

GO JUSTICE CENTRE

ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26



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FOREWORD

Nicole Marshall

CENTRE MANAGER

Over the past four years, the Glasgow Open Justice Centre has **grown from an ambitious vision into an impactful community**, one defined by collaboration and an unwavering commitment to social justice. During this time, we have expanded our partnerships, broadened opportunities for our students, strengthened and grown our team, and deepened our impact for the individuals and communities we serve.

This past year has marked a **step-change**, across the Centre, we have seen creativity and passion driving forward new ideas, ambitious projects, and impactful research. Our collective work reflects not only what we have achieved, but what we continue to strive towards: a more just, equitable and accessible legal landscape.

As we look ahead, our ambition is clear; we will continue to **grow our reach beyond our local community**. We will do this through impactful research, our work with partner institutions such as the Centre for People's Justice funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), and through the global contributions of our students and graduates, who carry the values of GO Justice into diverse legal and social contexts across the world.

This year has also brought significant **recognition of our efforts** with our community impact recognised through the Herald Pro Bono Law Awards, as well as Parliamentary motions celebrating both the Centre as a whole and the transformative and innovative work of the Emma Ritch Law Clinic.

It is important that we remain **responsive to changing landscapes and uncertainty**, and that we continue to take pause to reflect critically on the work that we do. By continuing our commitment to reviewing our work as an ongoing process, we can remain flexible, responsive, and focused on meeting the needs of the people at the heart of the work that we do.



→ **2023**

GO Justice Centre founded

→ **387**

Students engaged via *Law in Action* in 2025/26

→ **301**

Students engaged in our other projects in 2025/26

→ **19%**

Students participating have Widening Participation (WP) backgrounds in 2025/26

MISSION & VALUES



→ Mission

The Glasgow Open Justice Centre, situated within the School of Law at the University of Glasgow aims to bring together academics, students and communities to empower individuals to utilise the law as a tool for social change and fair outcomes. We do this by:

- Researching Law and Social Justice
- Addressing unmet legal need
- Embedding core professional values in legal education

→ Values

We work hard to embed the University of Glasgow's values of...

- An inclusive community
- Curiosity & Discovery
- Ambition & Excellence
- Integrity & Truth

To these, we add our own...

- Respect
- Justice
- Hope

OUR PROJECTS



Clinics

- Emma Ritch Law Clinic
 - ↳ SOLACE Project
- Lawyering for Social Change: Racial Justice Clinic
- Housing & Homelessness Law Clinic
- Community Legal Education Clinic

External Placements

- Citizens Advice Bureaux
- Victim Support Scotland
- Miscarriages of Justice Organisation
- Reach Advocacy
- Students supported on self-identified placements

Extra-curricular projects

- Student Pro Bono Committee
- Journalism for Social Change
- Law in Action Orientation programme
- Lawyering for Children Diploma project
- National Pro Bono Week/ Student Council
- Homeless Rights Project - 2 Law Centres
- Social Justice Lawyering Training - lightning talks
- GO Justice Read & Rights Book Club
- Student Wellbeing Programme & Food Pantry

OUR PARTNERS



BRITISH RED CROSS

Lawyering for Social Change
Clinic & CLEC VOICES podcast



LEGAL SERVICES AGENCY

Housing & Homeless Law Clinic



CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAUX

Placement provider



CLAN CHILDLAW

Lawyering for Children Diploma
Programme



CENTRE FOR PEOPLE'S JUSTICE

Research Centre & Network



CLINICAL LEGAL EDUCATION ORGANISATION



FREELANCE SOCIAL JUSTICE JOURNALIST

Journalism for Social Change
Project



MAKING RIGHTS REAL

Gypsy & Travellers' Rights Project



MISCARRIAGES OF JUSTICE ORGANISATION

Placement provider



REACH ADVOCACY

Placement provider



RAPE CRISIS SCOTLAND

PLE Guide & Charter Partner



PSYCHOLOGICAL TRAUMA CONSULTANTS



SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

SOLACE Project



SCOTTISH LEGAL ACTION GROUP (SCOLAG)



