




**FREE LEGAL ADVICE AND STRATEGIC
LITIGATION SUPPORT FOR NGOS**

Pro Bono Connect is a project of the Dutch Committee of Jurists for Human Rights (NJCM).

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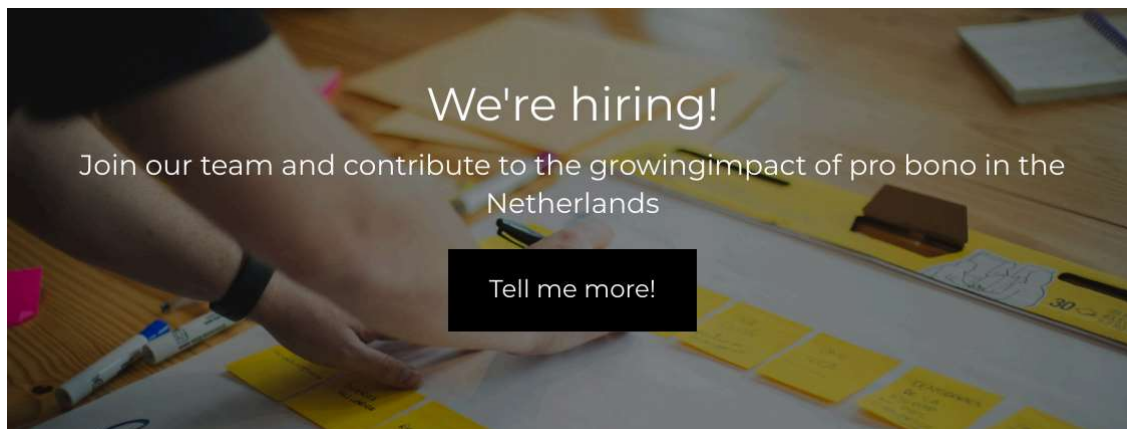
2024: Starting with good news from our civil society stakeholders

The past month, we've been reflecting on feedback from the NGOs we support. Empowering civil society is one of our core goals, so we gathered their input in a series of interviews & survey. Their experience with pro bono (overwhelmingly positive), needs and priorities inform our activities in 2024.

We spoke to a range of NGOs who have worked with us, large and small, with local and global reach. They work in a variety of crucial issues: activism, human rights, environment and sustainability, equality, mental health, gender equality, child welfare in conflict, peace and justice.

- **All confirm the need & value of continued services of Pro Bono Connect!**
- Legal workshops offer added value of **deeper learning through exchange.**
- Most respondents foresee new requests for legal assistance with **organizational matters** in 2024.
- Several respondents plan on engaging pro bono assistance in direct support of their **strategic activities** (e.g. litigation, trainings for vulnerable groups, etc.).
- **The reasons NGOs request pro bono support are no surprise:** lack of budget, complexity of legal issues, lack of expertise in a specific legal area.

A BIG THANK YOU to respondents and our tireless & eager intern, Anne!



Legal Workshop for NGOs, 6 March 2024, Amsterdam "Money Matters & International Financial Transfers"

Banks, businesses, and NGOs have legal obligations related to the fight against money laundering & terrorism financing. In the workshop, we'll cover legal obligations and practical considerations facing NGOs working internationally or in collaboration with local partners.

We're excited to hear from our speakers, with years of experience working on these issues with financial institutions, regulators and civil society: [Thalia Malmberg](#) from [Human Security Collective](#), and [Birgit Snijder-Kuipers](#) & [Jacoline van Bennekom-Overgaauw](#) from our partner firm [De Brauw Blackstone Westbroek](#).

**Register below for the last few in-person spots or to follow the workshop online.*

Last chance to register!

Survey on Access to Financial Services

For over 20 years, [the European Center for Not-for-Profit Law \(ECNL\)](#) has been working to empower civil society, creating enabling legal and policy frameworks. They will be sharing during our upcoming workshop. In the meantime, fill in their survey on access to financial services.

WHO should respond? Civil society organization or an activist associated with a CSO

WHAT? The survey was developed to analyse the most common challenges CSOs and their activists in exile or relocation face when accessing financial services

WHY? To identify opportunities for improving cooperation between financial service providers and CSOs.

HOW? The survey is available in **English, Arabic, French, Russian** and **Spanish**. It enables **anonymous collection of data**, unless participants themselves provide

personal data in their responses. The survey is designed to show you only questions relevant to you and should take no more than 15 minutes.

The ECNL thanks you in advance!

Take me to the ECNL survey!

Legal workshops: special opportunities for lawyers, NGOs and communities

Respondents of our NGO survey and interviews highlighted in-person exchanges with lawyers and other NGOs as the added value of our workshops. Through the years, our partner firms have contributed as hosts and speakers. This work remains a pillar of our activities in 2024.

Here we share a quote from our partner, [HVG Law](#). *"A highlight of our pro bono contribution was a workshop in collaboration with the Ukrainian legal support network of Opora Foundation. HVG Law provided advice to displaced Ukrainian people in the Netherlands, covering topics like work on ZZP-basis."*

HVG Law has been a trusted partner to PBC in 2023, taking on a large number of pro bono requests for diverse NGOs in a variety of legal areas. Because of their relationship with EY, they have increased our capacity to support NGOs working in the fields of **supporting the next generation or environmental sustainability with pro bono tax law support.**

If your organization or initiative is looking for guidance in this area, please reach out to us!

UPCOMING EVENTS 2024 - Save the Dates!

More to come

6 March - Workshop: Financial Inclusion & International transfers

10-14 June - European Pro Bono Week

12 June - Round Table Partner Firms

21 November - NL Pro Bono Day & Round Table Partner Firms

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