

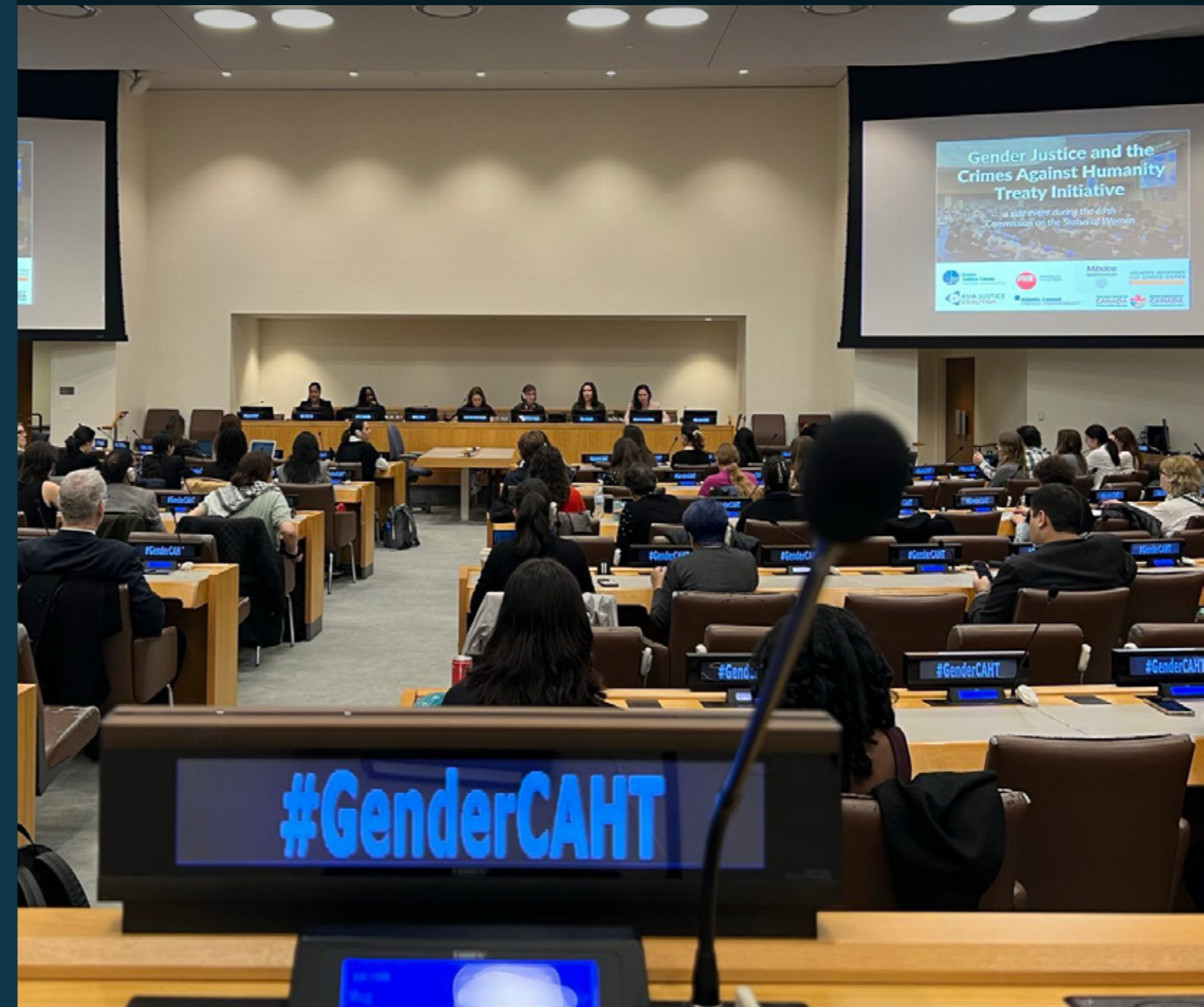


**Global
Justice Center**

Human Rights Through Rule of Law

WHY GJC?

Global Justice Center (GJC) is a feminist human rights organization started by the legendary reproductive rights advocate Janet Benshoof. The organization is dedicated to using international law to advance gender equality and does so with a focus on two main areas: advancing reproductive autonomy as an international human right and ensuring justice and accountability for mass atrocities involving sexual and gender-based crimes. The organization is known for its strong civil society partnerships and its ability to develop novel legal arguments to challenge patriarchal structures. We are a small, but mighty team of 10 professionals, most of whom are lawyers.



GLOBAL JUSTICE CENTER

11 Hanover Square, 6th Floor
New York, New York 10005

To join our community and make GJC's work possible, visit our [website](https://www.globaljusticecenter.net).

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[globaljusticecenter.net](https://www.globaljusticecenter.net)

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



LETTER FROM BOARD CHAIR & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TO OUR GLOBAL JUSTICE CENTER COMMUNITY,

In a year marked by escalating attacks on human rights and the rule of law, we are proud of GJC's role in fighting back for reproductive autonomy and justice for sexual and gender-based crimes.

A major highlight was a breakthrough toward a global convention on crimes against humanity — backed by years of GJC's research, analysis, and advocacy. As detailed in the following pages, this treaty has the potential to transform the landscape of gender justice. The progress — despite many political obstacles — exemplifies GJC's critical role at the intersection of feminist and human rights movements.

