



הפקולטה למשפטים
האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים
Faculty of Law - Hebrew University
كلية الحقوق - الجامعة العبرية في القدس



המרכז לחינוך משפטי קליני
מרכז אلتعليم القانوني الإكلينيكي



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Dear British Friends,

We hope that this letter finds you and yours well in these stressful and uncertain times.

We are reaching out to the Clinical Legal Education Center's circle of devoted friends to update you on the measures we are taking to enhance our support for Israel's marginalized and underrepresented communities during these challenging times.

As you know, our 10 Clinics — each with a team of 10-20 LL.B. students overseen by 1-2 Clinical Attorneys and an Academic Supervisor — actively engage with specific populations, from young people and single mothers through to Arab and Israeli-Ethiopian families and others. Two weeks ago, as the potential impact of the imminent crisis on our clients became clear, we designed a crisis program which is now fully operational. We are glad to report that all of our Clinical Attorneys and students are continuing to work with their clients and target populations.

During the current period we are focusing the CLEC's work on three main areas:

1. **Managing ongoing cases:** We are continuing to handle all existing cases, with our students providing real-time responses and information to all clients on the various challenges they might be facing. We are fully aware that this is a highly complex and sensitive time and therefore we are in constant contact with all the clients, even if there are no proactive steps that can be taken at the moment.
2. **Managing new cases resulting from the Coronavirus outbreak:** All our Clinics — in particular the Clinic for the Representation of Marginalized Populations — have been swamped with new inquiries regarding employment and other rights during the current crisis. All of the CLEC's Clinical Attorneys and students are working on providing answers and guidance.

In addition, the Clinic for the Representation of Marginalized Populations helped establish a new targeted Hebrew-language [Facebook page](#) called 'Social Justice Operations Room', which is currently also being translated into Arabic. The page offers information on the common challenges of the Corona crisis for these populations, and responds to general issues arising from various queries. The fb page is being run by over 20 Hebrew University law students and graduates who have taken part in the Clinic in recent years, and have volunteered their time for this project. This incredible coming together is extremely moving, and reinforces a finding from our ongoing evaluations of the CLEC's impact — that a majority of our students remain committed to, and aware of, social responsibility as an integral part of their professional identity.



Initial online preparation meeting for students of the Representation of Marginalized Populations Clinic

3. **Coping with policy change issues rising from the crisis:** Naturally, the most vulnerable populations in these times are marginalized populations — people who live in poverty, those with disabilities, single mothers etc. The CLEC is working on a number of across-the-board systemic issues requiring intervention and action on the part of government ministries and other governmental agencies. In order to pursue this type of policy-change work and ensure its effectiveness, we have joined forces with other clinical centers at Israeli universities and colleges, with non-governmental organizations that are active in the field, and with social activists. This is proving to be a positive and smooth partnership. At the beginning of last week, under the leadership of the Clinic for the Representation of Marginalized Populations, this emerging coalition of organizations drafted and published its first letter with concrete demands regarding social security. These included the automatic extension of disability allowances, freezing interests on debts to the National Insurance Institute, and more. Since then, several of our other Clinics have identified current challenges in their respective areas and have started to act in order to advance immediate policy changes.

Please allow us to thank you again for your generous support which enables us to stand up for, and help protect the rights of, Israel's most vulnerable communities during these difficult times.

Yours,

אני רוצה לומר תודה

Adv. Vardit Dameri Madar
CLEC Executive Director

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CLEC Academic Director



Clinical Legal Education Center Faculty of Law



The Clinical Legal Education Center (CLEC) at the Hebrew University is an integral part of Israel's flagship Faculty of Law and one of the country's leading clinical centers. Guided by its philosophy to apply the law as a vehicle for social change and promote justice for society's most vulnerable groups and individuals, the Center's activities are based on a two-fold approach: it offers the highest quality legal aid to a wide range of disadvantaged individuals and groups; and it actively engages law students in top-notch applied clinical and practical experience under the close guidance of Clinical Attorneys who are experts in specific fields.

This substantial investment in the Faculty of Law's students has been proven worthwhile — following graduation, a majority of students remain committed to, and aware of, social responsibility as an integral part of the legal profession.

The activities of the CLEC's 10 clinics comprise three main fields of activity: **individual representation** of clients in legal and other cases; **initiating and advancing policy change and legal reform** through roundtable discussions and conferences, participation in Knesset and other public committees, and drafting position papers and shadow reports for government or international agencies; and **education, awareness and empowerment** on subjects arising from the Center's cases and other activities by means of public outreach and educational activities.

Programs, Clinics, Outreach

Every year some 150 students join forces with the 10 Clinical Attorneys and 9 faculty who are members of the Clinical Legal Education Center (CLEC) in the Faculty of Law to promote the Center's goals within 10 Clinics. Each Clinic is led by 1-2 Clinical Attorneys who are prominent in their particular field and take professional responsibility for each case or project of their Clinic, which is also accompanied by an academic advisor.

Some 10-20 second- or third-year LL.B. students participate in each Clinic for a full year (as opposed to the shorter academic year), spending 4-6 hours per week doing practical work at the Clinic, which includes a weekly supervision with the Clinical Lawyer. Most students work in pairs and supervision is usually a joint session for both students where they receive guidance on their ongoing legal work and are able to brainstorm around theoretical, ethical and practical aspects of their work and also discuss their emotional responses to working with diverse, often-weak populations. All students participate in a 90-minute

weekly theoretical class for their particular Clinic, which is taught by that Clinic's academic supervisor, Clinical Attorney or a guest lecturer. Students also learn from professionals in other disciplines, including social work, business, and disability studies.

Ten Clinics

- ✓ Representation of Marginalized Populations
- ✓ Children and Youth Rights
- ✓ International Human Rights
- ✓ Innocence Project
- ✓ Criminal Justice
- ✓ Economic Development of Women
- ✓ Rights of People with Disabilities
- ✓ Digital Rights
- ✓ Multiculturalism and Diversity
- ✓ International Trade Conflict Resolution (mini clinic)

CLEC engagement with Israeli society's underprivileged communities covers a wide range: pro bono representation of clients in

legal or other cases; initiating roundtable discussions and conferences that are often the first step in position papers on legal and policy change; preparing shadow reports for government or international agencies; and holding public outreach and educational activities.

Every year the CLEC handles an average 450 individual cases; advances policy change and law reform on 30-40 subjects through position papers, shadow reports, draft amendments, and alternative models; conducts some 120 lectures and workshops annually for diverse populations; holds some 18 roundtables and conferences per year; has an active presence in in some 18 offices, agencies and centers that serve and assist underprivileged populations; works with no less than 45 social welfare government bodies and social rights organizations; submits alternative reports to international bodies such as UN Convention committees; and recovers or saves significant amounts of money (\$340,000 in 2017/18) on behalf of clients.