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# DEAR FRIENDS,

There is no question that 2022 was a challenging year in the fight for gender equality, justice, and reproductive freedom. After almost 50 years, the United States Supreme Court's overturning of Roe v. Wade stripped millions of people of their constitutional right to abortion. In Myanmar, millions of people still face mass atrocities, including gender-based violence, while survivors and victims await justice in international courts to hold the military accountable. Further, we saw the devastating impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the complete disregard for international law, and the profoundly gendered impact of this aggression.

Yet amid these human rights crises, we're proud to say that the Global Justice Center remains even more committed to fighting injustices and advancing human rights. Throughout 2022, our team continued to use international law to make a positive change in the lives of women around the

Thanks to our community of supporters, we have been able to achieve many successes in the past year, as this report highlights. Some of the most exciting are:

- the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination's historic concluding observation that US abortion bans are a form of racial discrimination;
- the International Criminal Court upholding the first conviction for the crime of forced pregnancy in the Ongwen case; and last but not least,

• the advancements on the new crimes against humanity treaty, in particular as a tool to combat sexual and gender-based violence.

2022 also marked the first year of our fiveyear strategic plan launched in Fall 2021. It proved that our strategy to push forward bold, innovative solutions to fight for a future of true gender equality, reproductive freedom, and justice for gender-based crimes is working. Feminist interpretations of international law continue to prove necessary as we see countless attacks on gender equality, including reproductive freedom, around the world.

We look forward to continuing our fortified feminist fight in 2023. This work would not be possible without our generous community of supporters and partners who fuel our groundbreaking advocacy. We invite you to learn more about our commitment to systemic change and achievements through the stories featured in this year's annual report.

Thank you for inspiring us and being there with us on this journey.

axiew gretchen

In solidarity and immense gratitude,

Akila Radhakrishnan

Gretchen Freeman Cappio

# OUR APPROACH

WHAT WE DO

- Fight to ensure that
  abortion access is
  respected, protected, and
  fulfilled as a fundamental
  human right in the United
  States and globally
- Conduct progressive legal research and analysis with the aim that gender shapes the prevention of and response to violence, including conflict and mass atrocities
- Work within multilateral systems to integrate principles of feminism, inclusivity, and nondiscrimination

# HOW WE DO IT

### **INNOVATIVE LEGAL ANALYSIS**

Through scholarly publications, legal briefs, educational resources, and public events, we provide legal expertise on how to use international law to promote gender equality.



#### STRATEGIC ADVOCACY

We work behind the scenes with powerful stakeholders like the United Nations, international courts, and policymakers to shape international policy and shift public opinion.



#### **COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS**

We work in close concert with peer organizations and grassroots partners, providing capacity development, technical assistance, and access to international venues in order to strengthen and amplify women's voices for change at all levels of society.



# WHERE WE WORK

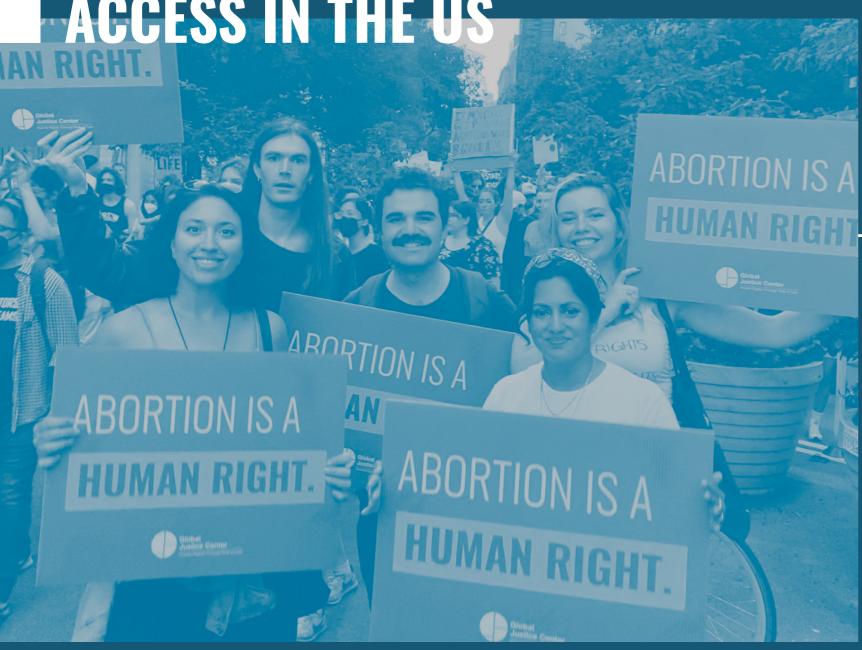
We work around the world, from the United States to Myanmar, and in the halls of power in international institutions. We also often work in post-conflict and transition settings because they offer a unique opportunity to radically restructure legal and political systems in order to enshrine gender equality and create sustainable peace.



