



Global  
Justice Center

Human Rights Through Rule of Law



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# FEMINISM IN FOCUS

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Global Justice Center | 2018 Annual Report





Akila Radhakrishnan discusses challenges and prospects on the ICC's horizon at the Assembly of States Parties in the Hague. *CICC/Sid Boyd*

# Letter from the President

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Dear Friends and Allies,

Looking back on my first year as President of the Global Justice Center, I am so proud of all that we have accomplished. Last year, we took a deep and critical look at our strengths and our value in the international advocacy community. As a small organization, we know that we have the most impact when we are focused and strategic. Our approach is unique and it's working.

**In 2018, we focused on bringing our feminist legal perspective into the mainstream.**

**We harnessed the power of the law for gender justice.** We developed in-depth legal arguments on the Global Gag Rule's impact on free speech and the gendered elements of genocide, and released several groundbreaking reports.

**We brought a gender perspective to male-dominated policy spaces.** We ensured that gender was included in debates about mass atrocity prevention, and that women's experiences were not ignored or forgotten.

The Global Justice Center enters 2019 with renewed clarity. We are more motivated than ever to leverage our expertise into action to break down centuries of patriarchal oppression and inequality. **Women deserve to live with dignity, free from gender-based violence and in full control of their bodies.**

With the steadfast support of our allies behind us and justice on our side, I firmly believe that we can make this vision a reality.

In Solidarity,



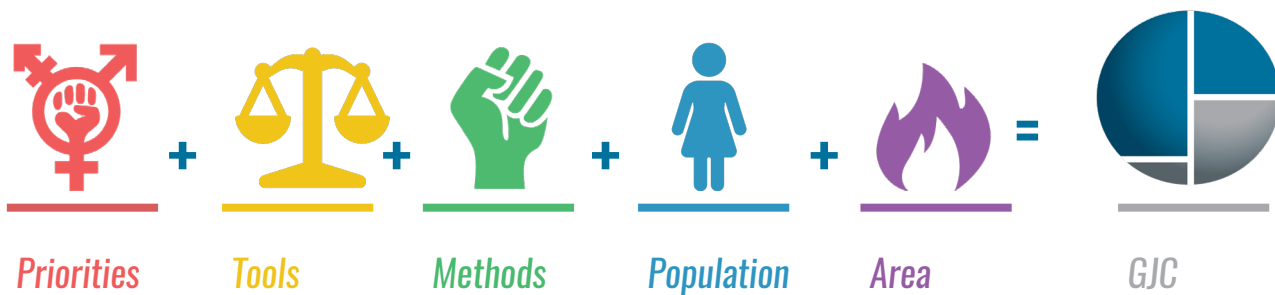
Akila Radhakrishnan  
President

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

*—Akila Radhakrishnan*



# The Global Justice Center Equation



## What Are Our Priorities?

We focus on two priority areas that we believe are critical to the basic health, safety, and well-being of girls and women globally—**fighting for sexual and reproductive rights and demanding justice for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence.**



## What Is Our Toolset?

**We use the law as a catalyst for radical change.** Our combination of legal expertise and feminist analysis sets us apart from other organizations in the human rights field. We are the feminists in policy circles and the lawyers among gender advocates.



## How Do We Create Change?

**We develop progressive interpretations of international law,** then support policymakers as they work to fulfill their legal obligations. Our work has three key components: 1) innovative legal analysis; 2) strategic advocacy; and 3) collaborative partnerships.



## Why Focus on Women and Girls?

**We are committed to advancing gender equality, both in the law and in practice.** Women and girls face unique risks, and are often excluded from the highest levels of decision making. Historically, men get laws while women get policy. We are working to change that.



## Where Do We Work?

**We work in the places with the most potential for systemic change,** like conflict and post-conflict situations and transitional democracies. We are active in some of the world's most troubling and dangerous places for women, such as Burma and Iraq.



## About Us

The Global Justice Center (GJC) is an international human rights organization building a global rule of law rooted in human rights and gender equality. Our creative and tenacious staff of legal experts are pushing the boundaries of feminist legal advocacy, developing innovative legal arguments and strategies to embed full gender equality into the law.

We are and will always be the group that exposes and attempts to root out the patriarchy inscribed in so many international and domestic laws. We are fiercely independent and are unafraid to take on controversial topics.

GJC has a proven and respected track record of unapologetic feminist advocacy, scoring landmark victories worldwide in the fights for sexual and reproductive rights and against impunity for gender-based violence. Our priority is making sure that women and girls can live with dignity, in full control of their bodies, and with equal protection under the law.

**ABOVE:** GJC staff attend event commemorating the fourth anniversary of the Yazidi genocide that GJC organized in partnership with Free Yazidi Foundation.

