy through education sessions, guides and research projects.

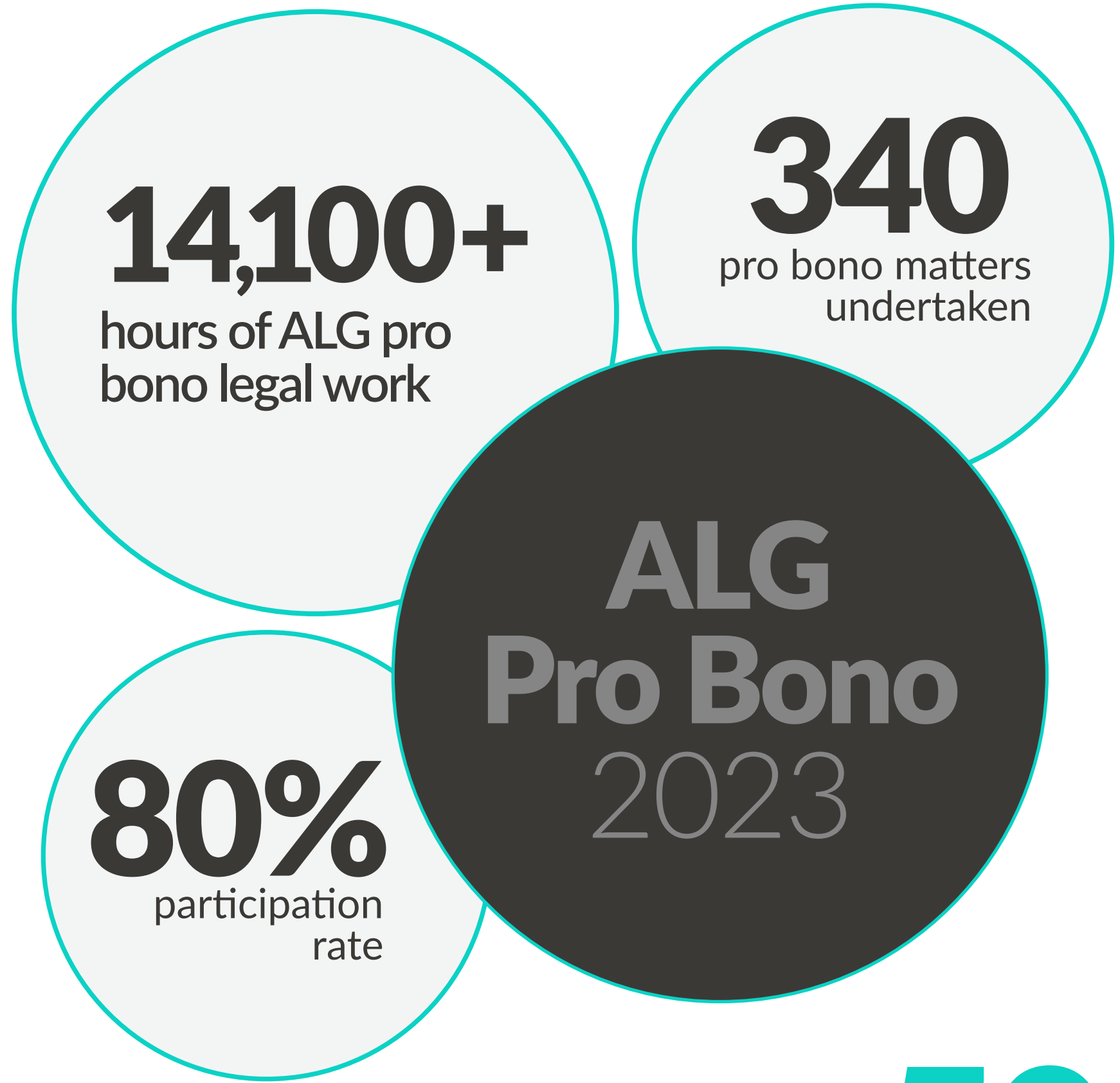
Develop human rights impact projects

With the support of independent law centres, we represent clients who are at risk, marginalised, or in vulnerable and precarious situations and who can't access legal services elsewhere.

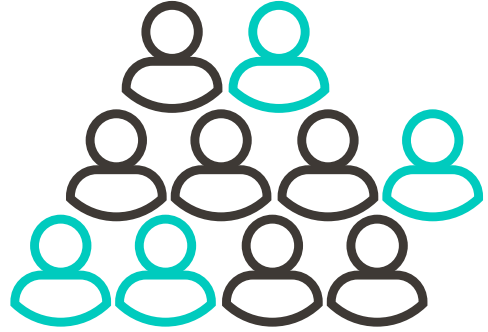




02/ LEADING WITH INTEGRITY: ALG'S PRO BONO PRACTICE



 **292**
HOURS
on LGBTQI+ related work

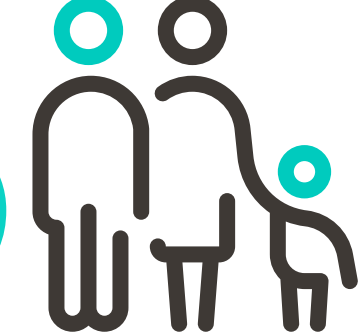
 **4 in 10**
lawyers worked on an asylum or immigration-related matter

82 
families advised through our housing law clinic

63
advice referrals from civil society

8  legal research projects

131
of our people delivered 25+ hours of pro bono each

55 
clients supported to apply for family reunification

50
lawyers worked on our housing law project

 **70**
medical legal reports reviewed

92 
trainee days spent on pro bono secondments

 **27** clients represented before the International Protection Office

03/ CHANGE IN A COMPLEX WORLD: HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT PROJECTS

Through our pro bono work, we harness the skills, expertise and passion of our lawyers to address unmet legal needs in human rights law. To do this, we partner with independent law centres, NGOs and frontline services to create collaborative projects designed to forge true change.