THE MARIE TRUST

Community Legal Education
Clinic



VICTIM SUPPORT SCOTLAND

Placement provider



VOICES NETWORK

Community Legal Education
Clinic podcast



WORKERS SUPPORT CENTRE

Research project



SCOTTISH CHILDREN'S REPORTER ADMINISTRATION

Lawyering for Children project



SCOTTISH UNIVERSITY LAW CLINIC NETWORK



TRAUMA INFORMED CLINICAL LEGAL EDUCATION NETWORK

YEAR IN NUMBERS

Whilst our legal clinics deliver tailored experiential learning to smaller groups of students, our Centre engages students on scale, across all levels of the School of Law.

Students engaged in our projects
(excluding *Law in Action* tutorials)

→ 301

Clinics run

→ 4

Courses taught by GO Justice staff

→ 9

Extra-curricular projects

→ 18

Partner organisations

→ 18

Staff recruited to deliver SOLACE project

→ 4

FUNDING & GRANTS

AHRC funding

In April 2025 GO Justice was awarded funding by the UKRI Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) for its role as a key partner in the ground-breaking Centre for People's Justice (CPJ), which pursues change-making research that responds to the public's need and desire for fairer, stronger and more inclusive societies. Its work seeks to connect the public more closely with the ways in which the law is made, improve accountability for how the law is put into practice, and enhance people's understanding and use of their legal rights.

Centre for People's Justice

The CPJ is a coalition of 45 organisations from community, business, philanthropic, cultural, artistic, charitable, legal, government and university sectors. It works across the UK in partnership with the Universities of Glasgow (GO Justice), Liverpool, Sheffield, Swansea, Wrexham, Ulster and the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies London.

The AHRC's total **£4.1m investment** is shared between its partner organisations over a 5 year period (2025-2030). The Glasgow team are Professor Nicole Busby, Core Centre Convenor and Glasgow Lead; Professor Jacqueline Kinghan and Cameron-Wong McDermott, Co-Convenors of Clinical Legal Education; and Nicole Marshall who leads a network of student volunteers from across the Centre.

SOLACE (Sexual Offences Legal Advice Centre for Empowerment)

The Emma Ritch Law Clinic received Scottish Government funding to deliver a new national pilot independent legal advice (ILA) service. This service, to be launched in October 2026, will be delivered nationally to complainers in rape and attempted rape cases. It is designed to support complainers through the criminal justice process and help them better understand, navigate and exercise their rights, as well as providing representation in hearings (for example, in relation to disclosure of sensitive records) where appropriate.

The funding (**£850k**) facilitated the appointment of four new team members for the duration of the pilot (three years) to manage and deliver the service with further funding allocated for an external review of the service (led by Professors Vanessa Munro and Clare McGlynn).

Emma Ritch Law Clinic

The Emma Ritch Law Clinic has received **£274k** from 2023-2028 from a philanthropic foundation that supports the work of law school clinics in the UK. The funding provides time for the Principal Solicitor, Eamon Keane, to oversee the management and delivery of advice and supervise students conducting clinic casework. The funding also provides for the operational overheads of the clinic including case management, insurance and practising certificate costs.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Launch of 2 New Law Clinics

This year, we introduced two new Law Clinics: the ***Housing & Homelessness Law Clinic***, overseen by Fiona McPhail, and the ***Lawyering for Social Change: Racial Justice Law Clinic***, led by Professor Jen Ang and Cameron Wong-McDermott.

The establishment of these clinics has significantly expanded our community engagement and capacity to address unmet legal need, while also creating an additional 25 clinical placement opportunities for our law students.

Community Co-Production

Through our Community Legal Education Clinic, 6 GO Justice students co-produced a [3-episode podcast series with British Red Cross VOICES Ambassadors](#), who've sought refuge in Scotland. Also, Cameron Wong McDermott and Nicole Busby co-produced a Scoping Report on Gypsy/Traveller Rights in Scotland with *Making Rights Real*, in conversation with Gypsy/Traveller community members across Scotland.

