

MARCHING ON

Ten Years of Radical Change



**Global
Justice Center**

Human Rights Through Rule of Law



Current and former Global Justice Center staff pose in front of Janet's portraits at her memorial.

Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

I am thrilled to write to you as the new President of the Global Justice Center. It is an incredible opportunity to lead this organization into its second decade. For the past ten years, the Global Justice Center has played a critical role in the international human rights arena, using the power of the law to create a more just and equal world.

Everything we have learned over the past decade—both in our successes and in our setbacks—forms the arsenal of legal tools, advocacy know-how, and outside-the-box thinking that sets the Global Justice Center apart.

Over years of battling United States abortion restrictions abroad, challenging the criminal acts of the military regime in Burma, and advocating for the inclusion of crimes against women in international criminal prosecutions, we learned how to be strategic, nimble, and bold in our efforts to move women's rights guarantees from paper to practice. We know what it takes to fight back, and we will continue to challenge fascist and misogynist regimes wherever they come to power, including in the United States.

The past year has been an incredibly difficult one for the Global Justice Center with the sudden and unexpected loss of our founder, Janet Benshoof. We are honored to carry on the struggle for justice with this extraordinary organization that she founded. Since the beginning, the Global Justice Center has fought for gender equality—if the last decade shows us anything, it is that the future is feminist. We are marching forward into that future, using the power of the law to forge the way.

Thank you for making 2017 another remarkable year for the Global Justice Center!

Sincerely,

Akila
Akila Radhakrishnan
President

2005

The Global Justice Center is Founded
The Global Justice Center was created to be a new kind of human rights organization in which women's equality in power is a foundational principle of human rights.

Advocating for Criminal Accountability for War Crimes Committed by ISIS
GJC's Gender and Genocide project pushed for the enforcement of the Genocide Convention for the gendered non-killing crimes of genocide, including crimes that ISIS is committing against the Yazidi. Two years after the project launch, the UN Security Council passed a resolution opening a path to justice for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide in Iraq.

2017



2015

Ensuring Abortion is Recognized as a Fundamental Right under International Law
The European Union changes its policy to reflect GJC's groundbreaking legal argument that abortion is protected medical care under international law for women and girls raped in war. Under GJC's leadership, the right has also been recognized by France, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the UN.

2006

Ensuring Gender Justice for Saddam-Era Crimes in Iraq
GJC led a series of trainings for the judges of the Iraqi High Tribunal focused on international law and crimes of sexual violence. As a result, rape and sexual violence were prosecuted as crimes against humanity, using the international definitions of these crimes as established by the Rome Statute.



2008

Fighting for an End to Military Impunity in Burma
GJC was one of the first groups advocating for reform of Burma's 2008 Constitution, which gives the military full impunity for war crimes and puts Burma in direct violation of international law. In 2018, due to GJC's sustained advocacy, the UN Secretary-General's Report on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence named the Burmese military as perpetrators of systemic sexual violence for the first time.

2010

Pioneering the Argument that Abortion is Protected Care Under International Law
GJC's August 12th Campaign, named after the anniversary of the Geneva Conventions, is the first to make the international legal argument that abortion access is necessary medical care for women raped in war.



Ten Years Fighting for Reproductive Health & Rights

Reproductive rights are central to gender equality. This fact has been enshrined in international law, yet it is often ignored in practice and policy. For the past decade, GJC has been at the forefront of efforts to ensure that the law protects and promotes access to comprehensive reproductive health and rights.

Liberalizing Colombia's Abortion Laws

In 2006, GJC worked with women's rights groups in Colombia to use international law to challenge the country's total abortion ban. These efforts resulted in a historic decision by the Constitutional Court of Colombia overturning the abortion ban, citing the UN's Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

Ensuring Abortion Access

GJC pioneered the argument that the Geneva Conventions protect the right to abortion for girls and women raped in war under its requirements to provide comprehensive and non-discriminatory medical care.

Since 2013, GJC's campaign to enshrine abortion access as protected care for women and girls raped in war has fundamentally shifted the narrative in the policy arena. When GJC started this project, abortion was rarely, if ever, discussed in relation to victims of sexual violence in conflict. Today, the issue of abortion is now regularly included in domestic, regional and international discussions and policy frameworks about humanitarian aid in war zones.