The law centres give our lawyers support, guidance and training to enable them to do this work effectively, while the NGOs and frontline services give our lawyers and our clients support and expertise. Through these collaborative projects, we've gained the trust of decision-makers and civil society, while achieving great results for our clients.





03/ CHANGE IN A COMPLEX WORLD: HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT PROJECTS



Navigating the International Protection Process

With more than 110 million people forcibly displaced in 2023, it's no surprise more people have sought protection in Ireland. Long waiting lists and limited resources for civil legal aid mean many applicants remain unrepresented at first instance in the protection process. That means there is huge unmet legal need.

To address this, we give protection applicants early legal advice and representation through our collaborative project with the Irish Refugee Council (IRC). Specialist IRC lawyers train our lawyers before they take on any referral from the project.

Each client is assigned a legal team to advise them on the legal process, attend their protection interview and draft legal submissions to support their claim to avail of sanctuary and protection in Ireland.

As part of this partnership, our pro bono trainee is seconded to the IRC one day a week to help with case work, research and administration.

For over 10 years, A&L Goodbody has supported our work by accepting referrals and giving international protection applicants a high level of representation and client care in both their applications for international protection and, more recently, in family reunification applications.

This has been a vital support to our Law Centre and an essential lifeline for clients who needed specialist legal advice at crucial points in their lives.

**Katie Mannion, Managing Solicitor,
Irish Refugee Council**

27
clients represented
before the International
Protection Office



ALG was proud to sponsor the Irish Refugee Council's 30-year anniversary event.

In 2023, the Irish Refugee Council celebrated its 30th anniversary with the publication of **30 Years, 30 Voices: The Power of Protection**, which reflects on the power of protection in Ireland over three decades. Its launch was on World Refugee Day and ALG was delighted to sponsor it.

03/ CHANGE IN A COMPLEX WORLD: HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT PROJECTS

CASE STUDY

Iranian man granted refugee status on grounds of a well-founded fear of religious persecution

Our client was a 46-year-old man from Iran, who converted from Islam to another religion. Due to this, he was arrested and his family was harassed. The Iranian authorities threatened him and told him he must stop practising his new religion or he would be found guilty of a criminal offence.

To protect his family, our client and his wife got a divorce so the authorities couldn't accuse her of being complicit in his alleged crime. Due to the persecution he suffered, Iran was no longer a safe place for him to live. We assisted him throughout the protection process, which was successful. Our client is now a recognised refugee and is seeking family reunification with his wife and daughter.



03/ CHANGE IN A COMPLEX WORLD: HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT PROJECTS

CASE STUDY

Female from Sierra Leone granted refugee status on grounds of membership of particular social group

Our client was a 30-year-old woman from Sierra Leone. When she was a teenager, she was forced to undergo female genital mutilation by female relatives, which was accepted as a cultural practice.

Our client has two daughters with her husband. Her mother and mother-in-law put increasing pressure on our client to have her daughters cut. Her children were kidnapped to undergo female genital mutilation against our client's wishes.

Our client sought protection and assistance from the authorities in Sierra Leone but didn't receive it. She managed to find her daughters before they were cut and fled with them to Ireland to seek protection. Their applications were successful and they're now building a life in Ireland.



03/ CHANGE IN A COMPLEX WORLD: HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT PROJECTS



Partnering with Spirasi to protect and empower torture survivors

Spirasi is the national rehabilitation centre for victims of torture in Ireland. It offers clients holistic supports to heal from the damaging effects of torture.

One of its services is producing medical legal reports for international protection applicants who have survived torture. A doctor undertakes a physical and psychological examination of each client, giving that person a safe space to have their experiences objectively documented.

Before their protection interview, each client is given a report collating clear and consistent evidence of their experiences. This reduces the need for them to recall intimate details of their physical and psychological trauma during the interview.

Our work with Spirasi

Our lawyers undertake legal reviews of Spirasi's medical legal reports, reviewing them for use of language consistent with that adopted by the Istanbul Protocol (the set of international guidelines for documentation of torture and its consequences).

To enable them do this successfully, our lawyers receive ongoing support and specialist legal training from decision-makers, doctors and lawyers with expertise in the use of the Protocol.

Our doctors really appreciate the time given by ALG, attention to detail and comprehensive feedback of each legal review. It is so helpful in ensuring Spirasi produces high-quality objective reports for international protection applicants.

Paula Quirke, Rehabilitation Coordinator, Spirasi

70
medical legal
reports reviewed
in 2023



03/ CHANGE IN A COMPLEX WORLD: HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT PROJECTS



Reuniting children and families

Every year, hundreds of unaccompanied minors arrive in Ireland seeking sanctuary. Many have left their families behind in countries affected by conflict. Reunification with family is critical for a child's development and overall well-being.



In 2019, we joined other law firms and businesses to participate in a collaborative project with:

- Kids in Need of Defense (KIND), an international NGO devoted to protecting unaccompanied and separated children
- the Immigrant Council of Ireland
- the Irish Refugee Council.

Through this project, we help unaccompanied minors to apply for family reunification, working in a professional yet child-friendly way.

Over recent years, we have extended this project to support adults seeking family reunification with their loved ones.

Committing to our duty of care

To further our work in this area, our people have undertaken trauma-informed lawyering training to understand the importance of empathy, responsive listening, restraint from judgement, and showing authentic care and concern when undertaking this work. They were also taught how to identify early signs of re-traumatisation and vicarious trauma, and given the tools to tackle both.