GO Justice New Mural and Logo

In May 2026, we welcomed Glasgow-based artist Ursula Kam Ling to the Centre. Working collaboratively, Ursula helped us bring our space to life through a vibrant mural celebrating social justice and the spirit of Glasgow. This creative process also inspired the launch of our new GO Justice logo, thoughtfully designed by Ursula. We look forward to welcoming our new cohort of students into our refreshed, more colourful, and inspiring environment..

Emma Ritch Law Clinic Commissioned to Deliver National ILA Pilot for Complainers in Sexual Violence Cases

Complainers in High Court sexual offences cases will be able to access free independent legal advice as part of a new Scottish Government-funded pilot service. The funding has been allocated to build capacity in the Emma Ritch Law Clinic to deliver the service with the appointment of two solicitors, a service manager and project coordinator.

Journalism for Social Change Project

This year we were proud to see 5 of our Journalism for Social Change students had their stories published in *The National*. You can find links to their articles on the [‘Student Publications’ section of our website](#).

Herald Law Awards

GO Justice proudly received the Herald Pro Bono Law award 2025, recognising the hard work and dedication to Pro Bono from everyone across the Centre.



RESEARCH & TEACHING

We're committed to ensuring that our practice is meaningfully informed by our research, and that our research, in turn, generates sustained and tangible impact for the communities we serve.

Central to this approach is the active involvement of students in our research processes, enabling them to contribute to, and benefit from, research-led practice wherever possible.

Our staff produce research outputs and scholarship in a range of areas directly related to GO Justice's mission and core values. For further details, please visit our individual profile pages.

→ PUBLICATIONS

Research outputs we produced in 2025/26 include:

The Legal Rights of Scottish Gypsy Travellers: Scoping Report, Cameron Wong-McDermott Professor Nicole Busby and Şefki T. Bayram.

What do we know about the effectiveness of Juror education in rape and serious sexual offence trials? Eamon Keane, Jacqueline Kinghan, James Chalmers and Fiona Leverick.

Marie Trust – 2025 Impact Report, Fiona McPhail

Independent legal representation and the victims, witnesses, and justice reform (Scotland) bill: A review of potential models of delivery, Eamon Keane, Jacqueline Kinghan, James Chalmers and Fiona Leverick

Clinical Legal Education: Theory and Practice, Jacqueline Kinghan, Amir Paz-Fuchs & Lucy Yeatman

[See all staff & student publications on our website](#)

→ TEACHING

Our research informs our wider taught offerings. Within the curriculum, we deliver the following:

- **Curriculum-based clinics:** Emma Ritch Law Clinic; Housing & Homelessness Law Clinic; and the Racial Justice Clinic.
- **Honours courses in** Anti-Discrimination Law; Women, Law and Society; Immigration Law; and Equality, Law and Society.
- **Masters course** in National Human Rights Law.

Our staff also shape and contribute to other core courses on the LLB curriculum, including *Introduction to Legal Studies* and *European Union Law*.

By contributing our expertise through our teaching, we aim to ensure that our graduates are able to apply their knowledge of social and economic inequality and ethical awareness in their future practice, whatever form that may take.

→ CENTRE FOR PEOPLE'S JUSTICE

GO Justice hosts the [AHRC-funded Centre for People's Justice \(CPJ\)](#), a **coalition of over 45 organisations** from community, business, philanthropic, cultural, artistic, charitable, legal, government sectors which operates through a consortium of 7 university partners across the UK.

The CPJ pursues change-making research that responds to the public's need and desire for **fairer, stronger and more inclusive societies**. Its work seeks to connect the public more closely with the ways in which the law is made, improve accountability for how the law is put into practice, and enhance people's understanding and use of their legal rights.

OUR CLINICS

At the Glasgow Open Justice Centre, Clinical Legal Education (CLE) transforms education from the classroom into real world action.

Through our clinics, students engage in **experiential learning** that enables them to support **real clients**, contribute to live legal cases, and deliver **public legal education** under close supervision from clinic convenors.

Our approach is grounded in social justice values, ensuring that students develop not only legal knowledge and professional skills, but also the **empathy and ethical judgement** required to become responsible lawyers and agents of social change.