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2022 ANNIIAI REPORT.

# IMPACT: SPOTLIGHT 01 FIGHTING FOR ABORTION ACCESS IN THE US



The United States is facing an unprecedented human rights crisis. 13 states have banned abortion following the US Supreme Court's Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization decision that overturned Roe v. Wade and Planned Parenthood v. Casey. Over the past year, one in three women lost the right to an abortion, leaving millions of women, girls, and all people who can become pregnant without access to essential reproductive health care services. Doctors providing routine and lifesaving reproductive health care risk prosecution across the country, and in some states, individuals face civil penalties for "aiding and abetting" access to an abortion. At the same time, in many countries, human rights strategies have successfully been used in conjunction with, and in parallel to, legal and movement-building strategies. National courts in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, South Korea, the United Kingdom, and Nepal have directly relied upon these standards in decisions to liberalize abortion laws. Lawmakers in Spain, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Rwanda, Uruguay, and Peru have also invoked international standards to decriminalize abortion. With the profound impact of Roe's overturning, we've doubled down on leveraging our expertise in international human rights law to fight for abortion access in the US.

Dr. Christine Ryan, GJC Legal Director, statement in our <u>press release</u> of 190+ Organizations Urge UN Special Rapporteurs to Act on Dobbs v. Jackson Supreme Court Decision:

The protections of *Roe* had long eroded before the court's ruling, but *Dobbs* put to rest any doubt of the United States' failure to meet its human rights obligations. Decades of binding treaties have firmly established abortion as a human right. Now that the violation of this right is clear to all, the international community has a responsibility to act to hold the U.S. accountable.

DR. CHRISTINE RYAN, Former GJC Legal Director

# LEVERAGING THE UN COMMITTEE ON THE **ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION**

- In advance of the review of the US in August 2022 by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), with our partners, we submitted input to the List of Themes and a shadow report to the CERD on racial disparities in abortion access, the anti-Black policy of shackling of pregnant prisoners, and racially disparate outcomes in cervical cancer screening and treatment. We also published a factsheet on the report.
- We traveled to Geneva to attend the CERD review of the US, asking the Committee to recognize that US abortion restrictions violate the right to health under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD). We presented to the Committee that the disproportionate impacts of the United States' abortion restrictions perpetuate racial inequality and violate the right to health of Black, Brown, and Indigenous women and pregnant people and that US foreign policy on abortion, especially the Helms Amendment, threatens the health and lives of these communities in the Global South.
- As a result of advocacy and legal research by organizations including GJC, the CERD included a recommendation on abortion rights in its concluding observations on the US for the first time in any country report, urging the United States to take all necessary measures — at the federal and state level to provide safe, legal, and effective access to abortion in line with its international human rights obligations. The concluding observations specifically noted the recent Supreme Court ruling in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, citing its "profound disparate impact on the sexual and reproductive health and rights of racial and ethnic minorities."
- With pro bono support, we initiated preparing a letter to UN special procedures highlighting the international human rights implications of the Dobbs decision. GJC continues to explore avenues to hold the US to account through international and regional bodies, including the UN.

