

A blue-tinted background image of a statue of Lady Justice, showing her face on the left and her hand holding a sword on the right. The statue is blindfolded and holds a set of scales.

Global Justice Center

# ANNUAL REPORT 2016



# Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

**2016 WAS A CRITICAL YEAR:** The greatest advance in my legal career is how the Global Justice Center established—for the first time in history—that women war victims' rights to all necessary medical care must include abortion services. The Global Justice Center came up with a novel idea, ran with it, and in five years changed the laws of war for women. That is how we work.

**2016 WAS A CRITICAL YEAR:** The election of President Trump exposed the fragility of our fundamental rights and the dearth of protections for the poor, vulnerable, and disfavored—including women, immigrants, LGBTQ individuals, Muslims, the list goes on.

**2016 WAS A CRITICAL YEAR:** Americans and their allies around the world have responded with passion and vigor in opposition to the onslaught of hate speech and undisguised sexism, racism, and xenophobia. This is a historic time to advance global justice. The Global Justice Center has been speaking with groups around the country with the same result—people are surprised that international law can provide more legal rights to Americans, particularly to women, than our Constitution does under current Supreme Court rulings.

**2016 WAS A CRITICAL YEAR:** The Global Justice Center geared up for its biggest challenge post-Trump: our “Bringing Rights Home Campaign” which seeks to ensure that American women have the fundamental protections of international human rights law that render invalid degrading and destructive US laws, including restrictions on abortion and contraception.

Gender equality and global justice are one idea. An idea that can and must be realized in the lives of all.

Thanks to your continued support, we are at the top of our game. And, we know that the greatest way to stop the Trumps of the future is to build a wall of justice and rights that protects all people everywhere.

Thank you,

  
Janet Benshoof



**WE ARE READY.**

**WE ARE PREPARED.**

**WE ARE NOT  
GOING BACKWARDS.**

# Abortion Access

## IN CONFLICT

In 2016, GJC continued pushing for abortion access to be recognized as protected medical care under international humanitarian law—with successes at the United Nations, including the Security Council, as well as with the United Kingdom, France, Netherlands and the European Union. GJC also continued to push for action from the Obama administration and worked to raise awareness of the suffering of countless women and girls who are routinely denied their rights in conflict zones around the world.



## HIGHLIGHTS

**IN FEBRUARY**, the EU divorced itself from the US abortion ban by adopting the first ever [anti-Helms Amendment](#) policy in its 2016 budget.

**IN MAY**, GJC hosted a side event at the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency titled, "[Making IHL Work for Women and Girls.](#)" [Panelists](#) included Margot Wallström, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden and Dr. Helen Durham, Director of International Law & Policy, International Committee of the Red Cross.

**IN AUGUST**, Akila Radhakrishnan wrote an article in [Time Magazine](#) on how President Obama is failing women raped in war and should lift US abortion restrictions on foreign aid.

**IN DECEMBER**, GJC staff [travelled](#) to Belgium and the Netherlands to help our European allies strategize a proactive response to then President-elect Trump's imminent reinstatement of the Global Gag Rule.



# Gender & Genocide

In 2016, GJC continued using our international law expertise to push for international recognition of the genocidal campaign that ISIS is waging against Yazidi [women and girls](#). Thousands of women and girls remain in ISIS captivity. The international community is legally obligated under the Genocide Convention to act to end this genocide, including by rescuing victims and ensuring justice for these heinous crimes. GJC continues to push for legal action and to [raise awareness](#) of this genocide.

