



5 THEORIES OF CHANGE TO HELP ACHIEVE SOCIAL GOOD



Law alone cannot create social change, but it can be a useful tool in the struggle. Different people have different ideas about how law can help achieve social change. Below are some common theories of change.



ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Better access to court and appropriate legal supports leads to justice for marginalized people.

Examples: Legal Aid, lawyers providing services for free or at a reduced rate



LAW REFORM

Legal victories, in court and through policy reform, lead to social change.

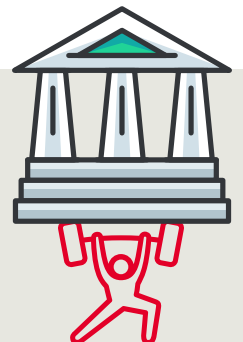
Examples: test cases or constitutional challenges, interventions, lobbying efforts



RULE OF LAW

Strengthening laws and legal institutions, including the judicial system, leads to a more equal society.

Example: judicial reforms (e.g. changes to how judges are appointed, to training judges receive)



DEMOCRATIZING LAW

Improving legal literacy in the population as a whole allows people to understand and use law as a tool, enabling them to create social change.

Example: “Know Your Rights” education sessions.



MOVEMENT LAWYERING

Providing legal services and supports as directed by social movements, which take collective action and direct their own struggles, leads to social change.

Examples: Hosting legal education sessions for movement members, facilitating meetings for movement members with key stakeholders, filing court cases to support movement goals