After the World Health Organization issued its landmark new guidelines on abortion care this year, GJC's Merrite Johnson was asked to write an article for Women's Media Center that explained the new guidelines in the context of abortion bans in the United States:

The reality is that public health experts agree: narrow standards for abortion access are not justifiable. Abortion is healthcare, and healthcare is a human right. We must make abortion access a reality for all. The health and wellbeing of millions is at stake.

> MERRITE JOHNSON, GJC Program Coordinator

# **GLOBAL IMPACT ON SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS**

#### **JANUARY**

We submitted input to the Special Rapporteur on the right to health for her report on violence and its impact on the right to health, which ultimately echoed our arguments. Our submission focused on how the denial of abortion is deeply intertwined with violence, citing that access to abortion is necessary to meaningfully redress and prevent sexual and gender-based violence and is a right under international humanitarian law.

#### **MARCH**

The World Health Organization released its new guidelines on abortion care, developed through years of consultations with providers and experts. As a member of the Guideline Development Group, GJC's President co-authored a piece in The Lancet summarizing the new guidelines, which will be instrumental in GJC's advocacy both in the United States and internationally.

#### **APRIL**

GJC's former Legal Director, Dr. Christine Ryan, published an article in Ms. Magazine regarding the devastating reality that Ukrainian victims of wartime rape may be forced to give birth due to the Helms Amendment's restriction on providing any US foreign assistance funding to abortion care.

#### JULY

We also submitted input to the Special Rapporteur on the right to health for her report on racism and the right to health. As a result of our submission, the Special Rapporteur's report highlighted our argument that shackling pregnant prisoners is a form of anti-Black discrimination.





Since Global Justice Center's inception, we have strived to achieve gender justice in international courts through strategic and expert analysis of international human rights, criminal, and humanitarian law. Throughout 2022, we continued our strategic and long-term advocacy, especially around two major international cases that are monumental steps forward for global gender justice - The Prosecutor v. Dominic Ongwen case at the International Criminal Court (ICC) and The Gambia v. Myanmar case at the International Court of Justice (ICJ). The Ongwen decision was the first international conviction of forced pregnancy under international criminal law, upheld by the Appeals Chamber in December 2022. Further, for the first time since the February 2021 coup, the ICJ held hearings in the Gambia v. Myanmar case on the Rohingya genocide.

> As part of a symposium on the the Prosecutor v. Ongwen case at the International Criminal Court, GJC's Angela Mudukuti co-authored a piece that reflected on the intersectional feminist goals of a recent intervention in the case that GJC joined:

This was about joining forces. This was about sharing our respective experiences, skills, knowledge, resources and perspectives. This was about building with intention and integrity, a safe, supportive, respectful and uplifting space imbued with the collective feminist vision of approaching international criminal justice through a gender competent lens.