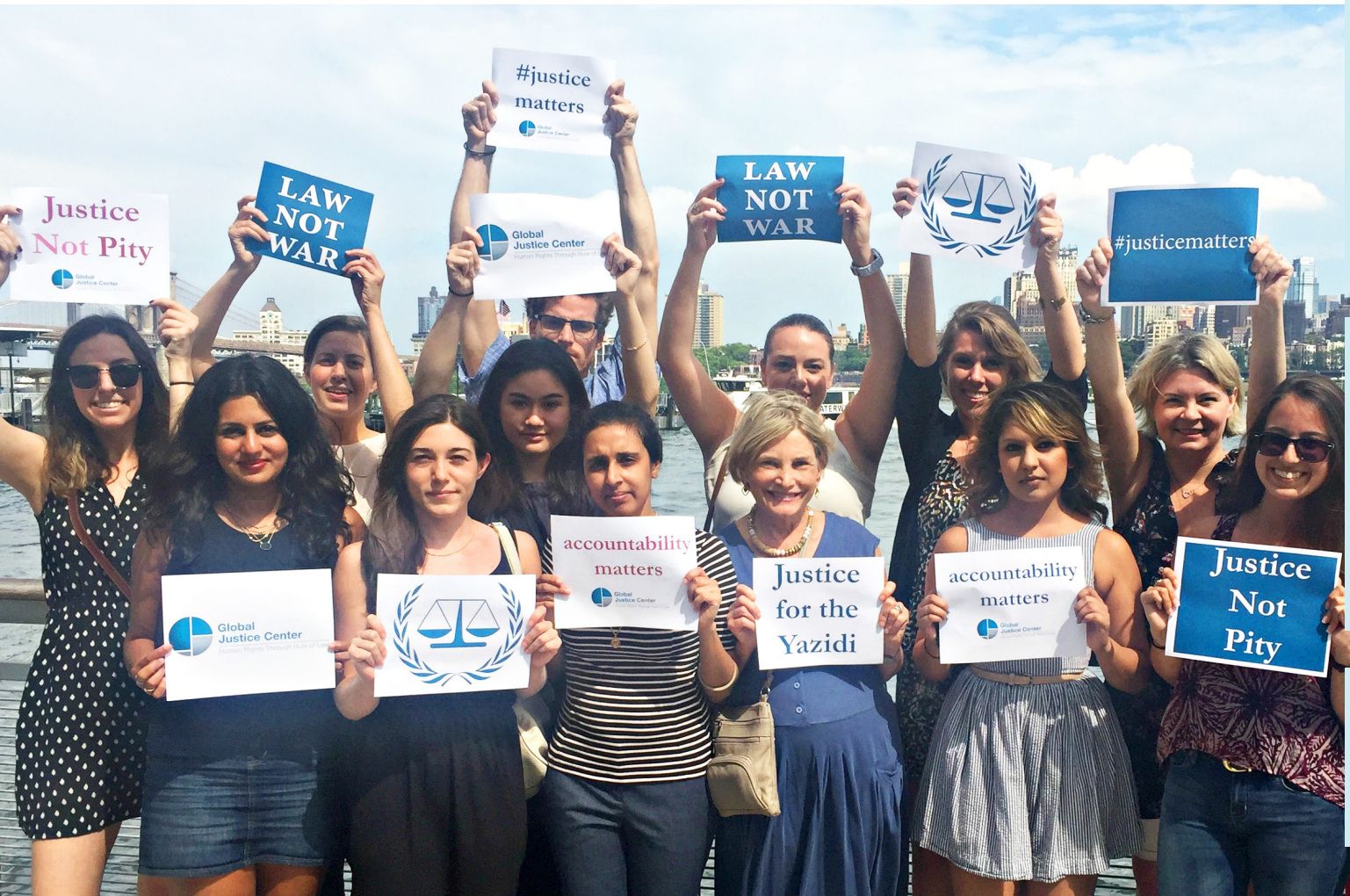
## HIGHLIGHTS

**IN APRIL**, GJC published two briefings, one on how ISIS' [gender-based crimes](#) against Yazidi women amount to genocide and another on the [legal obligations](#) to respond when terrorists perpetrate genocide.

**IN MAY**, Janet Benshoof wrote a [letter to the editor](#) in the New York Times on the importance of prosecuting ISIS fighters for crimes of genocide in response to an [article](#) on the lack of a plan for ISIS detainees.

**IN AUGUST**, on the anniversary of the massacre at Sinjar, Grant Shubin co-wrote an article, along with Pari Ibrahim from Free Yazidi Foundation, in [Newsweek](#) about ISIS' sexual and gender-based violence against Yazidi women.

**IN OCTOBER**, GJC released a [briefing](#) on the European Union's obligations to prosecute genocide in the age of ISIS.





# Women in Power

Since GJC was founded in 2008, we have been working with women's rights groups on the ground in Burma to push for gender equality in power and under the law. In 2016, Burma was reviewed on its compliance with its obligations under the [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women \(CEDAW\)](#). GJC worked with women's rights groups in Burma to prepare them for [this process](#), was present in Geneva to support our partners during the review, and traveled to Burma afterwards to help build advocacy based on recommendations from the CEDAW Committee. As a result, we were able to secure international pressure to help achieve important domestic objectives in Burma, including the passage of a comprehensive violence against women law and justice for sexual violence committed by the military.



## HIGHLIGHTS

**IN FEBRUARY**, GJC hosted a [round table discussion](#) on lasting peace in Myanmar moderated by Phyu Phyu Sann. The event featured Myra Dahgappaw, Policy Advisor at the US Campaign for Burma, and two human rights defenders from Burma, Naw Zipporah Sein and Ying Lao.

**IN JUNE**, GJC and the Gender Equality Network published a [Shadow Report](#) with a [Briefing Paper](#) on the obstacles to equality in Burma with specific recommendations on how to overcome them for the upcoming CEDAW Committee review of the country.

