

GLOBAL JUSTICE CENTER IN 2015

ADDRESSING

STRUCTURAL

INEQUALITY



အမျိုးသမီးမဝင်ရ
LADIES ARE NOT ALLOWED TO ENTER.

“ The regime of legal and political structures built by patriarchies and run by male oligarchs **must end.**”

- Janet Benshoof, *President*

Women make up 51% of the population and only 22.6% on average of the positions in government.

GJC seeks to eliminate this gap by enabling women to take their rightful place in decision-making bodies worldwide.

Only then will we have true representative democracy.

Only then will women be able to fully exercise their human rights.



Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

This past year has been one of the most productive in my career. GJC's dedicated team worked tirelessly to change international legal norms to make them work for women around the world. In 2015 we had some major successes and I'd like to tell you about a few of them.

In December, the European Parliament divorced itself from the US abortion ban, adopting the first ever "Anti-Helms Amendment," specifying that EU funds are not subject to restrictions posed by partner donors, such as the US. This is a huge step forward to ensure abortion access for women raped in war and shows what a group of dedicated advocates can accomplish.

This year we also took on a new project, focused on ensuring that international genocide law is enforced to protect the lives and rights of women and girl who are subjected to genocidal acts by extremist groups. GJC is working to ensure that the international community recognizes their duty to act, including to rescue, in the face of these crimes.

GJC works every year to address structural inequality in legal and power structures around the world to increase access to justice and power for women. Dismantling entrenched patriarchal power structures is not easy, but with hard work and strategic, creative thinking we get closer every year. I want to give a huge thank you to our dedicated partners, staff, supporters and Board of Directors for their commitment and enthusiasm for helping us achieve our vision of a global rule of law grounded in gender equality. We couldn't do it without you.





Areas Where GJC Worked in 2015

United States
United Kingdom
Belgium
Switzerland

France
Nigeria
Iraq
Germany

Netherlands
Norway
Burma
Syria



GJC IN 2015

Advancing International Law on Genocide for Women and Girls

In 2015, the Global Justice Center sent two briefs to the International Criminal Court (ICC) asking them to open investigations into the genocidal crimes being committed against women and girls by Boko Haram and ISIS.

NON-KILLING GENOCIDAL CRIMES

In addition to mass killings, the 1948 Genocide Convention lays out four other types of genocidal acts that can be used to systematically destroy a protected group.



Inflicting bodily or mental harm including rape and torture



Denying basic necessities such as food and water



Preventing births including forced abortion and sterilization



Kidnapping and forcibly transferring children

On April 14th, 2015, on the [anniversary](#) of the kidnapping of the Chibok Schoolgirls, the Global Justice Center sent a [letter](#) to the Prosecutor of the ICC. GJC asked them to expand their current investigation of Boko Haram to [include genocide](#) and in particular that the abduction of the Chibok school girls be investigated as the genocidal crime of forcible transfer of children.

On December 17th, 2015 the Global Justice Center sent a [brief](#) to the ICC in support of Yazidi groups' request that the ICC open an investigation into [ISIS's genocidal crimes](#).

Both filings make critical legal arguments on gender crimes under the Rome Statute and Genocide Conventions. They also demonstrate the importance of using global justice as a tool for countering terrorism.





GJC IN 2015

Major organizations take on US Abortion Ban

In June, a [coalition](#) of human rights, legal, medical and religious groups, comprised of 56 NGOs from 22 countries, signed a joint letter urging President Obama to issue an executive order lifting US abortion restrictions and affirming the [rights](#) of female war rape victims to comprehensive medical care, including abortion, under the Geneva Conventions.



In September, the UN Secretary-General released a historic [Global Study](#) evaluating 15 years of the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325. This report adopted many of GJC's innovative international legal arguments including that international humanitarian law (IHL) protections of medical care for women and girls who are victims of war rape **prevail over any contrary national abortion laws**, including the US Helms Amendment. The study also calls on the US specifically to abide by IHL and include abortion services in provisions of humanitarian aid.