# Demanding Justice

## For Survivors of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

The prevalence of sexual and gender-based violence, often with no accountability, is a central barrier in the global fight for gender equality. With increasing attacks on the International Criminal Court (ICC) and other accountability mechanisms, the widespread and persistent use of rape as a weapon of war in places like Burma and Iraq, and a political environment hostile to the international human rights framework, our work is more important than ever.

In 2018, we continued to address key barriers to justice and accountability for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence at the domestic and international levels, and worked to strengthen national legal mechanisms and systems to achieve gender justice.



*80% of Rohingya survivors interviewed by the United Nations were gang raped.*

**300,000+**

Tutsi women and girls were raped during the Rwandan genocide.

**15 million**

girls around the world have experienced forced sexual acts.

**3,000**

Yazidi women and girls abducted by ISIS are still missing.



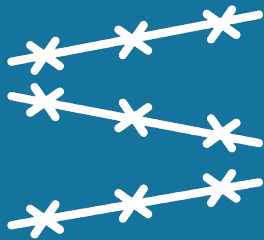
Yazidis displaced by ISIS take part in a demonstration at the Iraqi-Syrian border crossing in Fishkhabour, Iraq.  
REUTERS / Youssef Boudlal



## The Non-Killing Crimes of Genocide



Inflicting  
serious bodily  
or mental harm



Inflicting conditions  
of life calculated  
to destroy



Imposing  
measures to  
prevent births



Forcibly transferring  
children to  
another group

# Mass Atrocity Crimes

*ensuring justice for gendered crimes of genocide,  
crimes against humanity, and war crimes*

Our legal analyses of gender and mass atrocity crimes have had a profound impact on the way these crimes are addressed by the legal, advocacy, and accountability communities. Through our expert legal analysis, work in partnerships (including through the NGO Working Groups on Women, Peace, and Security and the Security Council), and participation and presentations at conferences and events, we have fundamentally shifted the conversation and moved the needle forward on justice for survivors of sexual and gender-based crimes.

In 2018, we embedded a gender perspective and survivor-centered approach into traditionally male-dominated spaces of mass atrocity prevention and accountability.

### *As a result of our work:*

- Global Action Against Mass Atrocity Crimes, a global state-led initiative to prevent atrocities, committed to mainstream gender in its own work, pledging to aim for parity of participation and to treat gender as a cross-cutting theme across all agendas.
- For the first time, the UN Secretary-General's Report on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence named and shamed the Burmese military (Tatmadaw) as a party credibly suspected of committing or being responsible for systemic sexual violence. Also for the first time, the UN Security Council heard directly from a Rohingya woman during their annual Open Debate on Sexual Violence in Conflict.
- The international community took steps to hold the Burmese military accountable for its crimes against ethnic groups through the creation of the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar and the opening of an investigation by the ICC's Office of the Prosecutor.
- The Office of the Prosecutor at the ICC and the Independent Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar considered our legal analysis of gender-based crimes committed against the Rohingya and structural barriers to justice in Burma in their efforts to document atrocities and hold perpetrators accountable under international law.
- Policymakers, prosecutors, and scholars better incorporated a gendered analysis in their work on mass atrocity crimes using our groundbreaking whitepaper on the gendered dimensions of genocide, *Beyond Killing: Gender, Genocide and Obligations Under International Law*.
- The European Parliament heard our expert testimony concerning gender considerations related to the use of universal jurisdiction as a tool to end impunity for atrocity crimes, where we urged them to give special attention to survivors of sexual and gender-based crimes.





## Discriminatory Legal Systems

*challenging legal systems that fail to serve justice for gender-based violence*

Domestic laws and policies can provide the foundation for a just and holistic approach to address and eliminate gender-based violence. However, in legal systems around the world, the rights of women and girls fall far below international legal standards and many perpetuate discrimination.

In 2018, we used international laws and standards as a guide to build a more just and equal legal framework for women and girls.

### *As a result of our work:*

- The Committee Against Torture learned how to mainstream gender into their work to hold states accountable for gender-based violations of the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.
- Our grassroots partners in Burma advocated for the new law on the Prevention and Protection of Violence Against Women to comply with international human rights standards, using our legal analysis and technical review of the proposed law.
- Prosecutors, policymakers, and advocates working to hold Daesh fighters accountable for sexual and gender-based violence learned about the gender gaps in Iraq's criminal system that preclude justice for survivors from our in-depth legal analysis.
- The Women's League of Burma (WLB) published an in-depth analysis of the country's National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women (NSPAW) highlighting the Plan's failure to grapple with the structural barriers precluding gender equality and incorporating our legal guidance and technical recommendations.