**IN JULY**, Michello Onello co-wrote an article in [Mizzima](#) with Ma Sabe Phyu, Director of Gender Equality Network, about the upcoming CEDAW review and its importance as a unique opportunity to advocate for women's full equality in Burma.

**IN NOVEMBER**, GJC [travelled](#) to Burma and participated in a workshop sponsored by the International Women's Development Agency aimed at supporting women's rights groups as they advocate for the implementation of the [Concluding Observations](#) of the CEDAW Committee.

# Gender & Torture

Torture is one of international law's most prohibited crimes. For most of us, the word "torture" invokes images of Abu Ghraib or Guantanamo—where male prisoners and suspected enemy fighters were subjected to horrific abuses. However, this limited conceptualization overlooks the ways that women all over the world are victims of torture on a daily basis. In 2016 GJC used the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, to highlight and push for changes in laws and practices that subject women to torture.

## HIGHLIGHTS

**IN JUNE**, GJC made a [submission](#) to the United Nations Committee against Torture about US policies restricting foreign aid for abortion services to war rape victims.

**IN NOVEMBER**, GJC and the World Organisation against Torture jointly submitted a [report](#) to the Committee Against Torture on how Sri Lankan law violates the Convention against Torture through its treatment of abortion, rape, and child marriages.

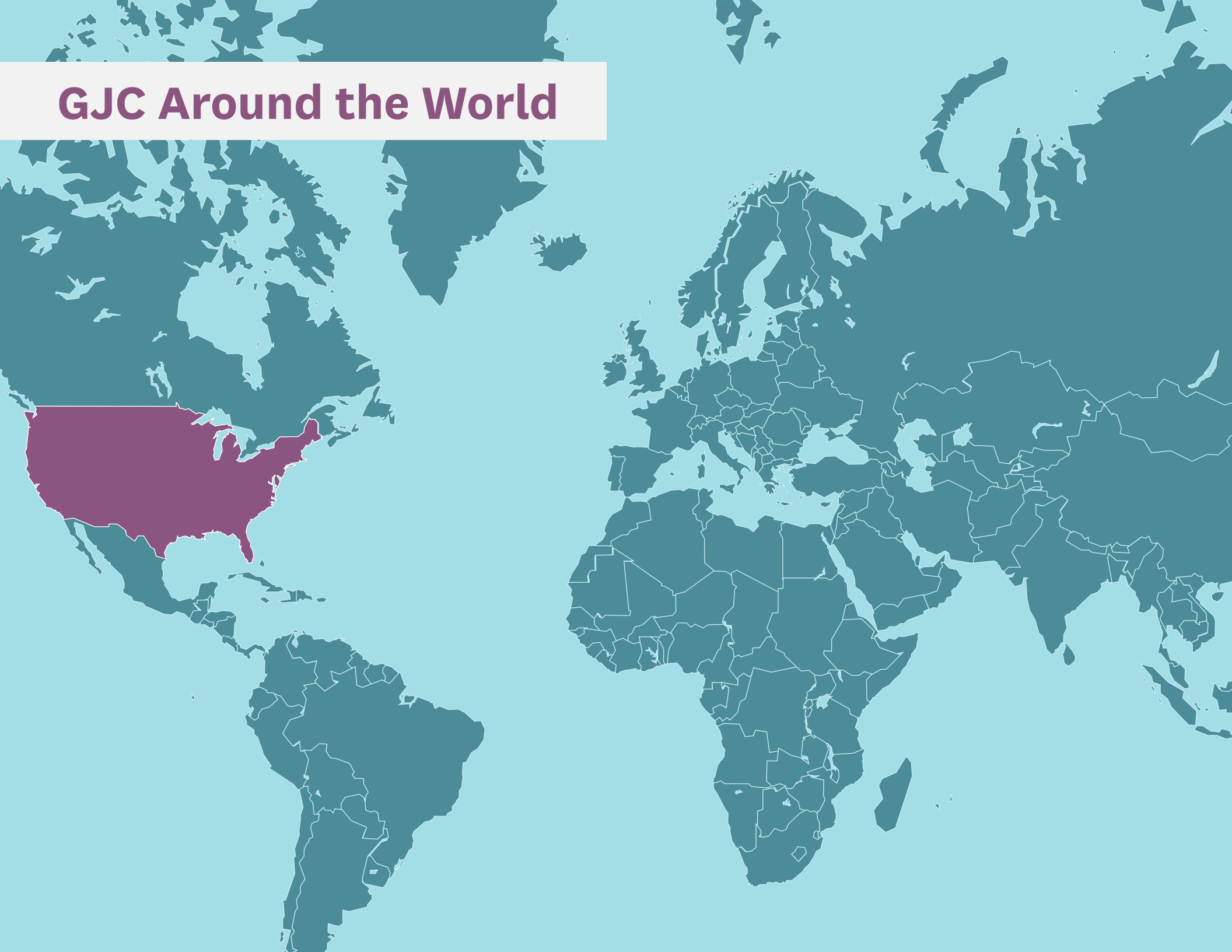
**IN NOVEMBER**, the World Organisation Against Torture published a [piece](#) by Grant Shubin about how national laws classify torture and violate women's human rights.