“Women are key to **democracy.**

Women are key to **peace.”**

- Janet Benshoof, *President*

Europe Leads the Way on the Right to Abortion Services

In 2015, The European Parliament passed **seven resolutions** all explicitly referencing women's rights to safe abortion under international law. The European Union also changed their position and now affirm that abortion services must be included as part of the necessary medical care female war rape victims are entitled to be provided under the Geneva Conventions, **regardless of any restrictive national abortion laws in conflict zones.**

In December, the EU passed their budget for 2016, containing an "anti-Helms Amendment." The budget requires that EU humanitarian aid be provided "in accordance with international humanitarian law" and without "discrimination or adverse distinction." And in reference to the US Helms Amendment, the budget mandates that EU funds, "**not be subjected to restrictions imposed by other partner donors.**" This dramatic policy shift demonstrates a sea change toward ensuring that all girls and women raped in war are provided comprehensive medical care.



Advancing women's rights around the world

GJC uses international law as a tool to turn human rights “policy” into enforceable legal guarantees with built-in equality guarantees. In 2015, GJC made major advances in Europe affirming the rights of women raped in war under the Geneva Conventions.

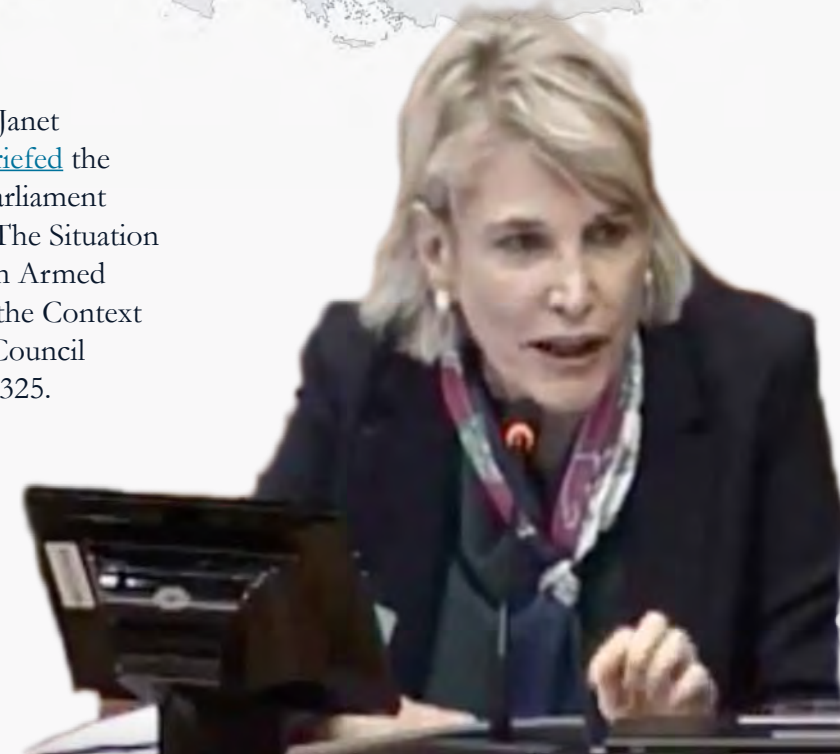
On June 9, the [European Parliament](#) adopted a resolution that would grant abortion access to women and girls who are victims of war rape. This resolution came at key time, as just before one-third of the 293 girls who were rescued from Boko Haram in Nigeria were found to be pregnant.



In May, five European countries directly challenged the US Helms Amendment at the [Universal Periodic Review](#)



In October, Janet Benshoof [briefed](#) the European Parliament Hearing on The Situation of Women in Armed Conflicts in the Context of Security Council Resolution 1325.