> ANGELA MUDUKUTI, Former GJC Senior Legal Advisor

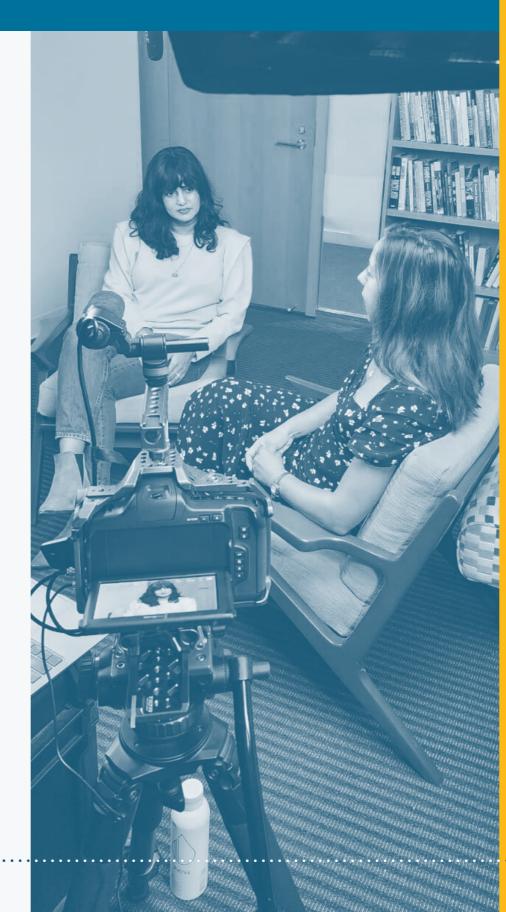


- In NOVEMBER 2021, with partners, we submitted an <u>amicus</u> <u>brief</u> in the *Ongwen* case at the ICC, focusing on the crime of forced pregnancy as a war crime and crimes against humanity.
- In FEBRUARY 2022, our amicus group was among the few amici invited to present <u>oral arguments</u> directly to the Appeals Chamber in The Hague. GJC's President presented to the court on our group's behalf.
- The appeal decision was released on **DECEMBER 15TH**, upholding Ongwen's conviction for 61 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity, and sentencing him to 25 years in prison. In its decision, the Appeals Chamber not only upheld the forced pregnancy conviction but also included an expansive analysis of international human rights law related to reproductive rights, including by citing our arguments and brief.

- GJC utilized these opportunities to deploy our unique expertise in international criminal law, sexual and gender-based violence, and reproductive rights in order to make arguments on how domestic abortion laws (in this case, Uganda's) are irrelevant to the ICC's analysis of the crime of forced pregnancy, as well as arguments on the Court's appropriate grounding of the crime in rights to personal and reproductive autonomy. The Court's ruling affirmed our analysis that the legal interest behind the crime of forced pregnancy is, in fact, a woman's reproductive health and autonomy and the right to family planning, and that national abortion laws are irrelevant to the Court's interpretation of the crime.
  - This case was a significant victory not only for the victims of Dominic Ongwen but for all survivors of sexual and genderbased violence, as well as for gender justice advocates to build progressive jurisprudence on gender-based crimes, including reproductive violence under international law.

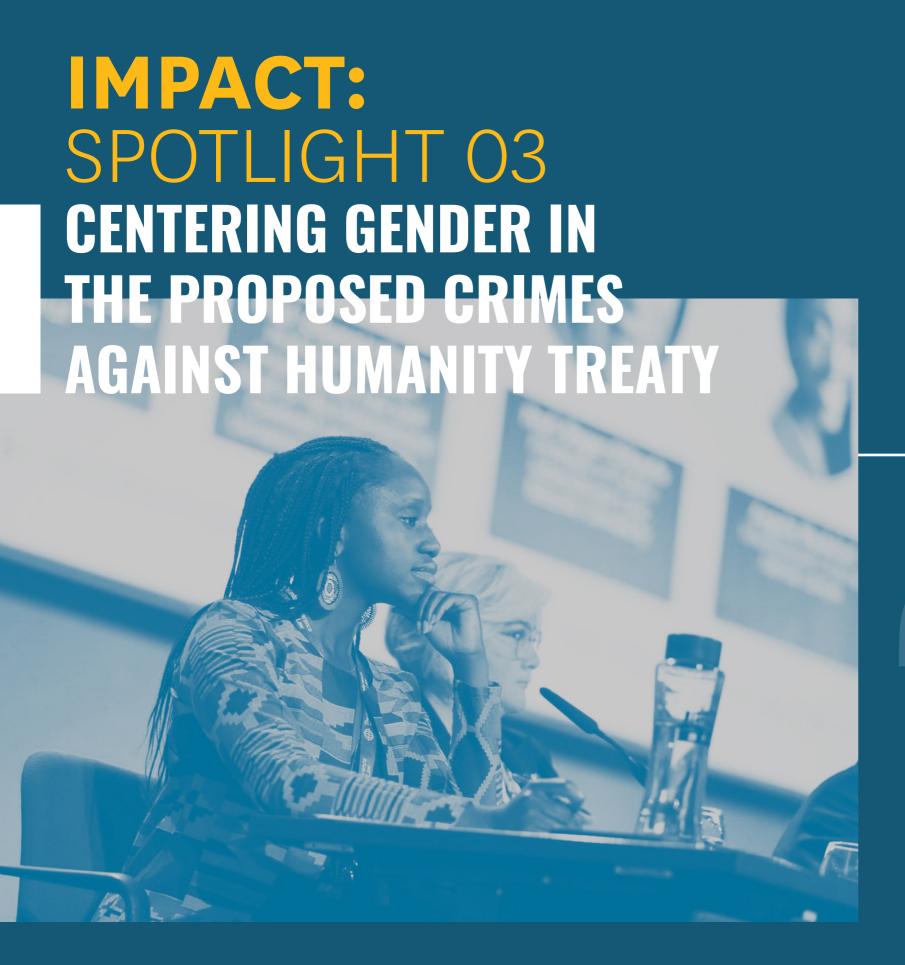
# THE GAMBIA V. MYANMAR CASE AT THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

