



Myanmar Social Work Fellow

The International Legal Foundation (ILF) Myanmar is seeking experienced social workers with demonstrated expertise in casework, counseling, and service referrals for people in conflict with the law. These social workers will participate in the ILF's groundbreaking International Fellows Program, supporting ILF Myanmar in building holistic representation models to better serve our clients.

Established in 2001, the ILF is a leading global advocate for the right to counsel. Our mission is to make justice a reality for poor people by fighting to guarantee high-quality legal representation for everyone arrested or detained. Headquartered in New York, the ILF has current programs in Afghanistan, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Palestine, and Tunisia. We work with ministries of justice, bar associations, lawyers, prosecutors, and police to expand access to justice for vulnerable people. By bringing international criminal defense experts together with local lawyers to provide professional mentorship and exchange, the ILF is raising a new generation of public defenders. Our work prevents torture and mistreatment, promotes alternatives to detention, encourages positive youth development, and builds fair and credible institutions.

Since 2001, over 60 Fellows from all over the world have helped transform the role of local lawyers in these countries from passive participants in the criminal justice system to proactive advocates for their clients. As a direct result, clients languishing in detention have been released, and many innocent people have been acquitted.

ILF Myanmar has pioneered a holistic legal aid model that addresses intersecting and collateral issues faced by its clients, with the goal to connect them with social services, address their socio-economic needs and improve both their case and life outcomes. The ILF's multi-disciplinary Myanmar team includes social workers who work with lawyers to identify underlying needs, issues and challenges and develop social work plans. To support this model, the fellow will train the social workers on how to assess needs, conduct interviews and counsel their clients with an eye toward making social service or legal referrals, as well as supporting the lawyers advocating for pre-trial release, diversion, alternatives to detention/incarceration and developing reintegration plans post-trial. The social work fellow will also train the multidisciplinary team to provide holistic representation by developing and strengthening social service referral networks.

The local team will be the first point of contact for people seeking advice and assistance with broader social and justice issues and should be able to provide needed services or refer them to government, community-based, and civil society organizations that can more effectively address their needs. The social work fellow will work with local ILF management teams to create policies and procedures for referrals, tracking the use of referrals, and a process to follow-up the impact of referrals. The fellow assignment will be for 3 months, conducted entirely in-person in Myanmar. International travel costs, local housing, medical evacuation coverage, and a small stipend are provided.

Qualifications:

- Social work or social services referral experience, with at least 5+ years working with justice-involved individuals.
- Demonstrated expertise in conducting assessments and making referrals; tracking use of referrals; developing a social service referral network, mapping of services, providing referrals in a compassionate and non-judgmental manner, and best practices in confidentiality.
- Awareness of cultural differences and the ability to welcome and incorporate ideas from the local team.
- No language requirement (staff translators are available).

Preferred Qualifications:

- Experience working in developing or transitional countries.

To apply, please send a thoughtful cover letter and resume to fellows@theilf.org. Please mention "Myanmar Social Work Fellow" in the subject line.