The impact of CLE extends beyond student learning. Through **partnerships** with community organisations, charities and legal professionals, our clinics provide meaningful support to people and **communities** who may otherwise struggle to access legal information, advice or representation.

This approach is embedded in our mission to **enhance student learning** while advancing access to justice and community impact.



Racial Justice Clinic

Referral partner:  **BritishRedCross**

Clients: Migrant women who are pregnant or have young children, and who are facing destitution and homelessness. Our clients have encountered barriers either because they have “no recourse to public funds,” or they are seeking asylum and therefore only eligible for restricted financial support, or they are undocumented.

2025/26 marked the clinic’s first year in the School of Law curriculum. In only a short time, from **February to June 2026**, this clinic has delivered the following:

- **8** people offered appointments after referral from the British Red Cross to provide legal advice & representation
- **6** cases in which we attended legal appointments & gave advice in order to request the “no recourse to public funds” condition to be lifted, and on other avenues for support and accommodation whilst working on an application for lawful migration status.

The clinic has continued to take referrals after this period and will run again in the 2026/27 academic year.

Housing & Homelessness Law Clinic

Referral partner:



Clients: People in housing crisis and those experiencing homelessness, specifically families in unsuitable B&B accommodation to access suitable temporary accommodation.

2025/26 also marks the first year of the Housing Clinic in the School of Law curriculum. Between **January and March** clinic students observed:

→ **10** client appointments for homeless persons in Glasgow

Under supervision of a solicitor the students **helped homeless families access suitable temporary homeless accommodation**. In some cases homeless applicants had been in unsuitable hotel accommodation far beyond what is legally permitted.

This clinic will run again in the 2026/27 academic year.

Student feedback:

"I found it the most rewarding finding out that the client I had seen...was housed the evening after my session, following the email that I drafted to the council"
2025/26 clinic student



The Emma Ritch Law Clinic

Clients: The ERLC has empowered victim/survivors in sexual violence cases to understand and enforce their legal rights throughout the criminal justice process. We have worked to support complainants to keep them engaged in the trial process and minimise the adverse impacts of the significant hurdles they face in terms of delay and re-traumatisation.

Case work successes

- Secured approx. **£7000** in compensation for clients following unlawful use of data by criminal justice stakeholders.
- **Successful opposition to two petitions to recover medical records** by defence, one calling in High Court and entailing the instruction of counsel;
- Numerous complaints upheld by Police Scotland leading to **apologies, corrective advice and changes to practice at level of SIO's** (Senior Investigating Officers) in rape and serious sexual offences cases;
- Numerous **complaints upheld by COPFS** leading to apologies and commitments to implement changes in practice surrounding aspects of treatment of vulnerable witnesses;
- Parole Board Representations for victim/survivors contributing to various **decisions not to release dangerous perpetrators in rape cases**;
- **Written apology provided to victim/survivor by Sheriff Principal** following our raising various judicial failures at original trial;
- Various **complaints raised to professional regulators of lawyers (SLCC)** with a view to moderating sharper edges of practice in areas such as cross-examination.

We've developed expertise in systemic complaints to improve trauma-informed communication from criminal justice agencies (Policy Scotland, COPFS, SCTS), resulting in several substantial complaints being upheld.

Community Legal Education Clinic

The Marie Trust - Public Legal Education

Partner:  THE MARIE TRUST

Clients: people affected by homelessness, poverty, and social exclusion, in need of wider access to legal education to support themselves in their employability, recovery and rehabilitation pathway.

33 learners attended our Community Legal Education workshops in 3 years

21 students co-developed and delivered law workshops, and produced a report

Learner feedback:

100% learners stated they now feel more confident to advocate for their rights as a result of being on the course

100% learners stated they now have a better understanding of what their housing rights are because of the course

"I learned that I have a voice that is louder than I thought, and I have the right to have it heard and listened to"

Partner feedback:

"It has given the people we support an opportunity which they would not otherwise get to learn about their rights to challenge their own homeless assessment"

"It has instilled confidence in people that they can use this learning to go on to other learning opportunities."