55
clients supported
to apply for family
reunification



03/ CHANGE IN A COMPLEX WORLD: HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT PROJECTS

CASE STUDY

Separated minor reunited with mother and siblings after seven years apart

Our client, who left Ethiopia when he was just 14, applied for family reunification with his mother, stepfather and siblings in 2018. He lost contact with his family in late 2020 due to the communication blackout caused by ongoing conflict in the region.

Given the conflict, our client couldn't access sufficient documentation to prove his familial link with his mother and siblings. To establish a familial link, our client and his family members were asked to undergo DNA testing, which he did. Due to the communication blackout, our client couldn't tell his family about the DNA appointments made for them.

As our client's file had been open for so long and he couldn't establish the familial link, his application was rejected. Our client was devastated and we immediately began work on an appeal, which was successful. His file was re-opened for a further six months to allow efforts to re-establish contact with his family. During a brief ceasefire, our client re-established contact with his family. The family members were able to travel to the capital for DNA testing. This proved their familial link.

After a positive decision, the family was reunited in Dublin in 2023.



ALG client reunited with his family in Ireland after seven years apart.





03/ CHANGE IN A COMPLEX WORLD: HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT PROJECTS



Combatting homelessness through the Housing Law Clinic



ALG, Mercy Law Resource Centre, and Focus Ireland launched their second report on their collaborative housing law clinic.



Access to safe, suitable and affordable housing remains one of the single biggest social issues facing Ireland. To help tackle this crisis, we give free legal advice to families facing homelessness or social housing issues through a collaborative housing clinic project with the Mercy Law Resource Centre (MLRC) and Focus Ireland.

Adapting the MLRC's pre-existing model, our solicitors work alongside support workers from Focus Ireland to provide timely, free, professional and accessible legal advice and representation to those who most need it.

Earlier this year, along with Mercy Law and Focus Ireland, we launched **Housing Rights and Homelessness**, our second report on the housing clinic. It examined and reflected on the impact of the clinic, and the lessons learned from this unique partnership.



We can't overstate the value of the housing clinic project in bridging the gap in unmet legal need for homelessness cases. The dedication of ALG lawyers to the housing clinic is striking, with the team consistently going above and beyond to get results and to help alleviate the burden of homelessness for their clients.

We're so grateful to ALG, and particularly to Eithne and Amy on the pro bono team, for the invaluable support they give us and our clients.

Aoife Kelly-Desmond, Managing Solicitor, Mercy Law Resource Centre

As the housing crisis deepens, a wider group of people than ever before are finding themselves at risk of homelessness, often in complex circumstances. For these people, access to reliable, professional legal advice is vital, and ALG's important contribution to pro bono work through supporting Focus Ireland Services has proven to be a lifeline for the many people we support.

Mike Allen, Director of Advocacy, Research and Communications, Focus Ireland

03/ CHANGE IN A COMPLEX WORLD: HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT PROJECTS

