



## Ishrat Hasan

**Ishrat Hasan** is an advocate and a full-time practitioner in the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. Prior to this, she pursued her undergraduate and postgraduate degree in law at Stamford University, Bangladesh.

In 2012 she was enrolled as advocate and in 2015 was appointed to the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. Hasan is a skilled in criminal and family matters, along with pro bono matters. Her pro bono work predominantly concerns the protection of the fundamental rights of women and children, and justice-seekers who are vulnerable and marginalised. For example, among her many pro bono activities, Hasan filed a writ to establish breast feeding areas and baby-care corners in public spaces in Bangladesh. The ruling allowed nursing mothers whose babies accompany them to work to feed their children in private.

Her dedication to helping marginalised people has received international recognition, and Hasan was the first Bangladeshi to be awarded the IBA's prestigious Pro Bono Award in 2020 for her dedication to legal battles in relation to the rights of women and children. She has also been awarded other prestigious accolades in her home country.

### **How do you measure the impact of the pro bono work that you do?**

As of now, me and my firm do not formally measure the impacts of our pro bono work.

However, in order to holistically measure the impact of our pro bono works, I, along with my associates, read newspapers daily and also check online news portals and comments. We also watch television news and the reactions of people to our work.

Sometimes we find articles and features published regarding our public interest litigation. My pro bono works have also been reported in leading law reports of the country which are being used as precedent.

Sometimes, I also take feedback from pro bono clients by way of personal conversations. All these make me realise the impact of my pro bono works.

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**Are there methodologies of impact measurement that you would like to use (especially those that are qualitative) but do not, because they are burdensome or raise issues of confidentiality, etc?**

To my view, the best way of measuring the impacts of pro bono is by conducting a survey. The following steps might be followed to optimise the survey:

1. making separate surveys for each individual groups of stakeholders;
2. carefully ascertaining the groups of stakeholders, which may include pro bono lawyers, pro bono clients, lawyers, government agencies and so on;
3. selecting proper persons for field survey;
4. analysis of statistical data collected; and
5. dissemination of the result of the survey in the media.

This is an abridged version of a written interview with Ishrat Hasan from 2024.