[Listen to our podcast episode about this project](#)



The British Red Cross - VOICES Ambassadors

Partner:  BritishRedCross 

3 podcast episodes on asylum support law co-produced by 6 students and BRC Voices Ambassadors

5 VOICES Ambassadors with lived experience of the asylum experience co-produced the podcast & shared their experiences

2 workshops on homelessness law delivered in-person to refugees and asylum seekers

1 workshop on asylum support law delivered through the University of Glasgow Byres Road Community Hub



[Listen to Episode 1 \(31 minutes\)](#)

In this episode, we summarise the legal process of seeking asylum, explore the legal and social realities of the asylum system, and challenge common misconceptions



[Listen to Episode 2 \(48 minutes\)](#)

We consider the financial support available to those seeking safety, the legal process for applying for it, and additional support to which pregnant people and parents are entitled.



[Listen to Episode 3 \(46 minutes\)](#)

We explore accommodation available to those in the asylum system - from hotels and dispersal housing to larger accommodation sites - as well as who is eligible, and the challenges many face in navigating it.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Clinics, extra-curricular projects and external placements

Overall, we offered 688 opportunities across the whole School of Law - 301 through extracurricular projects and clinic spaces, with a further 387 spaces our Law in Action Orientation programme offered to all first year LLB students.

Students engaged in *Law in Action* tutorials

→ 387

Students engaged via clinics & extra-curricular projects

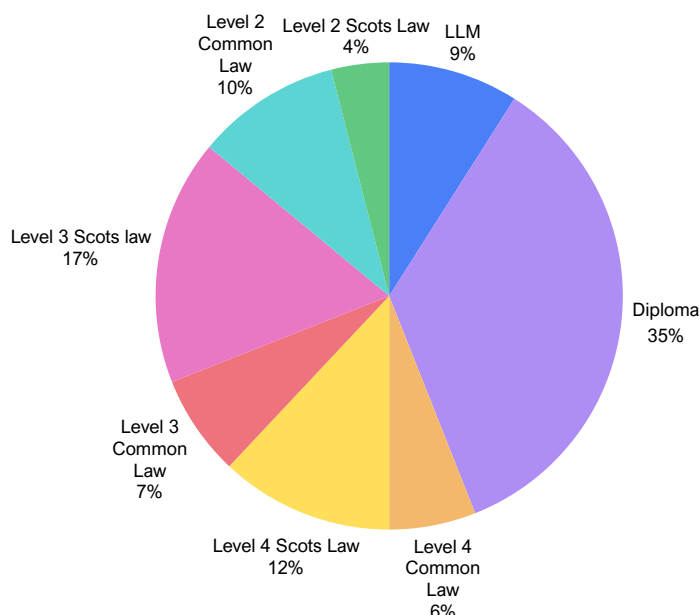
→ 301

WP students (self-identifying) participating across all projects

→ 19%

Extra-Curricular Projects

Distribution of students across levels



Excluding Level 1, student distribution is relatively balanced across Levels 2–4, with the strongest representation in Diploma, followed by Level 3 and Level 4 Scots Law.

Clinics

Our curriculum-based clinics are open to Honours-level LLB students. We received more applications from Scots Law students than Common Law students.

68 clinic applications received

→ **49** Scots Law students (72%)
 → **19** Common Law students (28%)

Of those who submitted applications, Scots and Common Law students were equally likely to be made an offer.

39 clinic places offered in 2025/26

→ **29** Scots Law students (74%)
 → **10** Common Law students (26%)

We made significant effort to make clear the message that Clinics are open to Common Law students. In 2026/27, we've planned a Student Consultation to better understand students' perceptions.

STUDENT FEEDBACK

In addition to course evaluation feedback, we ran our own student survey for all students participating in our clinics, extra-curricular projects, and external placements.

