



Cross-border Legal Aid Interventions in Humanitarian Contexts

CASE STUDY: AFGHANISTAN AND UKRAINE



THE GRF LEGAL COMMUNITY PLEDGE



First international initiative of its scale to bring together the global legal community to:

- **increase legal assistance** for and with refugees, asylum-seekers, stateless people, and internally and other displaced people, and
- to **advance systemic change** to facilitate access to rights, justice and solutions.

Garnered the commitment of over 1 million hours of free legal aid services to be provided between 2020-2023.

A MULTISTAKEHOLDER APPROACH THE PLEDGE FRAMEWORK



- Mobilize organizational pledges by civil society and private sector stakeholders.
- Build an integrated legal community that works locally to globally to maximize resources and impact.
- Resource and support the localization of legal practice and advocacy.

AFGHANISTAN

CONVENINGS

Over **250 legal actors** attended an **Urgent Consultation** to better understand:

- The legal needs of the Afghan community
- Legal pathways available and being created across multiple jurisdictions
- Existing referrals pathways

Needs identified:

- Consolidated Legal Resources
- Support to Access to Legal Pathways
- Strengthening of RLO and Legal Aid Capacity
- Facilitation of Collaboration and Coordination

The Asia Pacific Network of Refugees (APNOR), the Global Refugee Network (MENA), members of the GRF Legal Community Pledge, and PILnet are calling an urgent consultation on meeting legal needs arising from the Afghanistan situation.



Please join us!

WEDNESDAY, 25 AUGUST

5.00am Los Angeles | 8.00am New York
2.00pm CET | 3.00pm | Nairobi 4.30pm
Kabul 8.00pm Hong Kong | 10.00pm Sydney

If you are unable to participate on Wednesday, but are interested or have information to share, please respond by email to: apnor.refugees@gmail.com and jimperingham@pilnet.org.

In partnership with:



Refugee Legal:
Defending the rights
of refugees.



AFGHANISTAN

LEGAL RESOURCES

Legal aid and pathways information sheets provide:

- legal options available to Afghans **already in the country**;
- legal options available to Afghans with **family members in the country**;
- legal options available to Afghans **wishing to relocate due to risk of harm**;
- list of organizations providing **free legal assistance** and other useful resources.

In **Dari and English**

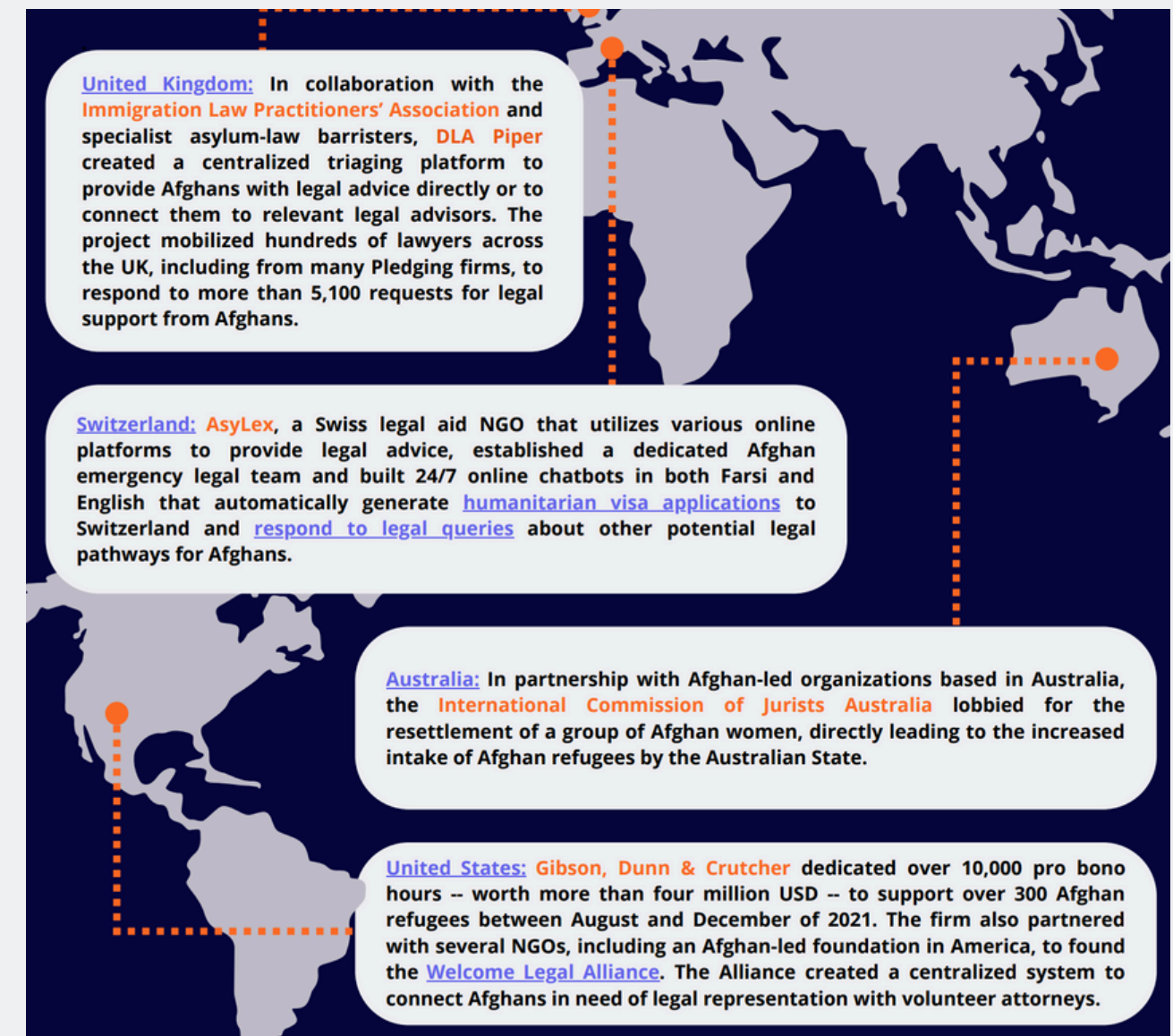
Available on **multiple platforms**



AFGHANISTAN

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

- Increase in **collaborative public-private sector pro bono projects**, especially in Europe
- Focus on in-country support in 'destination' countries and to support **legal pathways to safety**
- Mobilization of **significant pro bono resources** by private sector actors



