

KAREN TSE

International Bridges to Justice (IBJ)

2002 Global Fellow



BIG BOLD IDEA

Ensure the basic rights of ordinary citizens in Asia through the support of public defenders and citizen education initiatives.

PERSONAL BIO

Karen Tse founded International Bridges to Justice in 2000. An international human rights lawyer, ordained minister and former San Francisco public defender, Karen first developed her interest in the nexus of criminal law and human rights in 1986, after witnessing Southeast Asian refugees detained in a local prison without trial. In 1994, she moved to Cambodia to train the country's first core group of public defenders and subsequently served as a United Nations Judicial Mentor. Karen founded IBJ after witnessing hundreds of prisoners of all ages being held without trials, usually after being tortured into making 'confessions'. Through a system change approach, IBJ is creating the conditions for a "new normal in justice" in which citizens will have access to justice and ending the use of torture as an investigative tool. IBJ now has a presence in 48 countries, with permanent country programs in 12 countries. Over 22 years, IBJ has supported more than 30,000 lawyers and defenders who have represented more than 400,000 detainees. IBJ has also reached over 35 million people through rights awareness campaigns around the world. Working globally both on the ground and online, IBJ has an active online presence through Criminal Defense/Wiki pages for 100+ countries and 152 eLearning modules for over 20 countries, with over 20 million hits for both platforms combined since its creation. Karen is a graduate of UCLA Law School and Harvard Divinity School. Among others, Karen is a Skoll Foundation, Ashoka and Echoing Green Awardee, a recipient of the American Bar Association Human Rights Award, the Gleitsman International Activist Award, Harvard Divinity Memorial Award and named as one of America's best leaders by the US News and World Report. To learn more about Karen's work and International Bridges to Justice, please watch her TEDTalk (https://www.ted.com/talks/karen_tse_how_to_stop_torture)

Organization/Fellow Location

Geneva, Switzerland

Impact Location

Global

Organization Structure

Nonprofit

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