

Our Mandate

The European Legal Support Center is the first and only independent organisation providing professional legal support and assistance to associations, groups and individuals advocating for Palestinian rights in Europe. The ELSC intervenes to end arbitrary restrictions and criminalization of peaceful advocacy and humanitarian work. It also develops legal tools and strategies to support civil society advocacy and campaigns. The Center was established in January 2019 in Amsterdam as a joint initiative of the Palestinian civil society network PNGO, the Dutch NGO The Rights Forum and European jurists.

Our Work

MONITOR

- Document and analyse the restrictive measures that result in "shrinking space" for civil society defending Palestinian rights across Europe;
- Produce unique country reports exposing incidents, policies, legislation and case law related to repression of the Palestine solidarity movement in Europe.

DEFEND

- Develop effective legal defence strategies with lawyers against disinformation, smear campaigns and discriminatory policies to protect the fundamental rights of freedom of expression and assembly;
- Carry out paralegal advocacy to engage authorities and public institutions.

EMPOWER

- Facilitate and promote strategic litigation against public and private actors involved in Israel's flagrant violations of Palestinian human rights;
- Organise legal trainings and seminars for human rights defenders;
- Promote ELSC findings and achievements to raise public awareness.

2019 Achievements

Database

Database of European case law and legislation for effective legal interventions on behalf of fundamental rights of campaigners for the Palestinian people.

Legal Victories

3 victories before German Courts, ruling that denial of public spaces, based on motions that condemn BDS as antisemitic, violates the constitutional rights to equality and freedom of expression and assembly.



Workshops

3 legal workshops and a seminar for Palestine solidarity committees and student campaigners held in Amsterdam, Utrecht and Berlin.