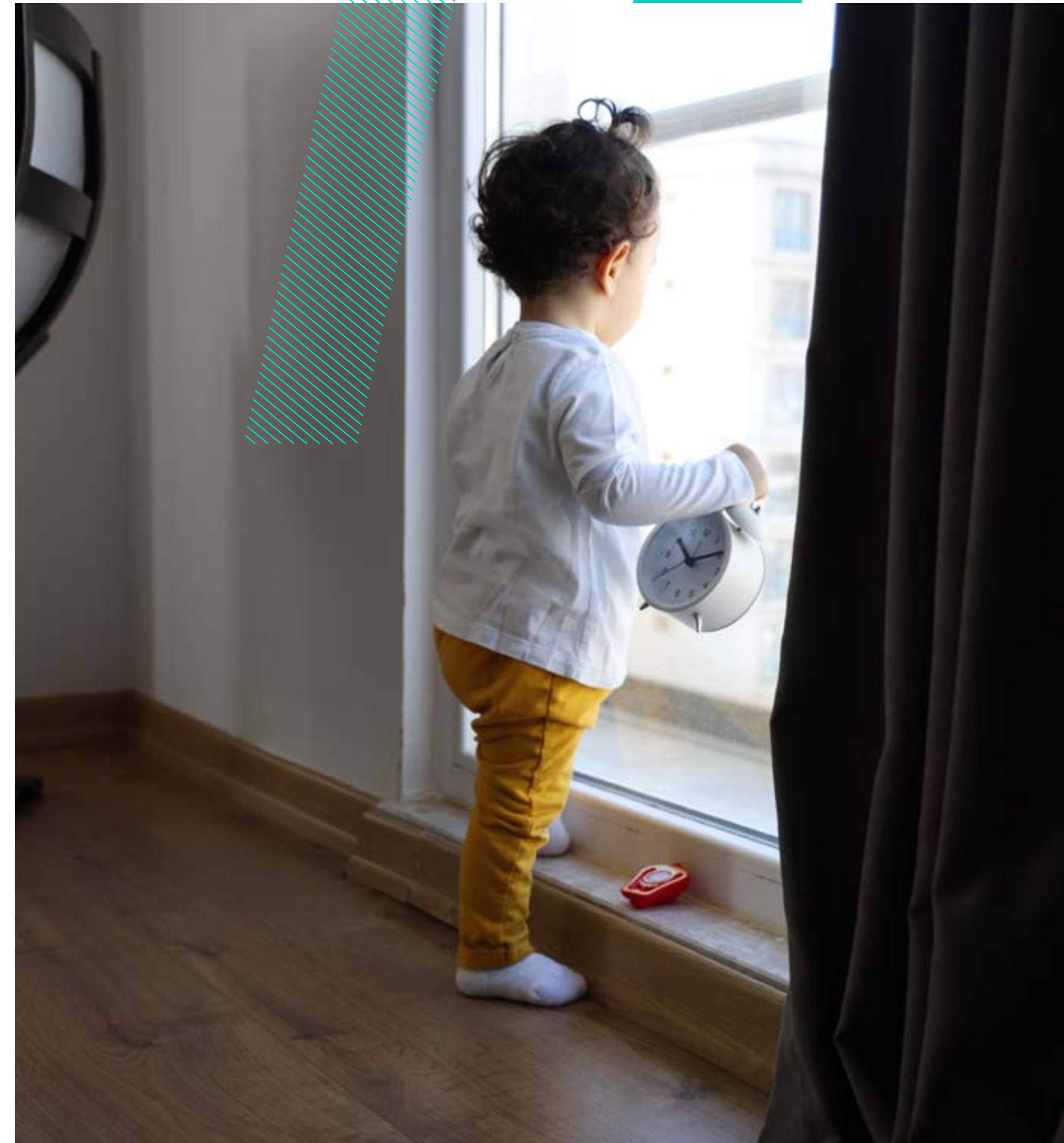
CASE STUDY

Successful appeal of refusal to provide emergency accommodation to family

Our client was living in private rented accommodation with their family when they were lawfully required to leave. The family moved into a hotel for six nights, but were no longer able to afford the rooms.

The clients contacted a local authority to seek emergency accommodation. In a misapplication of the law, the local authority refused the family shelter. We were instructed to engage in legal advocacy on behalf of the family, arguing the local authority failed in its statutory obligations by refusing to conduct a homelessness assessment for the family.

Among other things, we also argued this failure infringed on the family's Constitutional right to family and private life, and the right to education. After our work over several weeks, the local authority gave the family emergency accommodation, quickly following that with an offer of social housing.



03/ CHANGE IN A COMPLEX WORLD: HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT PROJECTS

CASE STUDY

Client granted medical priority and increased housing allowance to meet housing needs of the household

When we first met this client, she was living in a one-bedroom apartment with government help and was seeking an increased payment to allow for overnight care and medical priority housing. She subsequently became homeless later that year.

We worked on addressing her emergency accommodation needs, while also supporting her application for medical priority housing and securing long-term social housing. This client's complex medical needs mean she must have a specific type of accommodation. We submitted a Freedom

of Information request to the local authority to gather the relevant documents. Then we helped the client to collate medical evidence to submit to the local authority.

Our client was subsequently granted overall priority on medical grounds and approved for Homeless Housing Assistance Payment (HAP). We also succeeded in getting her housing application approved for a two-bedroom property because she needs overnight care. The client was approved for a property recently and has since moved into her new home.





04/ ACTING WITH COURAGE: PRO BONO IN TIMES OF CRISIS

In recent years we have directed our pro bono resources to supporting those impacted by war which has led to an escalation in displacement and need for sanctuary in Ireland.

Project Afghanistan: bringing families together

When the Taliban seized power in Afghanistan in August 2021, many Afghans in Ireland feared for the safety of their loved ones living there. The Irish Refugee Council (IRC) quickly began to see their services become overwhelmed with requests for emergency visa applications.

To help the IRC handle this crisis, we immediately seconded a trainee one day a week to their law centre. We also assembled a team of 80 lawyers to work on emergency visa applications being made through the Irish Embassy in Abu Dhabi.

Collaborating with the Irish legal community

In December 2021, the Minister for Justice Helen McEntee announced a new humanitarian admission scheme for Afghans living in Ireland to sponsor up to four family members to join them in Ireland.

With existing commitments and small size of their legal teams, the Irish Refugee Council and the Immigrant Council of Ireland couldn't meet the enormous demand that ensued. With the help of their law centres and collaborating with several other law firms, we quickly assembled legal teams to assist the Afghan/Irish community through a project dubbed Project Afghanistan.

This project aimed to give timely and professional legal representation to members of the Afghan/Irish community, and to advise them on safe and legal pathways for reuniting with family members at risk of persecution from the Taliban.

Project Afghanistan supported 96 Afghan clients to avail of free legal help, with the potential to benefit close to 500 individuals through family reunification if successful. Over 250 legal professionals have been involved in this collaborative project, collectively giving thousands of hours of free help.



“
The Afghan Admissions Programme offered us the opportunity to make a real difference to the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. Our client has been living in Ireland since 2018 and hadn't seen his family in over four years. He was incredibly worried about their safety, particularly that of his sisters, who were also deprived of any education when the Taliban took over.

Working with our client to ensure he was reunited with his family members in Ireland was incredibly rewarding and a true privilege.

Mairead Hughes, Solicitor; Caroline Murphy, Solicitor; Siobhan Kearney, Senior Associate ALG



04/ ACTING WITH COURAGE: PRO BONO IN TIMES OF CRISIS

“

When the road is darker, suddenly there are people with lights in their hands, like lighthouses in the sea, taking care of others in legal matters, giving me back some hope”

ALG Afghan Client





04/ ACTING WITH COURAGE: PRO BONO IN TIMES OF CRISIS



Vital support for displaced Ukrainian refugees



As the war in Ukraine continued, we co-operated with the Ukraine Ireland Legal Alliance, the Irish Red Cross and other law firms to support displaced Ukrainians in Ireland.

In July 2022, over 840 Ukrainian refugees arrived at a temporary Ukrainian refugee facility in Maynooth University. Along with our law firm peers we led a first-of-its-kind collaboration between the Irish Red Cross and Ukraine Ireland Legal Alliance to help Ukrainian refugees in Maynooth over a six-week period.

This initiative involved 124 volunteer lawyers from eight law firms, together with other law firm professionals and interpreters. Together they:

- developed and resourced the first on-site legal information clinics
- distributed €40,000 worth of welfare vouchers
- gave critical support with information gathering and data entry
- liaised with host families to help find suitable accommodation for 800+ Ukrainians who had to be re-located.

