PROPORTUNITY: ABA JUSTICE WORKS PROGRAM

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Justice Works helps ensure that civil society organizations and justice sector actors have the necessary tools and capacity to effectively address and respond to bias-motivated violence based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

JUSTICE WORKS TECHNICAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Through its network of pro bono lawyers and legal experts, Justice Works offers free support to local partners working to address and respond to bias-motivated violence based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Justice Works provides pro bono technical assistance to entities involved in addressing and responding to bias-motivated violence based on sexual orientation or gender identity: civil society organizations (CSOs), psychosocial support services providers, law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, and others.

TYPES OF TECHNICAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE

STRENGTHENING RAPID RESPONSE EFFORTS

Justice Works connects LGBTI community-based organizations and others providing support to survivors of violent, bias-motivated attacks to legal experts able to strengthen efforts to formally document incidences, including collecting, preserving, and reviewing evidence, and to help strategize next steps to bring perpetrators to justice through a survivor-centric processes.

Example: When police attacked a gay man in Central Asia, Justice Works quickly linked a local CSO that was supporting the survivor with in-country lawyers available to provide pro bono strategic legal advice, including on proposing meetings with appropriate high-level justice sector officials in the capital and taking steps to prevent possible retaliation against the survivor.

FACILITATING CREATIVE LITIGATION STRATEGIES

Justice Works’ legal experts provide local CSOs comparative and international research, draft pleadings, and identify legal strategies for holding governments accountable for failing to investigate and prosecute those implicated in violence against the LGBTI community.

Example: After attacks in East Africa and a request for assistance from a local organization, Justice Works recruited a global law firm to produce a comprehensive report that identified potential legal recourse under domestic, regional, and international law.
### SUPPORTING LEGAL AND POLICy ADVOCACY

Justice Works supports local CSO advocacy by **providing in-depth comparative and international research** on potential strategic responses to legal and policy gaps in domestic legislation and practice.

**Example:** At the request of a partner organization in Eastern Europe, Justice Works engaged *pro bono* counsel to analyze hate crime legislation in three different countries. The analysis provided concrete examples of inclusive hate crime laws and lessons learned from implementation of such laws that Justice Works’ local partner is using in its ongoing advocacy.

### CONNECTING JUSTICE SECTOR CHANGEMAKERS

Using the global Justice Works expert network of current and former prosecutors, police officers, criminal investigators, criminal lawyers, and psychosocial support service providers, Justice Works **links justice sector actors throughout the world** with their peers in other jurisdictions who have effectively responded to violence targeting LGBTI people in order to share lessons learned and best practices.

**Example:** Justice Works convened a workshop for participants from across government and civil society who are actively engaged in responding to bias-motivated violence based on sexual orientation or gender identity. During the three-day workshop, participants shared challenges and successful strategies from across their various fields.

### LEVERAGING THE ABA’S RELATIONSHIPS

Justice Works engages in-country or in-region partners, including through ABA country offices, to **leverage existing relationships** to pressure relevant just sector actors, legislatures, and other government officials to more effectively respond to bias-motivated violence based on sexual orientation or gender identity in law, policy, and practice.

**Example:** After repeated violent attacks on the premises of a CSO in East Africa, the ABA president issued a letter calling on justice sector authorities to uphold their duty to investigate and prosecute the crime and protect the fundamental civil and political rights of CSOs in the country.

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**Submit a Request**

ABA Justice Works staff are excited to provide *pro bono* support to local efforts underway to address bias-motivated violence based on sexual orientation or gender identity. To inquire if you are eligible or to submit a request for technical legal assistance, please email: justiceworks@americanbar.org.