LEGAL AID & CITIZEN SUPPORT

# Legal Aid Contacts Guide

HRSJM Community Outreach, Free Legal Representation Directory, District Legal Clinics & Support Helplines Across India




> *Grassroots empowerment happens when legal literacy meets community action. Our Maharashtra outreach initiative brings free legal aid, grievance redressal and civil rights guidance directly to vulnerable and underserved settlements.*

## 1. Why Maharashtra, Why Now

This monsoon season, our field teams travelled through settlements and village clusters across Maharashtra where awareness of basic legal rights remains thin and access to institutional help is thinner. Common complaints heard across districts: delayed ration supplies, unpaid wages, school admission hurdles for migrant children, and confusion regarding official documents.

The outreach programme was designed around those grievances - not around what we assumed people needed, but around what community members told us during our initial listening visits.

## 2. Key Focus Areas of the Drive

Over the course of the drive, HRSJM volunteers and legal counsellors organized comprehensive support sessions including:

1. Door-to-door legal literacy and rights awareness campaigns
2. Aadhaar, ration card and welfare documentation assistance camps
3. Free on-site legal aid consultations for women, laborers and seniors
4. Interactive school assemblies on constitutional rights and child safety

## 3. Listening Before Teaching

The most important sessions were the ones where we spoke least. Community meetings opened with residents describing their own disputes and doubts, and the guidance followed those threads - rights explained through the very problems in the room, in Marathi and Hindi, with printed one-page guides left behind for later reference.

Local volunteers from each settlement were identified and briefed to continue the work after the programme moved on. Knowledge that stays in the community outlasts any single visit.

## 4. Stories from the Community

> *"When my ration card was rejected three times, I did not know what to do. The HRSJM camp helped me file an official grievance, and within three weeks, our family got our entitlements."*
>
> **- Rekha Tai (Self-Help Group Member)**

> *"Having lawyers explain our rights in our own village made all the difference. We now know how to approach authorities with confidence and dignity."*
>
> **- Ramesh Patil (Village Elder)**

## 5. Tangible Outcomes Achieved

1. Over 1,200 public grievances registered and tracked to completion
2. Free document correction and identity enrollment for 850+ families
3. On-site legal counsel provided for 340+ women and senior citizens
4. Establishment of permanent village legal aid focal points

## 6. What Comes Next

The Maharashtra outreach will return in the coming quarter to follow up on open cases and expand into newly identified districts. An application filed is not a problem solved - we track every grievance until resolution.

We invite volunteers, supporters and community advocates to stand with us as we expand our outreach across Western India.

**SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

Join our legal aid volunteers and help bring essential rights awareness to underserved communities across India.

**IMPORTANT HELPLINES & LEGAL AID CONTACTS**

- **National Legal Services Authority (NALSA): 15100 (24x7 Free Legal Aid)**
- **District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) - Available at every District Court**
- **One Stop Centre (Sakhi) for Women in Distress**
- **HRSJM Legal Aid Help Desk: legal-aid@hrsjm.org**