The GJC's argument that abortion is protected care under international humanitarian law has been adopted in many high-profile venues and reports including:

- The United Nations Security Council: Resolutions 2106 (2013), 2122 (2013) and 2242 (2015)
- The governments of the United Kingdom, Sweden, the Netherlands, France, and the European Union
- The Secretary-General's Reports on Women, Peace and Security and Sexual Violence in Conflict

Combating Harmful US Abortion Restrictions

GJC has been challenging the imposition of US abortion restrictions on foreign assistance as a violation of US obligations under international law since 2010, specifically addressing the harms of the Helms amendment and the Global Gag Rule. As a result of this advocacy, several national governments and international decision-making bodies have adopted policies to counter the Helms amendment and Global Gag Rule—including some policies which specifically support the provision of abortion services with their own aid. For instance, the European Parliament has adopted an "anti-Helms amendment" in all EU budgets since 2016, requiring that EU aid is not affected by restrictions imposed by other donors, including the United States.

GJC has rallied support from an international consortium of partners representing over 3,500 groups globally, calling on the US government to repeal the Helms amendment. These groups include the New York Bar Association, Amnesty International, the World Organization against Torture, FIDH, the Paris Bar Association, the Norwegian Bar Association and others, who called on the US government to change this cruel and inhuman policy.

Immediately following the election of President Trump in November 2016, GJC travelled to Europe to galvanize our partners and prepare them for the immediate challenges a Trump-Pence administration would pose for sexual and reproductive rights, including the impending re-imposition of the Global Gag Rule. GJC leveraged this early action to obtain strong donor commitments to fund abortion access despite US restrictions.



United Nations bodies where GJC has provided expertise:

- Security Council
- Human Rights Council for the Universal Periodic Review
- Committee against Torture
- Human Rights Committee
- International Criminal Court
- Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
- Fact-finding Mission on Myanmar
- Special Rapporteurs



National governments and international bodies that have called for the US to remove abortion restrictions on foreign aid:

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| • Belgium | • United Kingdom |
| • Norway | • European Parliament |
| • Switzerland | • UN Working Group on the Discrimination against Women in Law and in Practice |
| • France | |
| • Netherlands | |



Ten Years Fighting for Justice for Gender-Based Violence

The prevalence and persistence of gender-based violence remains one of the most significant, if not the most significant, barriers to achieving gender equality around the world. GJC has worked for a decade to ensure that women and girls receive meaningful protections from gender-based violence, including justice and redress when it occurs, in line with international law.

Accountability for Gender-Based Violence in Burma

GJC has partnered with a wide variety of grassroots actors in Burma over the past decade—from minority, ethnic-aligned groups exiled in Thailand to the burgeoning women’s rights groups inside the country. GJC’s longstanding partnerships in Burma have allowed us to develop the capacity of our civil society partners, including through trainings on how to use UN human rights mechanisms and international law to support accountability efforts for sexual violence in conflict and advocate for a comprehensive violence against women law.

GJC has led the call for Burma’s referral to the International Criminal Court since 2007, and has pioneered the argument that the military-drafted constitution is a barrier to democracy in Burma, a fact now recognized by a wide variety of policy-makers and experts. GJC is frequently turned to as an expert on Burma at the international, regional and domestic levels, including by our peer-groups, particularly on issues related to women and ethnic groups.

Over the past decade, GJC has submitted numerous expert submissions to UN bodies, including shadow reports to the Human Rights Council’s Universal Periodic Review and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, authored expert briefs and reports on gender equality, sexual violence in conflict and the 2008 Constitution, and provided technical assistance to ongoing reform efforts, including a new draft violence against women law.

Accountability for Gender-Based Mass Atrocity Crimes

GJC has been at the forefront of demanding justice for women and girls targeted by terrorist groups, calling attention to the gender-based crimes that are integral to their strategies.

