

About **our mission**

Over the course of its 13 years of operation, the Association for Legal Intervention has helped more than 23 000 people, assisting them in more than 42 000 cases. War, family tragedies, persecution, fleeing danger and seeking a better life elsewhere – these are some of the matters refugees are forced to face.

Our lawyers and social counselors do their best to assist them. We support foreigners fleeing from war and persecution to make Poland their haven and home.

Our lawyers help them in obtaining refugee status, oppose unjust deportation and represent those harmed before the courts. We do our utmost to ensure that children and those who have undergone torture could be free and not locked away behind bars in detention centres.

Right now, we need funding to be able to continue and improve the support we offer. We want to be able to holistically support refugee single mothers who reached Poland with their children.

They require special sort of assistance, often provided outside of our office as some of them are unable to come to us with their children. These women, seeking safety in Poland, have found themselves in an environment entirely alien to them.

In addition to strictly legal assistance they also need help in finding a job, registering their children for school, nursery school or accessing health services.

If you want to get a better understanding of what we are doing, **read a story of Razita**, a single mother whom we are helping:

“Please pack your children’s personal belongings. We’re coming back for you tomorrow,”

said a Border Guard officer and closed the door behind him. Razita’s knees buckled under her. The Chechen woman had lived in Poland for 3 years and still had not received a decision granting her the status of a refugee. Her command of Polish was somewhat basic and this was why she burst into tears on hearing those words – she thought they were going to take her children away from her. Shaken, she called the Association for Legal Intervention to tell her case lawyer what just happened.

If Razita had not fled Chechnya, she and her sons would probably have died.

The younger son has a disability and his only chance to be treated is to stay in Poland. His mother has fought long and hard to secure therapy for him, as in Poland obtaining medical assistance for people whose asylum procedure is pending, is hell on earth. Everyone from medical staff to social workers suddenly goes clueless and it turns out that foreigners essentially have no rights and are sent away with nothing. It is in moments and situations like those that lawyers from our organisation intervene. The boy now attends a special school. His condition has markedly improved. He gets good grades and has made many friends.

Razita, a single mother all by herself in a strange land,

with no right to work legally and no money, has lived under constant strain. When she heard she was to pack up her children’s belongings, she broke down – as any mother faced with a situation like that surely would. In the end, it was all about another hearing as part of her refugee status procedure. Border Guard officers expected it to take several hours so they told her to take some toys for her boys. The whole situation turned out to have been just a dreadful misunderstanding which nevertheless brought about a lot of tears and stress.

Razita is still awaiting a decision regarding her refugee status in Poland. We believe that she is in for a happy ending and we will help her and every other woman who had enough courage and strength to escape the nightmare of war and persecution.

At the Association of Legal Intervention single mothers and their children are supported by an **interdisciplinary team consisting of a lawyer, a social counsellor and volunteers. We provide them and their children with assistance tailored to their situation and matching their most complex needs.**

This interdisciplinary approach is what distinguishes our aid from any other ‘regular’ legal assistance. **We believe that only responding holistically to each crisis and problem that a person might have, in terms of housing, health condition, child’s education etc., we are able to**

provide efficient legal assistance and work with our clients towards sustainable case resolution.

But this type of complex work with refugees is expensive.





To be able to support **one single-parent family** with kids for a period of **6 months** we need **4,400 PLN**.

This amount covers:

15 hours

of legal face-to face assistance



25 hours

of lawyer's work with documents, researching country of origin information, drafting legal documents for administration and courts



40 hours

of direct social work with the whole family addressing their basic needs and challenges

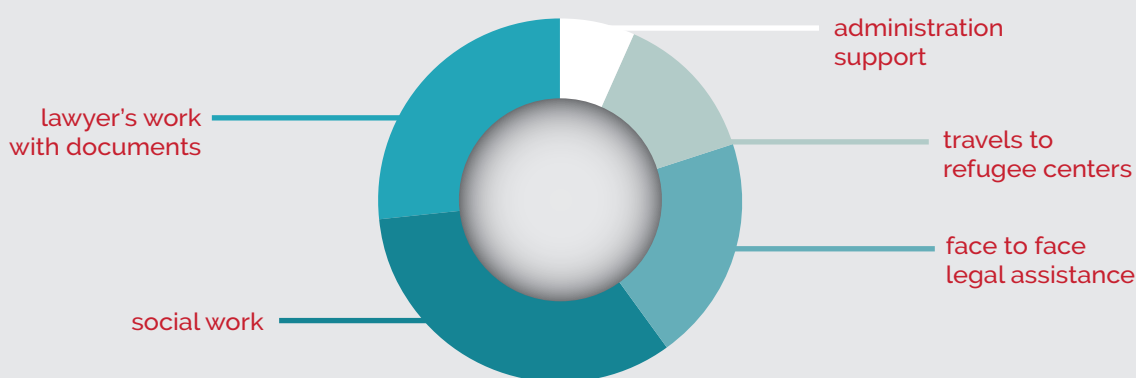


10 hours

of volunteers' support (e.g. interpretation, daily errands, tutoring)



And this is how this sum unfolds in **percentages**:



Thanks to your financial support, we will be able to create a mobile team working not only in our office but also in the community and in the refugee centres in Warsaw and Biała Podlaska, where our help is needed the most.

Thanks to your support, **we will be able to help others.**