**ABOVE:** GJC co-convened a panel with the Free Yezidi Foundation to commemorate the fourth anniversary of the Yazidi genocide. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka of UN Women, and Pramila Patten, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, joined us to discuss justice and accountability efforts.



Protestors at the International Women's Strike in Argentina call for abortion legalization. *Fotografías Emergentes*



# Fighting

## For Sexual and Reproductive Rights

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We have never been afraid to take risks and make long-term investments to ensure that access to safe abortion is recognized as a fundamental right and, especially in the context of today's backlashes to women's rights, remains on the international agenda. With expertise in international law and access to global fora such as the UN Security Council, we bring unique and critical skills to this fight.

This year, we pushed major donor countries and funders to change their policies and explicitly communicate to their grantees that their funds may, and indeed must, be used to provide safe abortions to girls and women raped in war. We also continued to build the normative framework to ensure that abortion is provided as a matter of right and proudly partnered with diverse organizations working to oppose US abortion restrictions both at home and abroad.



*68,000 women die every year from unsafe abortions.*

**25 million**

unsafe abortions are performed annually, mainly in places with restrictive abortion laws.

**25%**

of the world's population lives in countries with highly restrictive abortion laws.

**93%**

of countries with highly restrictive abortion laws are in developing regions.



## Illegal US Abortion Policy

*combating the United States' illegal and dangerous restrictions on abortion funding*

US policies, both congressional restrictions and executive orders, have a “chilling effect” on abortion services and speech. This censorship not only endangers lives, it is a clear violation of international law. We are countering all US restrictions, including congressional restrictions (like the Helms, Siljander, and Hyde Amendments) and executive actions (like the Global Gag Rule and Domestic Gag Rule) to build an affirmative legal framework for safe abortion access.

In 2018, we continued to document and gather information about the impact of these restrictions, including through four new Freedom of Information Act requests, developed and published the innovative legal argument on how these restrictions violate international guarantees of free speech and association, and challenged these policies as violations of international law.

### *As a result of our work:*

- Advocates, policymakers, and the legal community utilized our creative legal argument that US abortion restrictions violate obligations to respect free speech and association under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), one of the few human rights treaties that the US has ratified.
- The US Department of Health and Human Services was warned that their proposed Domestic Gag Rule on Title X funds and proposed rules amending the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act violate women’s rights under international law.
- The Trump administration faced new Freedom of Information requests concerning the reinstatement and expansion of the Global Gag Rule to foster transparency and facilitate information gathering on the decision-making processes within the US government.
- The UN Human Rights Council was provided with an update on how the US has not only failed to comply with the Council’s past recommendations regarding the Helms Amendment, but has also, through the reinstatement of the Global Gag Rule, put the US further out of compliance with its obligations under international law.





*From our first meeting at the White House, I knew that the Global Justice Center would be the driving force needed to move the needle forward on safe abortion access for survivors of war rape, thanks to their creativity, persistence, and legal acumen.*

— Tina Tchen

Partner at Buckley LLP

Former Chief of Staff to First Lady Michelle Obama



## Abortion Access in Conflict

*advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights in humanitarian crises*

After more than a decade of strategic advocacy, we have achieved broad recognition of our innovative legal argument that war rape victims must be provided access to safe abortions as a matter of right under international humanitarian law.

In 2018, we worked to make sure that these significant policy gains translate to concrete action so that they can make a real difference in the lives of women and girls in conflict zones.

### *As a result of our work:*

- The updated Inter-Agency Field Manual on Reproductive Health in Humanitarian Settings and the Sphere Handbook both outlined the need to provide safe abortion in line with international law.
- For the third consecutive year, the European Commission's budget included language to prevent restrictions imposed by other donors, namely the US, from affecting EU humanitarian aid for abortion access.
- In his annual report on Women, Peace and Security, the UN Secretary-General recommended, for the fourth consecutive year, that humanitarian aid include non-discriminatory health care, including access to safe abortion services.
- The UN Human Rights Council adopted its first resolution on preventable maternal mortality and morbidity and human rights in humanitarian settings, framing forced pregnancy as a human rights violation and highlighting the importance of integrating a rights-based approach to the provision of health care services, including safe abortion.
- The UK issued a parliamentary report to ensure that its grantees and partners understand and implement its policy on abortion as protected care under international humanitarian law.

**TOP LEFT:** GJC allies and staff members gathered in New York City to protest the announcement of the "Domestic Gag Rule"



GJC board members Gretchen Freeman Cappio, Tracy Higgins, and Elisabeth Wicker at the Global Justice Awards.