In the second phase of this project (and working with some of the other law firm), we delivered free legal information sessions to Ukrainians in the Ukraine Community Centre in Rathmines.



ALG lawyers and law firm peers support hundreds of displaced Ukrainian refugees at Maynooth University

“Reliable, professional legal information is one of the most pressing needs of those displaced by war. The collaboration between the Irish Red Cross and the Ukraine Ireland Legal Alliance rallied to meet this need from the early days of displaced Ukrainians arriving to Ireland.

The project progressed from the initial on-site legal information clinics to clinics at the IRC Ukraine Support Centre in Rathmines. These were staffed entirely by pro bono lawyers supported by volunteer translators.

As the needs of those supported continues to develop, the project is launching the next phase, which involves legal information webinars on the topics of most interest to this group.

The immediate impact of the supports given has been hugely heartening. It shows the great value of the pro bono sector to address urgent need.

Rosemarie Hayden, pro bono & Volunteer Coordinator, Irish Red Cross

05/ FOSTERING EXCELLENCE: LEGAL EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

Timely, accurate and professional legal information is vital to realising the right of access to justice. We dedicate a proportion of our pro bono practice to create entry points where legal information can be disseminated, including:

- legal information clinics
- tailored education programmes
- specialist training for civil society
- published guides.





05/ FOSTERING EXCELLENCE: LEGAL EDUCATION AND INFORMATION



Trinity FLAC: free legal information clinics for students

In recent years, we have worked in partnership with Trinity FLAC to deliver a free legal information clinic to Trinity College Dublin (TCD) students.

The clinics happen online on Tuesday evenings during term time. During them, any TCD student can have a free 15-minute consultation with a qualified solicitor to discuss a legal issue. These can include disputes with employers or landlords, information about immigration rights, and so on.

The partnership between ALG and Trinity FLAC has been extremely successful. It gives all Trinity students access to free legal information with confidentiality, ease and transparency.

Tara Brady, TCD student and co-ordinator of the Trinity FLAC project

It's been a pleasure volunteering as a lawyer for the TCD branch of FLAC throughout 2023. FLAC does fantastic work in helping people to understand and access their legal rights, especially marginalised and disadvantaged groups. It has been great to play a small part in helping them on that mission.

Sam Sheridan, Associate, ALG



05/ FOSTERING EXCELLENCE: LEGAL EDUCATION AND INFORMATION



Irish Refugee Council: Supporting migrant women into employment

Since 2018, the Irish Refugee Council (IRC) has run an employment readiness programme for migrant women. It aims to help migrant women navigate Ireland's employment system. ALG has collaborated with the IRC on this programme for many years. Our lawyers deliver sessions to attendees on their employment rights and obligations, and how to set up a business in Ireland.

It was inspiring to hear the women share their plans and dreams for their future life in Ireland. To help the participants see how to build a successful business in Ireland, I got to share my experience and expertise. It was wonderful to help them in building their future and to explain the rules, resources and possibilities available in Ireland.

**Michelle McLoughlin,
ALG Knowledge Consultant**

We achieved much with your professionalism in imparting knowledge, flexibility and support; how can we forget!

**Amaka Chuks, Employment Caseworker at the
Irish Refugee Council**

Earlier this year, we participated in a programme facilitated by the Irish Refugee Council on integrating migrant women into the workforce in Ireland. The idea was to give an overview of employment law in Ireland to people who may not have been familiar with how our system works.

We covered topics such as an employee's rights in Ireland, protected leave, employment equality, dignity at work, and health and safety in Ireland, as well as how an employee may take a claim in Ireland.

It was a really engaging session, as the group was eager to take part. The participants were excited about the topics, which were directly relevant to them, with many asking questions and keen to learn more about their employment rights.

**Matthew McGrogan and Ronan McCann,
ALG Solicitors**



05/ FOSTERING EXCELLENCE: LEGAL EDUCATION AND INFORMATION



Gay Community News: gaining invaluable training on defamation

Gay Community News is Ireland's national monthly free gay magazine. Earlier this year, lawyers from our disputes and investigations group delivered an informative training session to Gay Community News on defamation. They gave an overview of defamation and how it can arise, explained various defences to defamation claims, and outlined key practices to minimise associated risks.

It was extremely helpful and we learned some practical measures that we could implement straight away. The presentation generated a lot of debate on the journey back to the office! Our team had a broad understanding of libel, but it was great to see some examples of cases and to run through the defences, which hopefully we will never need.

Michael Brett, Group Manager of Gay Community News

We spent some time thinking about what to cover in the presentation. We wanted it to be as helpful and practical as possible for Gay Community News, and pitched at the right level. We gather from the engagement on the day, and the number of questions, that it was an informative and helpful session for them.

Kara Connolly, Associate, ALG



The Open Community: co-producing a crucial accommodation guide

Safe and secure housing is a fundamental component of integration for refugees. The Open Community is the national support organisation for Ireland's Community Sponsorship Programme for Refugees.

We are a member of the pro bono legal panel community groups can access for legal advice and information as they prepare to welcome refugee families through community sponsorship in Ireland. The issues can be broad, ranging from access to education and employment rights to social welfare.

Housing quickly emerged as the single biggest area where community groups needed help to understand. Last year, we helped the Open Community to produce the Community Sponsorship Groups Accommodation Guide.

Securing suitable accommodation for the duration of the sponsorship commitment is a key aspect of the community sponsorship programme, but also one of the most challenging to fulfil. The accommodation guide provides step-by-step guidance to community sponsorship groups at each stage of the accommodation journey and highlights how to avail of expert guidance and access key services.