45 responses across all projects:



→ Our Support

*"I felt **more supported than I ever have in my 4 years at UofG School of Law**. I was made aware of resources I could use and people I could talk to. Additionally the 1-1 meeting was greatly appreciated and made me feel supported, confident and comfortable."* Racial Justice Clinic student

*"The **check-ins with staff** were beneficial and I can imagine these being **extremely valuable** to those with more intense casework."* Housing & Homelessness Law Clinic student

*"There was a high level of communication from staff especially related to specific case work I was carrying out. There was an **intimate communication channel tailored to each step**."* Racial Justice Clinic student

→ Their Futures

*"After exposure to commercial law firms, I had somewhat **written off a career in law**. The clinic has shown me that **there are paths that do align with my morals** and passion for social justice."* Emma Ritch Law Clinic student

*"It made me feel as though it is **not completely impossible to get involved with social justice** work, as long as you are creative with approaches."* Racial Justice Clinic student

*"It has made me feel as if the knowledge acquired during my degree can be beneficial in helping to change someone's life. **It has changed what aspect of law I wish to work in**, and has presented how rewarding social justice is."* Social Justice Lawyering Training Workshops student

FUTURE OUTLOOK

GO Justice continues to align strongly with the **University's strategic direction**, with our core values and priorities remaining consistent. Our work already spans key areas, including Learning and Teaching, Student Experience, Research and Innovation, and Civic Engagement. While the overarching strategy signals continuity, it also creates space for us to expand our impact - particularly through more innovative approaches to student engagement and increasingly global ways of working.

Looking ahead, there is a clear opportunity for GO Justice to **extend its reach beyond Glasgow** and contribute more visibly to international conversations on access to justice. Our growing collaboration with partners across the world, including the Centre for People's Justice, provides a strong foundation for this, enabling us to think creatively about how our work can deliver broader, global impact across teaching, research, and community engagement.

At the same time, the Centre's existing contribution - particularly through nurturing socially conscious practitioners who go on to work across the UK and internationally - already demonstrates meaningful, far-reaching impact. The ambition to be **"the best for the world"** is both aspirational and well-matched to our ethos; with continued innovation and collaboration, GO Justice is well-positioned to play a leading role in realising that vision.

In response to student feedback, we have taken steps to strengthen both our **resources and accessibility**.

This includes the purchase of two new laptops for our Clinics and the introduction of a more flexible, robust timetable to better support student engagement. We remain committed to listening and responding to our students. Later this year, we will carry out a further consultation to ensure that the Centre's work continues to reflect the needs and priorities of our student community.

Alongside this, we are continuing to expand our reach through meaningful **community partnerships**. We are particularly excited to launch two new initiatives: the Immigration Bail Observation Project, in partnership with Scottish Detainee Visitors and Justice and Peace Scotland, and a new external placement opportunity with the Scottish Child Law Centre.

Our **Centre for People's Justice volunteer network** will also continue to grow across the UK, creating more opportunities for students to connect and collaborate alongside peers from law and other disciplines. We will maintain close working relationships with the Pro Bono Student Society to ensure that student and community voices remain at the heart of everything we do.

Finally, we would like to extend **our sincere thanks** to our funders, the Law School, and the wider University of Glasgow for their ongoing support. Above all, we are deeply grateful to our communities, students, and partners for their dedication, trust, and continued commitment to this shared work.

CONNECT WITH US



Email

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Website

www.gla.ac.uk/schools/law/gojustice/



LinkedIn

[GO Justice Centre](#)



Instagram

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Our team



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[Isabella Copplestone](#), Centre Administrator



[Professor Jacqueline Kinghan](#), GO Justice Clinical Lead & Co-Director The Emma Ritch Law Clinic



[Cameron Wong-McDermott](#), Lecturer & Co-Convenor of the Racial Justice Clinic



[Eamon Keane](#), Principal Solicitor & Co-Director of The Emma Ritch Law Clinic



[Professor Jen Ang](#), Co-Convenor of Lawyering for Social Change: Racial Justice Clinic



[Sandy Brindley](#), Lecturer & Associate Director of SOLACE



[Fiona McPhail](#), Lecturer & Convenor of Housing & Homelessness Law Clinic



[Siobhán McGurk](#), SOLACE Coordinator



[Dr Catriona Cannon](#), Senior Lecturer in Equality Law

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