**IN DECEMBER**, Akila Radhakrishnan argued for the importance of international standards and protections especially with the coming collision of a Trump presidency with global standards on human rights and abortion in an op-ed published in [Rewire](#).





# GJC Around the World



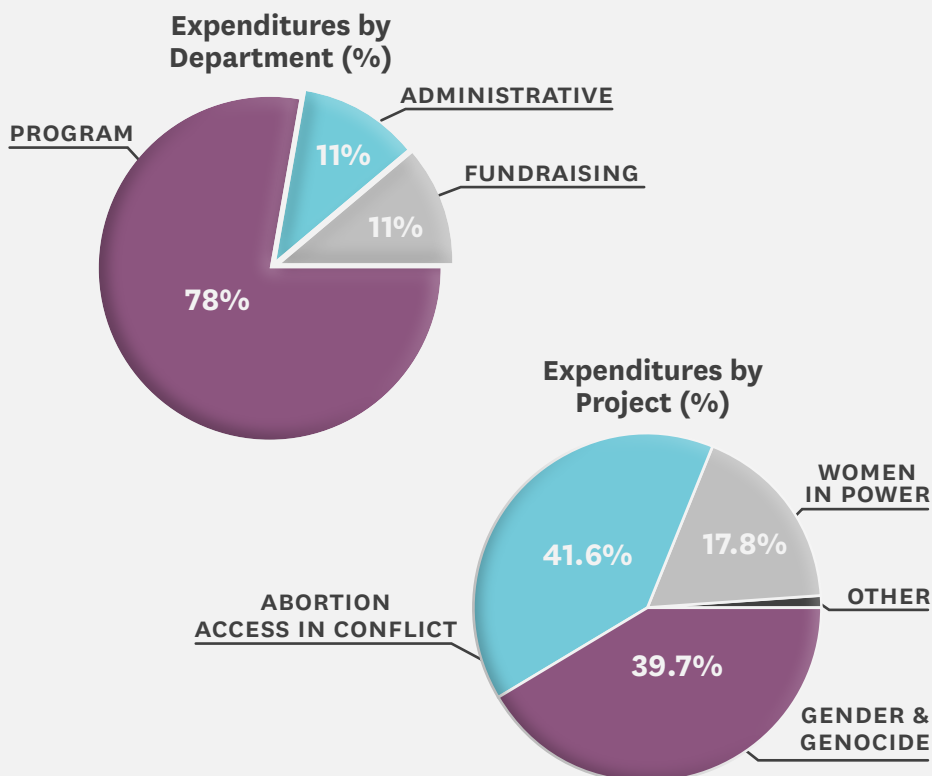
# Financials

## Statement of Financial Position Year End December 31, 2016

### Assets

Cash and Cash equivalents	\$414,254
Unconditional promises to give	334,128
Security deposits and other assets	32,066
Investments	519,481
Property and equipment	<u>13,225</u>

**Total Assets:** \$1,313,154



## Statement of Activities Year End December 31, 2016

### Changes in Unrestricted Net Assets

Revenue and Other Support	
Grants and contributions	\$963,893
Gain (loss) on investments	<u>58,242</u>
	1,022,135

Net assets released from restrictions 456,037  
Total Revenue and Other Support 1,478,172

Expenses	
Program Services	1,020,399
Management and general	142,681
Fundraising	<u>151,625</u>

Total Expenses 1,314,705

Increase in Unrestricted Net Assets 163,467

### Changes in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets

Contributions	250,000
Net assets released from restrictions	(456,037)
Loss on foreign exchange	<u>(38,835)</u>

Increase in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets (244,872)

Increase in net assets (81,405)  
Net assets, beginning of year 1,377,439

**Net Assets, End of Year** \$1,296,034



# **2016 Leadership**

**Renée Acosta – Chair**

**Laurie Ashton – Secretary**

**Robert Bason**

**Janet Benshoof**

**Tracy Higgins**

**Pamela J. Maraldo – Treasurer**

**James Minow – Vice Chair**

**John Washburn**

**Georgina Theodora Wood**

# Many thanks to our wonderful 2016 supporters!

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# POWER NOT PITY.



**Global  
Justice Center**

Human Rights Through Rule of Law