

Ms Svala Ísfeld Ólafsdóttir is an Associate Professor of law at Reykjavík University, having previously served as a state prosecutor and senior advisor at the Ministry of Justice, leading the development of actions against human trafficking and preparing the opening of the first national referral centre for victims of trafficking. She is frequently called upon to advise government ministers, including leading efforts to draft new legislation. Her latest achievement in this regard is drafting a new law set to amend the existing provisions on human trafficking in the Penal Code. She has been involved in the work of various associations, for example as a board member of the Family Justice Centre for survivors of violence and victims of human trafficking.

Her expertise lies within the fields of criminal law, child protection, domestic violence and support to victims of abuse, with extensive experience in the area of human trafficking. She has chaired the Standing Committee on Penal Law since 2013. In that capacity she provides the Minister of Justice with expert advice in the field of criminal law, drafts bills in her fields of expertise, and ensures consistency in the passing of laws and rules under criminal law.

In addition to holding a Cand. Jur. graduate degree in law, she holds graduate degrees in Criminology and Sociology.

June 2021