



# 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.

1

## 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

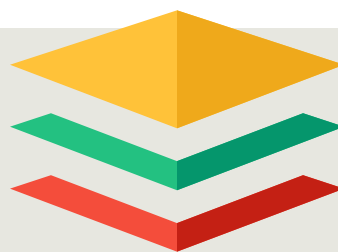


2

## LAW REFORM

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

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

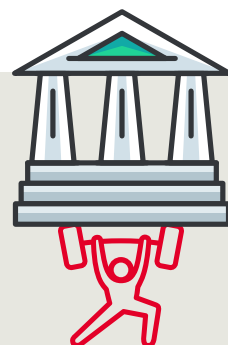


3

## 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)



4

## 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.



5

## 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