Boko Haram

In 2015, GJC filed an Article 15 submission on the abduction of girls by Boko Haram with the International Criminal Court (ICC). The brief called on the ICC Prosecutor to expand her investigation of Boko Haram’s crimes to include the gender-based crimes that could constitute genocide, such as the forcible transfer of children. This submission was motivated by the fact that in its 2014 report on the preliminary examination in Nigeria, the ICC indicated that it was not investigating potential gender-based crimes. In its report the following year, several months after receiving GJC’s letter, the ICC Office of the Prosecutor explicitly stated that “the Office is devoting particular efforts to determine the gender component of crimes committed in Nigeria.”



ISIS

Since ISIS began its genocidal campaign against the Yazidi in 2014, GJC has been drawing attention to the gendered aspects of ISIS’s genocide, including sexual slavery, and calling on states to fulfill their obligations to prevent and punish genocide. GJC has submitted two amicus briefs to the ICC, including a detailed analysis of gender-based crimes, and has worked to ensure that accountability mechanisms such as the UN Security Council’s Iraqi Investigative Team do not leave women behind. GJC also galvanized over 100 members of the European Parliament to write to the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini, to call for equal protection of women under the Genocide Convention.

Ensuring Gender Justice for Saddam-era Crimes in Iraq

GJC worked with women’s groups in Iraq from 2005 to 2006 to ensure that the Iraqi High Tribunal’s prosecution of Saddam-era crimes included the crimes committed against Kurdish and Marsh Arab women—in particular, the crimes of sexual violence and genocide under their international definitions. GJC led a series of trainings for the judges of the Iraqi High Tribunal that focused on international jurisprudence on gender and war crimes, highlighting how international standards could be incorporated into domestic law to ensure meaningful equality for Iraqi women. As a result of these trainings, rape and sexual violence were prosecuted by the Iraqi High Tribunal as crimes against humanity, using the international definitions as established by the Rome Statute. In the 2006 *Anfal* decision, the Iraqi High Tribunal judges accepted as matters of law several important conclusions reached by the International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda with respect to violence against women.

GJC in 2017: A Year in Review

Legal Analysis and Research

- GJC convened a Brain Trust of international legal experts and practitioners (including Jean-Paul Laborde, executive director of the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee; Patricia Viseur Sellers, special advisor to the prosecutor of the ICC; and Stephen Rapp, former Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes under President Obama) to examine the difficulties of translating genocide law into a contemporary context, particularly considering the increasing space taken by the counter-terrorism agenda.
- GJC legal staff published an article on “Protecting safe abortion in humanitarian settings: overcoming legal and political barriers” in the special issue on sexual and reproductive health in humanitarian crises of leading peer-reviewed public health journal *Reproductive Health Matters*. The article will be translated into Spanish for *Reproductive Health Matters Spanish*, increasing the article’s reach and influence.
- GJC, in partnership with the Goldman School of Public Policy (GSPP) at the University of California Berkeley, undertook research on the gender dimensions of land grabs in Burma and reviewed the existing state of women’s rights with respect to land, the history of land grabs and the current discussions in Burma regarding the National Land Use Policy. This innovative research identifies legal and policy reforms to better protect women’s rights and promote gender equality with respect to land use and tenure.



Sareta Ashraph, former Chief Analyst on the Commission of Inquiry on Syria, and Sofia Coelho Candeias, from the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sexual Violence in Conflict, at the GJC Braintrust on Genocide and Counterterrorism.

Strategic Advocacy

- In June 2017, GJC made its second submission to the ICC, with the Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales, asking the Prosecutor to open a preliminary examination into genocide and other crimes committed by ISIS’s foreign fighters.
- In October 2017, GJC and partner organizations, including MADRE and Yazda, sent a joint open letter to Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, calling on Iraqi leadership to ensure a successful and inclusive process for investigating crimes committed by ISIS that is in line with international standards and international law.
- GJC launched our podcast, “That’s Illegal,” and published several episodes on the complex challenges and institutional barriers to prosecuting perpetrators of genocide, featuring interviews with special guests such as Amb. Stephen Rapp, former United States Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Issues in the Office of Global Criminal Justice.
- GJC used the media to bring attention to the ways in which the law can be used to challenge impunity for sexual and gender-based violence and defend the reproductive rights and health of women around the world. GJC earned media coverage in *Al Jazeera*, *The Independent*, *Marie Claire UK*, *Broadly*, *Pass Blue*, and several other outlets. GJC published four Letters to the Editor of the *New York Times*, and staff members published op-eds in publications including *Newsweek*, *Ms. Magazine*, *The Times UK*, and *Women Under Siege*.