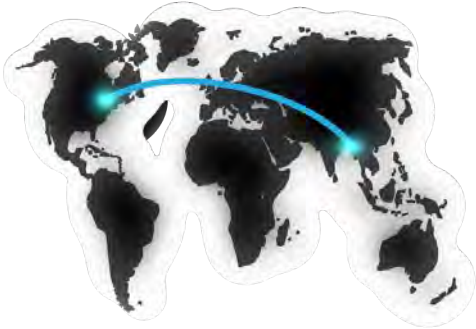


“Marital rape is only considered rape if your wife is under the age of 13.

When you talk about women in Burma being able to go to a court and **assert their rights, this is the law** that they have to assert their rights under.”

- Akila
Radhakrishnan,
Legal Director

Providing international law expertise to local women's groups



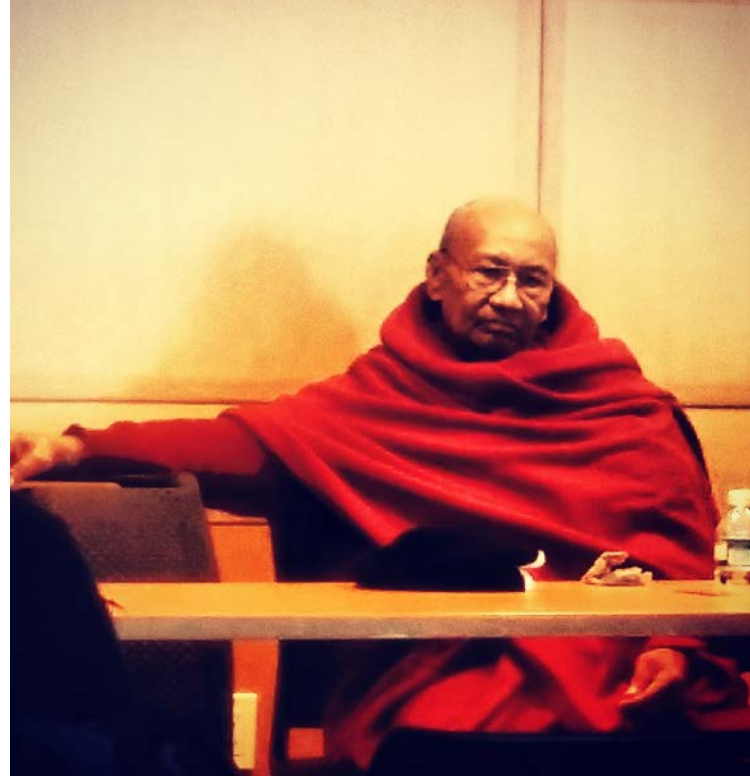
Since 2005 GJC has been working closely with local women's groups on the ground in Burma to ensure equal access to power and justice.

In January 2015, GJC traveled to Burma with Fordham Law School's Leitner Center and gave legal trainings to local women's groups and human rights activists. GJC and Leitner produced learning modules and legal source materials that were designed to [build the capacity](#) of actors in the world's post-conflict situations.

The trainings educated, sharpened and developed the capacity of local advocates to push for justice for human rights violations and war crimes, with an emphasis on sexual violence in conflict.

The assistance focused on providing legal analysis under international law on issues including sexual violence, refugees, and women's participation in the peace process, and how to utilize international mechanisms and law as a tool in their advocacy.





GJC IN 2015

Speaking out against human rights abuses

In 2015 GJC participated in events year round raising awareness on [women's rights in war](#), extremist groups' [genocide of women and girls](#), and [human rights abuses in Burma](#).

“Honestly, I always feel a little bit of excitement when I start talking about my country because ... I always have to talk about how bad the country is, how bad the government is treating people.

I wish that one day I will get to talk about how beautiful the country is, how peaceful the people are, how the government is really doing good things for the people.

But for my whole life, I have never had this kind of opportunity.

I really wish that one day my wish will be realized.”

- GJC Burma Researcher, [Phyu Phyu Sann](#), speaking at Harvard's South Asia Institute panel on Health and Human Rights in Burma.

“During my lifetime, I have seen radical advances in women’s equality under the law and in women’s political representation.

