

Pro Bono Legal

Addressing complex legal issues through deep client relationships and expertise

Herbert Smith Freehills is one of the world's leading international law firms. Our pro bono practice is part of the firm's core business and our work is driven first and foremost by the impact it creates and the value we add for our pro bono clients.

We prioritise assisting those experiencing or at increased risk of marginalisation, underrepresentation or systemic disadvantage, including: people experiencing homelessness, asylum seekers and refugees, people with disabilities, LGBTQ+ community members and women. We also provide pro bono legal advice to not-for-profit organisations and social enterprises that work to create positive social change.

In this flyer, we provide examples of the services and support we offer to those charities, social enterprises and not-for-profit organisations working to create positive social change.

For more details, please contact matteo.yoon@hsf.com.



How might we support you?

Set out below are typical examples of kinds of legal topics that we cover for charities, social enterprises and other not-for-profit organisations. Our coverage of these topics may vary depending on your location: please contact us to find out more about whether we can help you.



Investment support:

advice on the receipt and execution of social, impact and financial investments through debt, equity or convertible instruments, including impact investing strategy and governance.

For more information, see our HSF Impact page.

Charity law and regulatory compliance:

support with regulatory and compliance requirements, including charity law, Charity Commission guidance, fundraising regulation, community interest company regulation, and other areas such as competition law, financial services regulation, and financial crime.

Intellectual property, privacy and data protection:

intellectual property advisory work, as well as support on a wide range of data protection, privacy and associated matters.

Tax:

support regarding a variety of issues (including charity tax reliefs, VAT, social investment tax relief, and wide advisory support).

Other business services:

in addition to lawyers, HSF has experts from a wide variety of non-legal areas, including IT, project management, procurement, business development and marketing, HR, design and more.

Structuring and governance:

assistance with social enterprise and not-for-profit legal structuring, charity registration, constitutional documents and governance queries (including mission locks, asset locks, and golden shares), and policy drafting.

Grants, trading and commercial contracts:

advice on grant-making policy, grant agreements, commercial participation agreements, primary purpose trading and other commercial agreements.

Employment and incentives:

advice across a variety of issues relating to employment and ownership, including in relation to founder shares and employee stock ownership.

Real estate:

matters that arise in relation to property ownership and leasing, real estate disputes, and more.

Dispute resolution:

our expert team of litigators, arbitrators, mediators, advocacy experts, regulatory specialists, and investigators provide worldwide support on complex and challenging disputes.