Collaborative Partnerships

- GJC created a technical review of Burma’s draft law on the Prevention and Protection of Violence Against Women as a tool for partners on the ground in Burma to develop their activism and lobbying.
- GJC’s legal experts traveled to Athens to participate in the 17th annual conference of the Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG) on Reproductive Health in Crises. GJC presented on the international laws governing abortion to partners and providers of abortion services.
- GJC led a global coalition of over 90 civil society organizations in a letter urging the European Commission to ensure that abortion is included in the medical care offered to women and girls, particularly in areas where rape is used as a weapon of war.



Top: Patricia Viseur Sellers and Jean-Paul Laborde at the GJC Braintrust on Genocide and Counterterrorism.

Upper Middle: Amb. Stephen Rapp gives an interview on GJC’s podcast, “That’s Illegal.”

Lower Middle: *Reproductive Health Matters* special edition on advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights in humanitarian crises.

Bottom: Janet Benshoof speaks on a panel on “International Criminal Law in a Retreating World” alongside ICC Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda.

Janet Benshoof: In Memory of a Remarkable Leader

Dear Friends,

The Global Justice Center was founded on the vision of an extraordinary woman. Janet believed in the power of the law to create a better—and more equal—world for women. She knew the strength of the patriarchy, and understood how deeply it was embedded not only in society and culture, but in the law.

The law can be a tool of oppression, but it can also be a tool of liberation and social change. That is why the Global Justice Center exists: to harness the power of the law to create real and progressive change for women around the world.

Janet may no longer be with us, but her spirit lives on in the work she started. She trained a generation of lawyers to harness the law to achieve gender equality. With Janet's passion for justice in our hearts, we will continue to fight for equality under the law—not only on paper, but in practice. We will remain bold, uncompromising and innovative in our advocacy to achieve gender equality.