06/ CHAMPIONING CIVIL SOCIETY AND PROMOTING PRO BONO CULTURE

Civil society plays a vital role in bringing people together, campaigning to solve pressing problems, and offering services to those who most need support. Organisations are seeing increased regulatory and governance requirements being placed on their operations. By giving civil society access to our legal expertise and support, we can help strengthen their internal procedures, while adding value and building their capacity to engage in social change.



FLAC (the Free Legal Advice Centres): creating pro bono Pledge Ireland

Free Legal Advice Centres' (FLAC) Public Interest Law Alliance has been a key stakeholder in creating the ecosystem where lawyers are matched with members of civil society to open networks between the two sectors. These connections expose each to different ways of thinking and facilitate opportunities to engage in positive social change.

This work led to the creation of pro bono Pledge Ireland, the first collaborative effort in Ireland to articulate the shared professional responsibility of lawyers to promote access to justice and provide pro bono legal assistance to those in need.

We're proud to have been a founding signatory of the Pledge, which has led to closer cooperation and collaboration with our legal peers. We continue to take on pro bono referrals through the Public Interest Law Alliance's pro bono referral scheme.

We continue to allocate much of our time to helping our pro bono partners, using our commercial legal skill sets to meet their day-to-day needs, as the following sections show.

For many years, ALG has played a leading role and been a driving force in the development of a pro bono culture in Ireland.

When FLAC established the first pro bono clearinghouse in Ireland, ALG became an early supporter of this new structured approach to the delivery of pro bono legal services.

Through this project, the Public Interest Law Alliance FLAC created important links between private practice and social justice organisations. This created a new pathway to access free legal services in a timely and professional way. ALG was one of the first law firms in Ireland to come on board and, since 2014, has been a Sustaining Partner.

Eilis Barry, CEO, FLAC





06/ CHAMPIONING CIVIL SOCIETY AND PROMOTING PRO BONO CULTURE



Dublin Rape Crisis Centre: giving voice to survivors

The We-Speak Platform is part of a long-term national campaign by the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre (DRCC) to inform, educate and engage with all members of society about consent. As part of its broader We Consent campaign, the platform will collect and share testimonies from survivors of sexual assault and rape, with the aim of creating a safe online community to share comfort and inspire hope.

DRCC was working with a US-based NGO to build this tech platform, with DRCC having the technological capabilities to build a white label version of the US platform for Ireland. The challenge for the DRCC was to ensure the platform complied with all Irish laws, most notably on data protection, given the sensitive nature of the material being shared.

Our Commercial and Technology team worked with the DRCC on the legal documents underpinning the operation of the platform in Ireland.



ALG attended the launch of the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre's "We-Consent" campaign

We're extremely grateful for the help of ALG's pro bono team on our We-Speak project. We simply could not have managed the complex but essential legal issues involved in the contract with our US web service provider without the invaluable legal skills provided.

We believe this project will make a really positive difference for survivors of sexual violence in Ireland by allowing them to safely and securely share their stories in their own words, in their own time. These stories matter – every story matters.

Sarah Monaghan, Consent Project Manager, Dublin Rape Crisis Centre

We were honoured to help the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre with its groundbreaking work on creating the We-Speak platform. Throughout the process, the DRCC was entirely understanding of the challenges at hand, but equally committed to its goal; to spark a nationwide conversation on the topic of consent.

We were hugely inspired by their dedication, and are personally and professionally proud to see this project over the line.

Karina Khusainova, Senior Legal Advisory at ALG & Shauna Scannell, ALG Solicitor

06/ CHAMPIONING CIVIL SOCIETY AND PROMOTING PRO BONO CULTURE



Belong To: supporting LGBTQ+ youth

It has been a real privilege to support Belong To, the leading LGBTQ+ youth organisation in the country. We have helped it meet its day-to-day organisational needs and free up its time to focus on creating safe spaces and places for LGBTQ+ youth.

For many years now, A&L Goodbody has given us high-quality pro bono legal services. Knowing its dedicated, professional team is there to share their expertise with us year-round is immense as we strive to campaign for LGBTQ+ equality in Ireland.

At every point of contact with ALG, we are met with helpful guidance and insight, which has an incredibly positive impact on our work. This is an incredibly impactful collaboration that we look forward to continuing.

Moninne Griffith, CEO, Belong To



06/ CHAMPIONING CIVIL SOCIETY AND PROMOTING PRO BONO CULTURE



Depaul: unwavering work to end homelessness

Our enduring partnership with Depaul covers multiple workstreams, including fundraising events and initiatives, employee volunteering, strategic engagement at leadership level, and pro bono legal support on significant service advancements.

Our partnership with ALG stands out as one of our most impactful and enduring corporate partnerships to date. ALG's extensive support has led to positive development throughout the organisation, and positive outcomes for the men, women and children we serve.

The entire ALG team has stepped up to support Depaul's work, including support across one of the largest transfers of services in the Irish voluntary and community sector, which expanded our regional impact significantly.

What makes our partnership with ALG so successful is our clear values alignment and an unwavering objective to work together to do everything we can to end homelessness and change the lives of those affected by it.

Depaul is extremely proud to continue to work in partnership with ALG as we strive towards sustainable solutions to end homelessness, particularly at this critical time. We remain eternally grateful to all the team at ALG for their ongoing support.

David Carroll, CEO, Depaul

ALG perform at its Annual Christmas Choral concert in aid of Depaul Ireland



07/ PROTECTING THE RULE OF LAW



Irish Rule of Law International (IRLI) is a project-oriented rule of law organisation that seeks to progress resource-restrained societies to tackle the effects of global injustice. This year we supported IRLI's work in Tanzania and Malawi.

IRLI works to promote and strengthen the rule of law and improve access to justice. It achieves this by harnessing expertise and knowledge within the Irish and international legal community to give pro bono legal support, advice and technical assistance.