- We continued our advocacy surrounding justice and accountability in Myanmar through the international system, particularly in light of the military's 2021 coup d'etat. A major focus of our advocacy was engagement with The Gambia v. Myanmar genocide case at the ICJ, including helping to demystify the impact and potential consequences of the coup as it relates to the ICJ case and the Court's processes.
- Ahead of the February 2022 hearings on Myanmar's preliminary objections, we hosted two webinars with partners entitled "Justice for Myanmar, at the ICJ and Beyond" and "The Path Forward for the Rohingya Community" to center advocates' demands for justice and accountability.
- In advance of the Court's decision, we circulated an explainer on preliminary objections and provided expertise to the media and others on the potential outcomes.
- The hearings drew significant media engagement. GJC's President was interviewed on CNN, and we were quoted in major media outlets such as the Guardian, Al-Jazeera, Washington Post, and Associated Press.
- When the ICJ issued a ruling on July 22nd, rejecting all of Myanmar's preliminary objections and allowing the case to move forward to the merits stage, we released a statement on the ruling and conducted press outreach.



# **GLOBAL IMPACT ON** FEMINIST MULTILATERALISM

- We submitted a legal analysis to the International Commission of Human Rights Experts (ICHRE) on Ethiopia focusing on sexual and reproductive rights issues in the Tigray conflict, including forced pregnancy, forced sterilization, prevention of births, provision of sexual and reproductive health and rights services in conflict zones, and sexual slavery.
- Since the beginning of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, we continued to monitor developments, especially as they pertain to our core issue area of abortion access in conflict, and submitted a legal analysis to the Independent International Commission of Inquiry (COI) on Ukraine focusing on attacks on maternity and perinatal hospitals in Zhytomyr, Kharkiv, and Mariupol.
- In support of our partner Burmese Rohingya Organisation UK's universal jurisdiction case in Argentina, we made an amicus submission to the court outlining best practices for engaging with victims and witnesses of sexual violence and assessing evidence of sexual violence.



While there have been treaties to prevent and punish genocide and war crimes since the 1940s, there is no standalone international treaty that codifies crimes against humanity. To address this gap, Global Justice Center has been working with the since 2019 to advocate for a gender-sensitive treaty and advance the Draft Articles on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Humanity. We have focused our involvement and the application of our expertise on advancing the development of gendersensitive Draft Articles to ensure that gender is a central consideration in the world's first crimes against humanity treaty. In 2022, we celebrated a year of historic progress and accomplishments in our work on the crimes against humanity treaty.

> In response to a United Nations committee passing a resolution that advanced the International Law Commission's draft treaty on crimes against humanity, GJC President Akila Radhakrishnan shared her remarks stating:

We can't allow this gap in the international legal system to exist any longer. Perpetrators of sexual and reproductive violence, enslavement, deportation, and other crimes against humanity are growing more emboldened thanks to an increasingly-weakening international order. We need this treaty now more than ever.