*The Global Justice Center takes an innovative approach to international law. They shine a light in the dark corners of domestic and foreign policy, boldly taking on controversial topics and principled stances on sensitive issues.*

— Gretchen Freeman Cappio  
GJC Board of Directors  
Partner at Keller Rohrback Law Offices, LLP



# Board of Directors

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## *Tracy Higgins (Chair)*

Professor of Law at Fordham Law School and Co-Director  
of the Leitner Center for International Law and Justice

## *Renée Acosta*

Former CEO and President of Global Impact

## *Yalda Afshar*

Physician-scientist, Obstetrics and Gynecology Clinical Instructor,  
and Fellow in Maternal Fetal Medicine at the University of  
California, Los Angeles David Geffen School of Medicine

## *Gretchen Freeman-Cappio (Treasurer)*

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## *Jelena Pia-Comella*

Senior Advisor for the Global Action Against  
Mass Atrocity Crimes (GAAMAC)

## *Elisabeth Wickeri (Secretary)*

Executive Director of the Leitner Center for  
International Law and Justice

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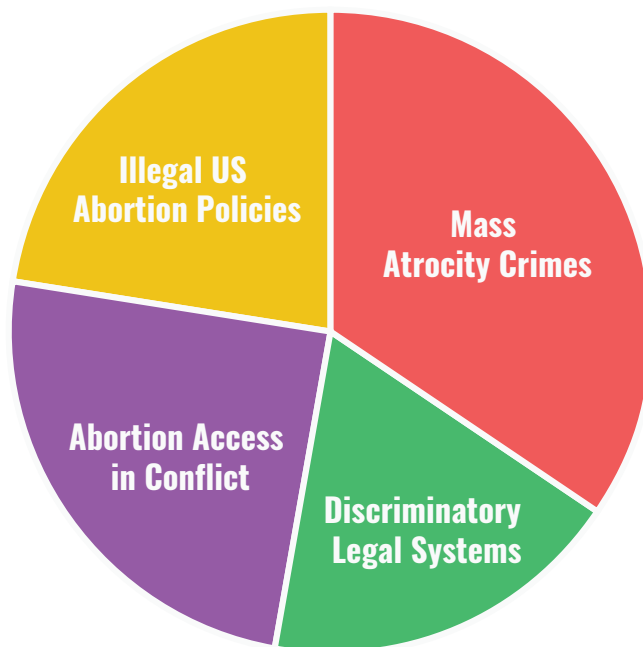
Justice Georgina Wood

# Our Financials

## Statement of Financial Position December 31, 2018

Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 450,543
Unconditional promises to give	
Unrestricted	10,520
Restricted	404,164
Prepaid expenses and other assets	40,363
Security deposits	20,805
Investments	403,209
Property and equipment	<u>4,320</u>
Total Assets:	<u><u>\$1,333,929</u></u>

## 2018 Expenditures by Project





**Statement of Activities**  
**Year End December 31, 2018**

Changes in Unrestricted Net Assets

Revenue and Other Support	
Grants and contributions	\$ 1,145,528
Net investment income	<u>(25,601)</u>
	1,119,927
Net assets released from restrictions	<u>150,000</u>
Total Revenue and Other Support	<u>1,269,927</u>
Expenses	
Program Services	762,914
Management and general	168,670
Fundraising	<u>186,688</u>
Total Expenses	<u>1,119,272</u>
Increase (Decrease) in Unrestricted Net Assets	<u>151,655</u>
Changes in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	
Contributions	209,102
Net assets released from restrictions	(150,000)
Gain (loss) on foreign exchange	<u>(4,938)</u>
Decrease in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	<u>54,164</u>
Decrease in net assets	205,819
Net assets, beginning of year	<u>1,104,731</u>
Net Assets, End of Year	<u>\$1,310,550</u>

# Our Supporters

Our work would not be possible without the generous support of our donors. We are proud to recognize members of our community who made gifts between January 1, 2018 and December 31, 2018.

With your support, our smart and strategic legal team is taking on some of the most pressing challenges to gender equality around the world. Together, we are breaking barriers, fighting the patriarchy, and building a more just and equal world for all.

## *Game Changer (\$250,000+)*

Brenda R. Potter  
Anonymous (1)

## *Visionary (\$100,000+)*

Oak Foundation  
Open Society Foundations  
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Wellspring Philanthropic Fund

## *Champion (\$50,000+)*

Amy P. Goldman Foundation  
Anonymous (1)

## *Defender (\$10,000+)*

Robert and Maurine  
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*If we inadvertently left off your name,  
please contact Danielle Stouck at  
[dstouck@globaljusticecenter.net](mailto:dstouck@globaljusticecenter.net)*



# Global Justice Center

Human Rights Through Rule of Law

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