

Terms of Reference (ToR) for Community Lawyering Partnership*

1. Project Title: Community Empowerment through Community Lawyering

2. Background

“Community lawyering” represents a fusion of legal support, policy advocacy and grassroots campaigning to tackle the underlying causes of legal- and policy-related challenges faced by marginalised communities, particularly migrant and racialised groups. It emphasises the power of community organising to enable those directly impacted by social injustices to lead efforts for social change. The Justice Together Initiative (JTI) has catalysed this approach, with the3million receiving a three-year grant to spearhead community lawyering efforts, focusing on legal challenges such as EUSS-related immigration issues, lack of access to welfare and other issues that affect target communities.

3. Objectives

- **Overall Objective:** To strengthen community capacities to address and overcome legal/policy injustices through a collaborative “community lawyering” and organising approach.
- **Specific Objectives:**
 1. To build robust partnerships with legal advice centres and law firms to support vulnerable EU citizens**.
 2. To develop and implement strategic campaigns and collective action addressing specific legal and/or policy challenges identified by the community.
 3. To facilitate community-led advocacy and policy proposals for systemic change.

4. Scope of Work

- **Geographical Scope:** The project will focus on regions within the UK identified as having significant populations of vulnerable EU citizens and people with lived experience.
- **Subject Matter Scope:** Legal/Policy areas covered could include immigration, welfare, migrant justice, racial justice, and other policy advocacy.
- **Target population:** EU citizens facing legal/policy injustices, with a focus on those denied rights, welfare, and benefits under the context of the EUSS/Withdrawal Agreement.

5. Partners and Stakeholders

- **Lead organisation:** the3million
- **Partners:** Community-based legal advice centres, law firms, and other organisations providing immigration and welfare advice.
- **Stakeholders:** JTI, EU citizens requiring legal support, and broader community members impacted by the addressed legal/policy issues.

6. Methodology

- Three-phases:
 1. Building relationships with potential participants and partner organisations.
 2. Forming Know Your Rights Teams to identify priority issues and develop strategic campaigns.

3. Implementing actions through strategic litigation and political engagement.

7. Roles and Responsibilities

- **the3million:** Oversee project implementation, hire and support Community Organiser to manage the programme and coordinate with partners
- **Partner Organisations:** Identify and designate key contacts for coordination, and engage in the campaign development and action phases.

8. Timeframe

- Project Duration: February/March 2024 – March 2025, with potential for extension and renewal of funding.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

- Regular updates and evaluations will be conducted to assess the impact of the partnership efforts on the community's capacity to tackle legal/policy challenges and influence policy changes.

10. Reporting

- The project will feature periodic reporting to stakeholders, including progress updates, impact assessment and strategic adjustments as necessary.

11. Amendments

- Changes to the ToR will be managed through a collaborative process involving all partners, ensuring transparency and mutual agreement.

12. Signatories

- This ToR will be agreed upon and signed by representatives from the3million and the partner organisation to formalise the partnership commitments and roles.

Appendix

- A detailed participant journey map and project phase diagrams (available upon request).

**This ToR aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the community lawyering partnership project, ready for customisation and further detail as the project evolves and specific partnerships are formalised and developed.*

*** We use EU citizens as a shorthand to also include EU, EEA EFTA and Swiss citizens and their family members*