> AKILA RADHAKRISHNAN GJC President

- With partners, we released a legal memo Ultimately, the Sixth Committee passed in July, also available in French, that identified some of the procedural barriers to moving the Draft Articles forward at the UN and suggested three potential avenues for states who support the treaty to overcome the present stagnation and gridlock in the UN General Assembly (UNGA)'s Sixth Committee.
- In tandem with our advocacy to push the Draft Articles forward, we continued to engage with UN member states to ensure they include strong language on gender in the treaty and pay specific attention to gender-based crimes, such as forced pregnancy. Notably, the UK's Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative publicly announced in November that pursuing a gender-competent crimes against humanity treaty will be a priority of theirs moving forward.
- a resolution with 86 co-sponsors on November 18 to create an ad hoc committee to consider the Draft Articles and hold resumed sessions in April 2023 and 2024. In conjunction with civil society partners, our advocacy was instrumental in getting the draft articles to this point.
- This is an important victory for achieving justice for survivors and victims of conflict-related sexual violence and other mass atrocities. If eventually adopted by states, it would be the first standalone treaty that specifically addresses a broad range of obligations, including duties to prevent and punish crimes against humanity, and could contain a more progressive definition of gender and understanding of gender justice.

Our work and commentary was featured in:















# **GLOBAL IMPACT ON** FEMINIST MULTILATERALISM

- Prior to the Security Council's annual Open Debate on Sexual Violence in Conflict (SVIC) on April 13, GJC and fellow members of the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace, and Security provided expertise on sexual violence in conflict and international law to the civil society speaker statement.
- On June 21, GJC's President provided online capacity-building training on opportunities for justice and accountability for Myanmar at the request of the Women's League of Burma, a longtime partner. With more than 40 civil society members participating, the training focused on ongoing accountability proceedings, venues for international justice and accountability, and opportunities to engage.
- In October 2022, Christine Ryan, GJC's Former Legal Director, moderated an event during Women, Peace and Security week on "The symbolic power of justice to prevent violence against women in conflicts: Experiences from Colombia and Guatemala" hosted by Global Action Against Mass Atrocity Crimes (GAAMAC), of which GJC is a member.
- GJC was present at the ICC Assembly of States Parties (ASP) to advance our advocacy goals, including justice in Myanmar. On December 6, GJC, Center for Justice and Accountability (CJA), and Asia Justice Coalition (AJC) hosted the side event "Myanmar: Exploring options for justice," featuring ICC Prosecutor Karim Khan and the head of the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar, Nicholas Koumjian.

**OPERATIONS** 

STAFF MEMBERS

#### **MEDIA**

SOCIAL





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# OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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PAYAL SHAH

Director of Program on Sexual Violence in Conflict Zones,
Physicians for Human Rights

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# **OUR FINANCIALS**

# STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

#### **ASSETS**

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 793,536
Unconditional promises to give	
Without donor restrictions	\$ 33,612
With donor restrictions	\$ 378,738
Prepaid expenses and other assets	\$ 20,001
Security deposits	\$ 21,366
Investments	\$ 431,737
Property and equipment, at cost, net of accumulated depreciation	\$ 11,266

**Total Assets:** \$1,690,256

\$1,596,097

#### **LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**

abilities		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses		\$ 94,159
Loans payable		-
	Total Liabilities	\$ 94.159

Commitments and Contingency

Net Assets

Without Donor Restrictions

Operating \$ 216,875 Board designated \$882,509 **Total Without Donor Restrictions** \$1,099,384 With Donor Restrictions \$ 496,713 **Total Net Assets** 

