



Building a culture of using the law for change in the third sector in Scotland

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What we'll cover



- Recommendations from “Barriers” report relating to a “legal culture” in civil society organisations
- *Why?*
- *What?*
- *How?*

Overcoming Barriers to Public Interest Litigation in Scotland report



- Facilitate learning from others orgs
- Support NGO legal capacity building
- Explore secondments
- Increase mutual understanding and collaboration
- Teach PIL to law students and increase cooperation between unis and NGOs

Discussion Paper:
Overcoming Barriers to
Public Interest Litigation
in Scotland



Why create a legal culture in civil society?



- Litigation can be used to hasten social change
- It is a tool that sits alongside research, consultation responses, media, briefings, public campaigning etc
- Taking cases is often a collaborative effort; need the *individual rights-holders*, as well as money, expertise, research and capacity.
- But the cultural barrier exists and needs to be broken down to facilitate collaboration.
- *“using the law can lead to policy and material victories in the courts that might have been impossible to achieve any other way”*

What could this look like?



University law schools

- Teaching future lawyers, acclimatising CSOs, building mutual understanding in a light-touch way
- Student placements, class clinics, law clinics, essay questions
- Glasgow Open Justice (GO Justice), RebLaw

Law firms/Advocates

- Building more of a pro bono culture in Scotland, networks between CSO staff and solicitors and Advocates.
- Solicitor secondments, Faculty of Advocates Pro Bono Unit, networking opportunities
- Law centres but also moving beyond

How can we co-ordinate and collaborate?



- There are clear and great examples of collaboration between civil society and the legal profession on public interest litigation – how to we get it to a tipping point?
- There needs to be scoping of opportunities and then co-ordinated promotion. CSOs and lawyers need to see this working and its benefits.
- More opportunities for networking; law circles need to invite CSOs in and vice versa.
- A PILs project but for capacity building – matching up lawyers with relevant civil society organisations.