Yet despite these advances, **violence against women** remains business as usual, particularly in armed conflict.

This disconnect shows how hard it to change legal and political structures where men call for wars and determine the peace.”

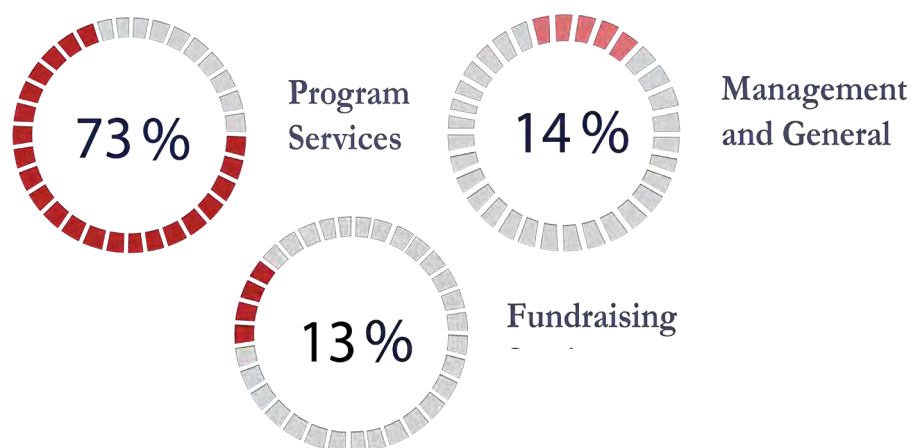
- Janet Benshoof, *President*



Our Financials

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION Year Ended December 31, 2015

Assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 377,047
Unconditional promises to give	616,243
Security deposits and other assets	24,010
Investments	366,173
Property and equipment	<u>17,579</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$1,401,052</u>
Liabilities And Net Assets	
Liabilities	<u>\$ 23,613</u>
Net Assets	
Unrestricted operating	372,266
Unrestricted board designated reserve fund	366,173
Temporarily restricted	<u>639,000</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>1,377,439</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$1,401,052</u>



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES Year Ended December 31, 2015

Changes in Unrestricted Net Assets

Revenue and Other Support	
Grants and contributions	\$1,158,007
Loss on investments	(14,993)
	<u>1,143,014</u>
Net assets released from restrictions	<u>313,643</u>
Total Revenue and Other Support	<u>1,456,657</u>
Expenses	
Program Services	948,372
Management and general	182,691
Fundraising	<u>173,078</u>
Total Expenses	<u>1,304,141</u>
Increase in Unrestricted Net Assets	<u>152,516</u>

Changes in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets

Contributions	639,000
Net assets released from restrictions	<u>(313,643)</u>
Increase in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	<u>325,357</u>
Increase in net assets	477,873
Net assets, beginning of year	<u>899,566</u>
Net Assets, End of Year	<u>\$1,377,439</u>

Thank you to all of our generous donors in 2015



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Taking Action

"Margaret Mead famously said: 'never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, **it is the only thing that ever has.**' That's what the Global Justice Center is about. **Join us** — together we will change the world."

– Robert E. Bason, *Board Member*





Credits

Photographs taken by
GJC staff members:
in Burma in January 2015,
in Brussels in April 2015,
in Nigeria in May 2015,
at UN Bring Back Our Girls
Protest on April 14, 2015,
at an International Women's Day
Demonstration on May 8, 2015,
at Annual Board Meeting on
October 24th, 2015,
and at "From the Ground Up:
Perspectives from Human Rights
Defenders in Burma" a joint event
hosted by the Leitner Center, GJC
and Justice Trust on March 30, 2015.

Other photographs courtesy of
Yazda, A Global Yazidi Organization

Audit performed by Lutz and Carr,
Certified Public Accountants.



Report dedicated in
loving memory to brave
and brilliant feminist
Kelly Cosby.

**Thank you to all of our
supporters in 2015.**

For more information visit: globaljusticecenter.net