Thank you,

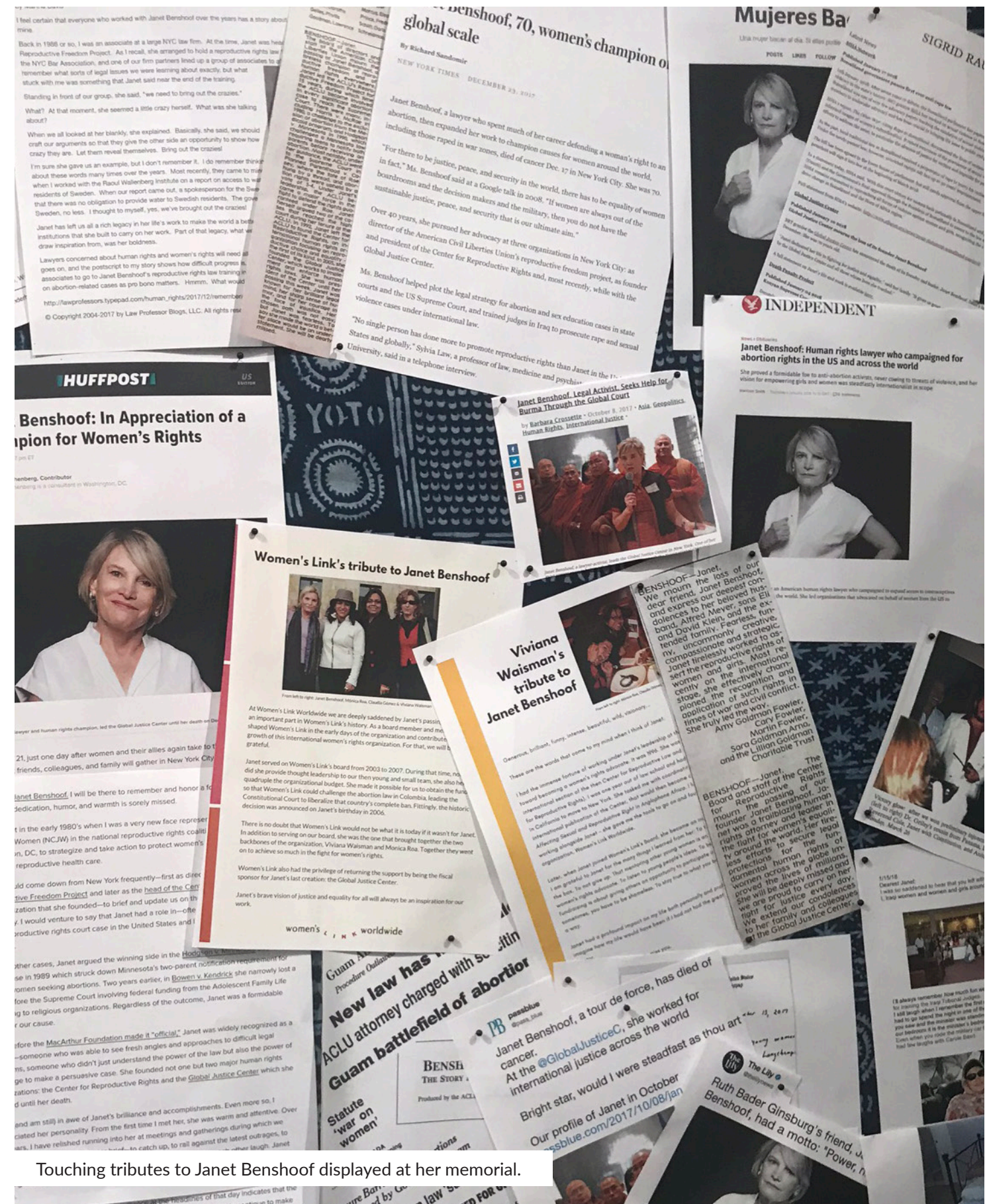
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Touching tributes to Janet Benshoof displayed at her memorial.



The Global Justice Center's contingent at the 2018 Women's March in New York City, "Janet's Justice League," protest in Janet's honor.

Marching Forward

GJC is marching forward, taking the incredible work we have done over the past ten years and building on those successes to push for full enforcement of international law to protect the rights of women and girls.

In a world that is increasingly hostile to gender equality, we are ready to lead the fight. In 2018, the Global Justice Center will continue to:

- Challenge US abortion restrictions on foreign aid, including the Global Gag Rule, Helms amendment and Siljander amendment. These restrictions censor what advocates and medical experts can say, chill abortion related advocacy, and violate their fundamental rights to free speech and free association. Our expert strategic analysis and advocacy will continue to call global attention to this violation of international law.
- Pioneer legal and policy arguments that build evidence and understanding of the gendered dimensions of genocide, which are so often forgotten in justice proceedings.
- Amplify the voices of our partners on the ground in Burma and Iraq to ensure that their lived experiences are reflected in national, regional, and international policies, frameworks, and justice mechanisms.
- Analyze the gender dynamics of the crimes committed against ethnic minority groups in Burma, including the Rohingya, to ensure accountability and justice.

