



About the Global Justice Center

The Global Justice Center (GJC) is a unique non-governmental organization dedicated to establishing global human rights based on the rule of law and grounded in gender equality by using the strategic enforcement of international human rights and humanitarian law as catalysts for radical change. The GJC forges aggressive tools for change in order to take international human rights law to the next level using legal expertise to shape and leverage international legal precedents that will, over time, dismantle historically patriarchal legal and political structures and replace them with equality based human rights precepts. In addition to creating legal tools and precedents, the GJC also provides strategic legal expertise to governments, women leaders and judges. The GJC works in situations where there are unique opportunities for creating legal precedents in conflict, post-conflict and transitional situations, as well within international organizations and mechanisms such as the ICC and the Security Council.



WHAT WE DO

US Engagement with International Law

The GJC is working to bring a new voice to the US debate over ratification of Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), a UN treaty and binding international law that is widely considered to be the bill of rights for women. The GJC seeks to ensure that if the US ratifies CEDAW, it does not ratify with debilitating reservations and declarations, but with a comprehensive understanding of the treaty's definition of gender equality. GJC is also calling on the US to overturn restrictions placed on humanitarian aid and comply with its obligations under the Geneva Conventions by providing non-discriminatory medical care to women and girls in armed conflict, which includes access to abortion.



Using the Rule of Law to Secure Women's Rights

The GJC uses the international humanitarian law (IHL) and human rights law to ensure that women are provided the full scope of their rights. One major focus is the protection of women and girls subjected to sexual violence in armed conflict. The GJC is developing progressive legal tools to ensure that perpetrators, at all levels of command, are held accountable and all victims have access to justice. As part of strengthening the international rule of law, the GJC promotes states' obligations to recognize and take all possible measures to protect women under relevant international humanitarian law.



Criminal Accountability in Burma

The Global Justice Center works to push for accountability and stronger action by the United Nations Security Council for the ongoing war crimes in Burma. The GJC, in partnership with the Women's League of Burma and Burma Lawyers' Council, is seeking to end impunity for 50 years of atrocities and human rights violations committed by the military junta through the advancing of legal arguments to support a referral of Burma to the International Criminal Court. GJC and the Women's League of Burma have also collaborated to develop new strategic methods for using international law to encourage women's equal access to political representation and justice. In addition, GJC is advancing arguments under the customary laws of state responsibility on the obligation of states and the international community to recognize the 2008 Burmese constitution as "null and void."



The GJC as Legal Advisor

The Global Justice Center has extensive experience in constitution analyses, having conducted constitutional reviews in Iraq, Kurdistan, Burma and Northern Ireland and most recently, the Republic of South Sudan. The GJC also provides strategic legal expertise to governments, women leaders, and judges. In order to further the creative and strategic enforcement of international human rights and humanitarian law, GJC is committed to creating a corpus of lawyers with international law expertise dedicated to promoting this vision.



ACHIEVEMENTS

The Global Justice Center has presented before the United Nations, the Council on Foreign Relations, the UK Parliament, the Iraq High Tribunal, and consulted for the UN as part of the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security. The GJC has held trainings on gender and international law for judges, government officials and society leaders on five continents, developed legal tools and materials based on existing international law for emerging women leaders in transitional democracies and conflict areas, and provided pro-bono legal advice to NGOs around the world on how to enforce women's right to political inclusion, peace and security, and justice processes.

PARTNERSHIPS

The Global Justice Center is committed to partnering with organizations on the ground as well as international NGOs and committee bodies in order to foster a collaboration of diverse expertise and perspectives. These partnerships include Women's Alliance for a Democratic Iraq, Kurdish Human Rights Project, Kurdish Women's Rights Watch, Women's League of Burma, Forum of Women's NGOs in Kyrgyzstan, Burma Lawyer's Council, Human Rights First, Coalition for the International Criminal Court, and Corporación Humanas. The Global Justice Center is also a member of the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security.

PRESS

The Global Justice Center has been featured in articles published in Newsweek, Women's E-News, PBS, the National Lawyers Guild, the Washington Post, the InterDependent, and the Nation (Thailand). GJC President Janet Benshoof has also been featured on the BBC and Radio Air America for her unique perspectives on international law.

PUBLICATIONS

The Global Justice Center has published and distributed articles, training materials, legal analyses and briefs, and comprehensive worksheets on the application of international law and women's rights in five languages and is consistently involved in ongoing research and development of future publications.

FINANCIALS

The Global Justice Center has grown to have an annual operating budget of approximately \$1 million. Currently, the GJC is supported by generous contributions from foundations and individuals.

BOARD AND ADVISORS

The GJC is supported by a board and advisors that include members of the academic, corporate, NGO and international legal communities and contributes to the diverse perspectives that shape the Global Justice Center's vision of equality.