> **Total Liabilities and Net Assets:** \$1,690,256

# STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

#### **CHANGES IN NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS**

Revenue a	nd Other Support	
Gra	ants and contributions	\$ 598,942
Do	nated services	\$ 166,018
Foi	rgiveness of loan payable - Paycheck Protection	
	Program	\$ 155,732
Ne	t investment income (loss)	\$ (81,915)
Ga	in on foreign exchange	\$ 7,661
		\$ 846,438
Net assets	released from restrictions	
Sat	tisfaction of time and program restrictions	\$ 704,610
	Total Revenue and Other Suppor	t \$1,551,048
Expenses		
Pro	ogram Services	\$1,092,539
Su	pporting Services	
	Management and general	\$ 198,329
	Fundraising	\$138,204
	Total Expense	s \$1,429,072
	Increase in Net Assets Without Donor Restriction	s \$121,976

# **CHANGES IN NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS**

Contributions	\$ 63,190
Net assets released from restrictions	(\$ 704,610)
Write-off of contribution receivable	(\$10,000)

Increase in Net Assets With Donor Restrictions (\$651,420)

Increase (decrease) in net assets (\$529,444)Net assets, beginning of year \$ 2,125,541

> **Net Assets, End of Year:** \$1,596,097

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# **OUR VALUED DONORS**

From the Global Justice Center staff and Board, we want to share our genuine thanks for the generous support we have received from our donors. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to gender justice, reproductive freedom, and human rights!

Our work would not be possible without the generosity of our supporters. We are proud to recognize members of our community who made gifts between **October 1**, **2021 and September 30**, **2022**.

#### **TRAILBLAZER (\$300,000+)**

Anonymous

# **GAME CHANGER** (\$100,000+)

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Amy P. Goldman Foundation
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Nion McEvoy and Leslie Berriman
Laurie Ashton and Lynn Sarko
Shefali Salwan
Paulette Meyer and David Friedman

## **ADVOCATE (\$5,000+)**

Jerry Stouck and Mindy Buren
Hilary Bates and Jerome Simon
Anthony Sandler and Nancy Bauman
Sheila Birnbaum
Nancy and the late John Freeman
Robert and Maurine Rothschild Fund
Anonymous
Viren Mascarenhas
Bhikhaji Maneckji (in memory of Cathleen
Clements)

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#### FRIEND (\$500+)

Eleanor Kennedy Michela Nonis Anonymous William and Terri Shubin Elisabeth Wickeri Scott Jackson

#### **ALLY (<\$499)**

Freeman)
Paul Tinkler (in memory of John Freeman)
Amy Keller (in memory of John Freeman)
Anonymous (in honor of John Freeman)

Colby Dickinson (in memory of John

Julian Ranetunge Anonymous Michelle Alvarez Anonymous

Adele Simmons

Aaron Morris

Bryan Hoben and Stephanie Sinclair

Mary Luke

Anonymous (In honor of John Freeman)

Barbara and Kate Stone Matthew Cappio Jori Bloom Naegele

Anonymous Stephanie Peter Nancy Stearns Dionna Dorsey

Renee Acosta Kristina Kallas

Anonymous
David Preminger

Alexa Hansen Ann Ferguson Anonymous Danielle Stouck Pablo Castillo-Diaz

Pablo Castillo-Di Shruti Rana

Lauren Keller Maryna Tkachenko

Erin Rosenberg Shira Saperstein Anonymous

# GENDER JUSTICE CHAMPIONS

Elisabeth Wickeri

Gender Justice Champions are a community of passionate and fearless monthly givers on a mission to achieve gender equality and fight injustices. We want to give a special thank you to our community of monthly givers who support our programming year-round!

Erin Rosenberg
Jelena Pia-Comella
Shruti Rana
Lauren Keller
Mary McGowan Davis and Fred Davis
William and Terri Shubin
Anonymous

# PRO BONO, SPONSORSHIP, AND MATCHING AND IN-KIND GIFTS

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If we inadvertently left off your name, please contact Benil Mostafa at bmostafa@globaljusticecenter.net

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To support our work, visit our secure donation page.

To give by mail, please make a check payable and send it to:

#### **Global Justice Center**

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To learn more about other ways to give and subscribe to our newsletter, visit our website.

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