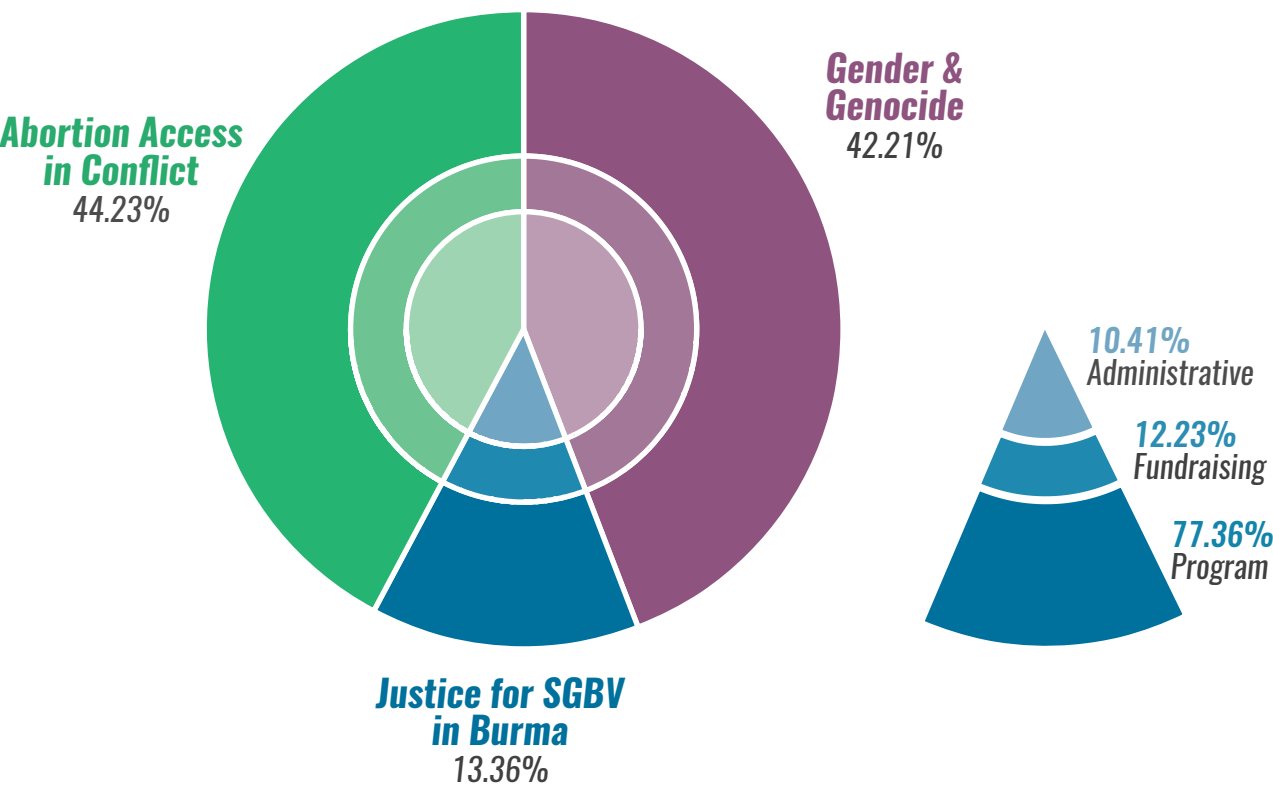
The Global Justice Center is stronger than ever. Our continued success is thanks in large part to our dynamic and growing community, which inspires us constantly with their dedication and comes together time and time again to donate talent, resources, and expertise in support of our important mission.

Our Financials

Statement of Financial Position December 31, 2017

Assets	
Cash and Cash equivalents	\$ 520,382
Unconditional promises to give	
Unrestricted	147,250
Temporarily restricted	350,000
Security deposits and other assets	23,755
Investments	279,233
Property and equipment	<u>8,523</u>
Total Assets:	<u>\$1,329,143</u>

2017 Expenditures by Project and Department



Statement of Activities Year End December 31, 2017

Changes in Unrestricted Net Assets	
Revenue and Other Support	
Grants and contributions	\$ 952,157
Net investment income	<u>73,919</u>
	1,026,076
Net assets released from restrictions	<u>416,470</u>
Total Revenue and Other Support	<u>1,442,256</u>
Expenses	
Program Services	1,229,839
Management and general	165,515
Fundraising	<u>194,367</u>
Total Expenses	<u>1,589,721</u>
Increase (Decrease) in Unrestricted Net Assets	<u>(147,175)</u>
Changes in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	
Contributions	350,000
Net assets released from restrictions	(416,470)
Gain (loss) on foreign exchange	<u>22,342</u>
Decrease in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	<u>(44,128)</u>
Decrease in net assets	(191,303)
Net assets, beginning of year	<u>1,296,034</u>
Net Assets, End of Year	<u>\$1,104,731</u>



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