UKRAINE

CONVENINGS

- **Ukraine Working Group on Cross-Border Legal Aid** established in May 2022.
- Working Group hosted a **series of events in 2022 and 2023.**
- **PILnet convened** UNHCR, legal aid providers and private sector lawyers to **co-design pro bono project.**



UKRAINE

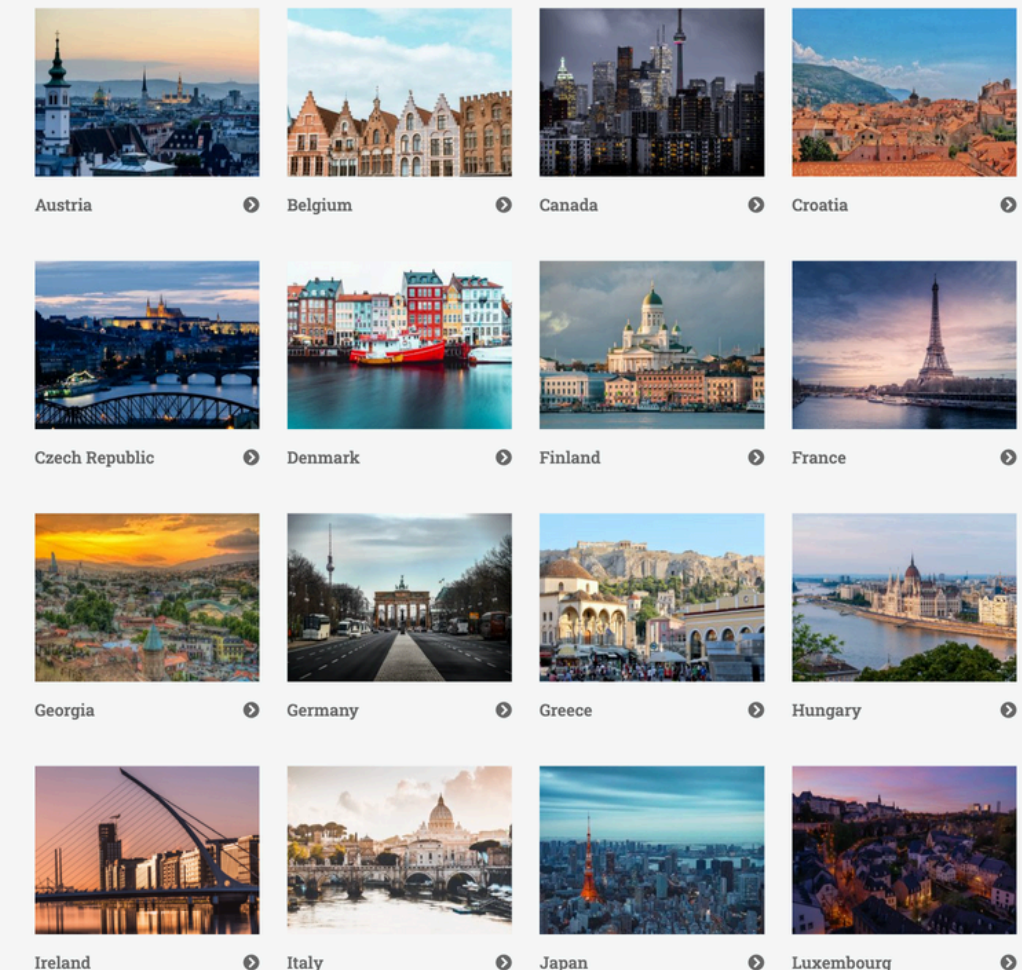
LEGAL RESOURCES

Legal information sheets provide country guidance with legal and administrative information, including on:

- travel documents,
- registration,
- access to social, medical, and housing services,
- administrative steps for Ukrainians to establish themselves in their country of your choice.

In **Ukrainian and English**

Available on **multiple platforms**



UKRAINE

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

- Collaborative public-private sector **pro bono projects developed for Afghanistan adapted**
- Continued focus on in-country support in 'destination' countries and to support **legal pathways to safety**
- Collaborative pro bono project established in **Poland** - PILnet, UNHCR, legal aid lawyers, Bar Association, displaced lawyers



LESSONS LEARNT



- Develop replicable and flexible models (Convenings - Legal Resources - Legal Assistance)
- Respond to the local context
- Involve lawyers and others with lived experience
- Create platforms for knowledge sharing
- Build partnerships, collaboration and coordination

WHY SHOULD YOU SIGN UP?



**Solidarity with
displaced people**



**Movement
Building**



**Norm
Setting**



**Partnerships
&
Networking**



**Joint Legal Advocacy
&
Strategy Development**



**Information Sharing
&
Mutual Learning**



**Strategic
Focus**



**Pro Bono & Financial
Resource Opportunities**



Visibility



Scan the QR code: to learn more about the GRF 2023 Legal Community Pledge and how you can connect across borders with others in the legal community to increase access to legal assistance for refugees and other displaced people!

Request free legal help: <https://www.pilnet.org/legal-assistance-intake-form/>

Reach out: jsimperingham@pilnet.org