07/ PROTECTING THE RULE OF LAW



Tanzania: contributing to a key paper on child sexual abuse

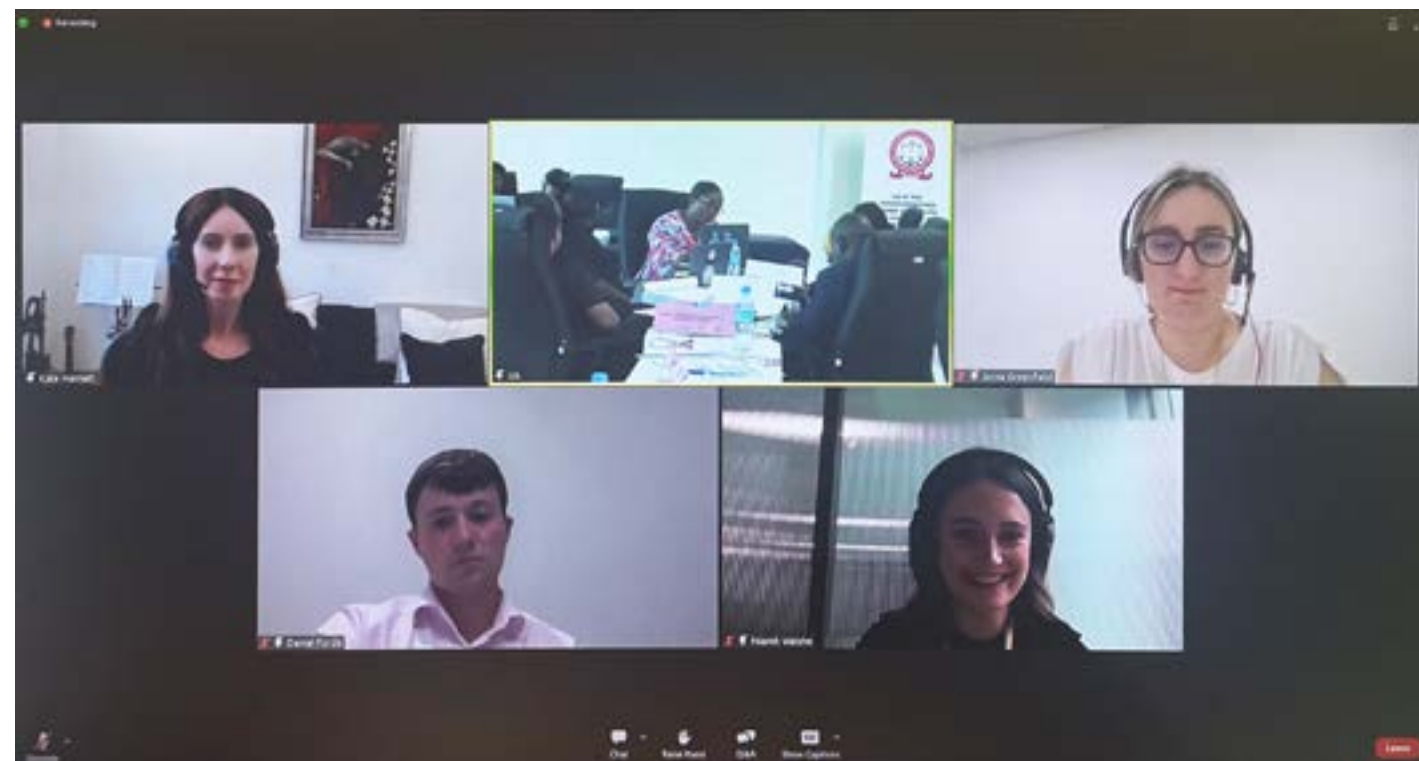
At the invitation of the Institute of Judicial Administration in Tanzania, IRLI was asked to contribute to a compendium on the treatment of child sexual abuse. This was to be used as part of the IJA's judicial training programme.

With a team of 19 legal professionals from across our Dublin and Belfast offices, we undertook a mapping of domestic and

international frameworks on the protection of children from sexual abuse in Ireland.

The paper summarised the key pieces of domestic legislation that govern child protection, the investigation and prosecution of child sexual abuse, the responsible authorities, and the protection given to children involved in such matters. We also included a comprehensive overview of the development of the case law in this area.

Finally, the team outlined the key international instruments governing child sexual abuse which Ireland is bound by, and the measures Ireland has taken to comply with its obligations under these instruments.



ALG lawyers presented to the Tanzanian Judiciary on their research into the prosecution of child sexual abuse in Ireland

The preparation and, ultimately, the publication of the compendium of child sexual abuse cases of Tanzania and Ireland is a huge milestone. It's a clear testimony of the impact of collaboration between countries and institutions from the north and the south.

I am optimistic the compendium will have significant impact as a useful resource not only for judges and magistrates from Tanzania and Ireland, but also all stakeholders in the justice system.

I am extremely thankful to all those at ALG who contributed significantly in making the compendium possible. Their efforts demonstrate the positive impact of the firm's pro bono practice and will have long-lasting benefits for many in Tanzania.

Mr Justice Dr Paul Kihwelo of the Court of Appeal Tanzania, principal of the IJA

Contributing to this extremely worthwhile project was a huge privilege for us. Protecting vulnerable children is vital and researching how the law can help was truly rewarding. We all enjoyed stepping outside of our comfort zone and were delighted our work has really benefitted the Tanzanian judiciary and, consequently, vulnerable children in that jurisdiction.

Shirley Blair, Of Counsel, ALG



07/ PROTECTING THE RULE OF LAW



Malawi: lighting the way to a new legislative framework

IRLI has had a permanent presence in Malawi since 2011. Working there, it has been dedicated to:

- improving access to justice for adults and children in the criminal justice system
- strengthening institutional capacity, coordination and accountability
- supporting local justice actors to develop court rules and procedures within the recently established financial crimes court.

As part of the planning process for the new court, IRLI was asked by the High Court of Malawi to provide an overview of the approach taken by the courts in Ireland. IRLI, in turn, asked us to help them in this legal research project.

Our financial regulation team, supported by nine legal professionals, set out the legislative framework in Ireland as it applies to:

- corruption (including bribery)
- fraud offences
- cybercrime
- terrorist financing
- money laundering
- market abuses
- reporting offences.

The team also set out the international and EU framework as it related to financial crimes. In late 2023, local legal stakeholders were reviewing the research as they moved towards making the court operational in Malawi.

A&L Goodbody has supported Irish Rule of Law International by providing detailed and practical research papers to its stakeholders in Malawi and Tanzania, explaining often complex Irish legislation in a practical and relevant manner. The research papers enable IRLI's stakeholders to undertake a comparative analysis of Irish law, so they can strengthen and complement their rule of law.

Michelle Drury, pro bono Development Manager, Irish Rule of Law International

We really enjoyed working on this research project with Irish Rule of Law International. It was a great opportunity to share knowledge and insights on the regulatory framework in Ireland, as Malawi embarks on establishing a new financial crimes court. We look forward to continuing this work over the coming years.

Chloe Culleton, Partner, Disputes & Investigations, ALG





08/ UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL OF SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Social entrepreneurs are uniquely placed to deliver real social change with lasting impact. Their business models typically align with their values and purpose to deliver social, community or environmental good (sometimes all three).

Our pro bono practice has developed sustained partnerships with networks that support new ideas, bring them to market and help them to accelerate.



Accelerating social change with SEI and A Lust for Life

Social Entrepreneurs Ireland (SEI) was the first organisation in Ireland dedicated to supporting those developing innovative solutions to Ireland’s entrenched societal challenges. Over two decades, it has been a pioneer in discovering, supporting and growing the spirit of entrepreneurship to tackle issues affecting the most vulnerable people in Ireland.

It now has the single largest alumni network of such organisations in this country, making extraordinary change in health and well-being, climate and social inclusion. As its legal partner, we give pro bono legal help and run regular webinars to accelerate the development of these SEI alumni organisations.

Earlier this year, we had the pleasure of working with SEI alumnus, A Lust for Life on two significant grant agreements to support its vision of a world where humanity is the headline act on the main stage.



A&L Goodbody has provided extensive and expert legal support to A Lust For Life. The service each and every time has been fantastic, timely and friendly. We have always been treated like a valuable client. A&L Goodbody keeps us legally safe and protected as a small charity with a mighty mission. We cannot thank you enough for your support.

Bernie Keogh, Executive Director, A Lust for Life

The support that ALG gives us at Social Entrepreneurs Ireland is invaluable. Knowing they’re in our corner gives us great confidence as we help to amplify the people who look to solve social problems across the island of Ireland. Our vision is Accelerated social change through the power of people, and ALG is the living example of the truth behind that statement.

Tim Griffiths, CEO, Social Entrepreneurs Ireland



08/ UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL OF SOCIAL ENTERPRISE



Anchoring our local community with Inner City Enterprise

As we're located and operate in Dublin's northeast inner city, it's vital to us that we support social enterprise in our local area. For many years, we have worked closely with Inner City Enterprise (ICE), offering ongoing support to 48 social enterprises in its portfolio.

ALG has been a hugely valuable sponsor of ours over the past nine years. As well as ongoing financial funding, ALG has also given ICE substantial and much-valued pro bono support. This included advising on our memorandum and articles, as well as on the lease for our new Social Enterprise Hub, and supporting our 48 social enterprises.

We also really appreciate the active participation of the wonderful Sinead Smith, Head of Responsible Business, as a judge for our awards events and her involvement on our event sub-committees.

A&L Goodbody is the type of sponsor every charity needs.

Evanne Kilmurray, CEO, Inner City Enterprise

As employment law experts, we can help pro bono clients from all walks of life. We advise on individual cases and act for organisations in the pro bono space.

Often, pro bono clients cannot access speciality employment law advice, so being able to give them significant support and guide them through the complexities of employment law is hugely satisfying for us and extremely beneficial to them.

It means a lot to us that our support makes a difference to our clients, whether we're advising on contentious employment law matters or on how to operate effectively as an employer.

Duncan Inverarity, Partner and Head of Employment, ALG





Supporting the NOW Group in the creation of jobs with a future

ALG provides all island support to the work of the NOW Group. The NOW Group is a social enterprise supporting people with learning difficulties and autism into jobs with a future. Its services focus on supporting people into employment, training, and volunteering. For every £1 invested in the NOW Group they have generated £20 in social value.

The pro-bono support NOW Group receives from A&L Goodbody has been invaluable in supporting the Corporate Governance function of our organisation as we expand our services into ROI. While we have well established Corporate Governance processes in our NI Company, ensuring we established equally robust processes for our new venture as a Social Enterprise in ROI presented a risk due to our limited experience of ROI Company Law and it was vital that we were equally compliant in both jurisdictions to maintain a robust governance foundation.

It has been so helpful to have the ongoing support from A&L Goodbody including guidance on technical wording of minutes and resolutions, the latest updates to Director registration requirements and the submission of our annual return to CRO. Perhaps most valuable is having the opportunity to build our internal knowledge through simply being able to pick up the phone for a quick nugget of advice as needed, providing the space to safely establish our processes as NOW Group grows in ROI.

Ann Osborne, Quality Assurance and Impact Manager, NOW Group