GJC's initiatives begin with top-notch issue spotting, identifying gaps in international law for gender equality. From there, the team crafts innovative feminist legal interpretations and translates them into compelling argumentation. GJC is adept at seizing windows of opportunity and robust collaboration with experts, civil society partners, and governments. This integrated strategic approach, combined with well-timed, rigorous advocacy, continues to produce concrete results.

Our methods honor the fearless, pioneering legacy of the organization's founder, Janet Benshoof, and her commitment to a gender-equal world. And, though these are troubling times, there is still so much that can be done for reproductive autonomy and justice for sexual and gender-based crimes. We invite you to read on and discover how GJC is using international law to lay the foundation for a more just future. Your support has and will continue to make our efforts possible, and we could not be more grateful.

ELISE KEPPLER
Executive Director

GRETCHEN FREEMAN CAPPIO
Board Chair

A NEW TREATY ON CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY



On December 4, 2024, the UN General Assembly passed a [breakthrough resolution](#) that put a new treaty on crimes against humanity on a path toward final negotiations. This milestone followed years of strategic advocacy and organizing by GJC and collaboration with a robust coalition of partners who share our vision of a strong, gender-competent, intersectional, and survivor-centric treaty that will, among other things, codify overlooked gender-based harms.

GJC has championed this effort since 2017, when the International Law Commission (ILC), a UN expert body charged with developing and codifying international law, first adopted the “Draft Articles” on crimes against humanity. From the outset, GJC was one of the few NGOs actively involved in the complex legal, diplomatic, and political negotiations with UN member states shaping the treaty’s development.

As early as 2018, [we called for a comprehensive “gender audit”](#) of the text. Since then, we’ve steadily [built momentum](#) — conducting innovative legal analysis, coordinating with partners to publish legal briefs, organizing events to popularize gender justice proposals, and engaging in direct advocacy with diplomats

and policymakers. Our experience and expertise has made GJC a trusted advisor in high-level discussions throughout the process.

2024 was a countdown to the critical decision on negotiations. Ahead of a UN session in April, we led a [joint statement](#) calling for treaty advancement signed by hundreds of international law experts and civil society organizations from across the world. We also launched a dedicated [microsite](#) that has drawn thousands of visits and expanded awareness of the treaty’s importance. In the months leading up to the decision, we were in intensive contact with diplomats in New York and capitals, local and international [activists](#), and [media](#) to mobilize support for negotiations for the treaty.

7000+

microsite visits

helped increase awareness of the treaty’s importance

99

UN member states

co-sponsored the resolution to initiate treaty negotiations

100+

UN member states

expressed support for or openness to incorporating at least one aspect of gender justice in the final treaty text

In the pivotal November 2024 UN session, 99 UN member states co-sponsored the resolution to initiate treaty negotiations. GJC was there throughout the contentious discussions, consulting with states as they worked to adopt the strongest possible resolution. Ultimately, the resolution incorporated key elements of GJC’s advocacy, including a measure of civil society access to negotiations — which will be critical to the fights ahead for a gender-competent treaty. With sustained advocacy, more than 100 states have now expressed support for or openness to incorporating at least one aspect of gender justice in the final treaty text. GJC’s work now continues, building on this support, to achieve the strongest most gender-competent treaty during negotiations which run from 2026-2029.

USING HUMAN RIGHTS TO COMBAT THE U.S. ABORTION CRISIS



In the midst of a generational crisis for reproductive autonomy in the United States, GJC is using its international law expertise to integrate human rights standards that support abortion access into U.S. law and policy debates. We aim to highlight the devastating impact of abortion bans and expand public understanding and support for reproductive autonomy as a fundamental human right.

We filed two [amicus briefs](#) in a case challenging Idaho's near-total abortion ban. Our briefs argued that Idaho's ban violates international law by denying Idahoans' human rights to life, health, non-discrimination, and freedom from torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, among other rights. The Trump administration later [dropped this case](#) brought by Biden, but we intend to make many similar interventions in the future to challenge restrictions proliferating around the country.

In September, [GJC collaborated with longtime partner Ipas](#) to engage lawmakers and endorse a Congressional resolution that recognized abortion as a human right. And throughout the year, we [published op-eds](#) that aimed to shape the public debate on major abortion rights cases.

Meanwhile, GJC continued to engage international institutions that can hold the U.S. accountable for human rights violations. Following our [submission](#), the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other

IN MS. MAGAZINE:

“The devastation unleashed by the Supreme Court’s reversal of Roe should compel us to look for stronger foundations for abortion rights. Human rights, with their origin in the dignity and equality of all people, is that foundation.”

– JAIME M. GHER, GJC LEGAL ADVISOR

Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment released a [report](#) that highlighted US regression on abortion rights, citing GJC's work.

DOCUMENTING REPRODUCTIVE VIOLENCE



In 2023, GJC launched a project to understand why reproductive violence has largely been overlooked in international investigations of atrocities. Reproductive violence is a type of violence that interferes with reproductive autonomy and rights or that targets individuals because of their actual or perceived reproductive capacity. Although it may be associated with sexual and other forms of gender-based violence, it involves distinct harms. The lack of documentation poses significant challenges for accountability, redress, and the realization of reproductive justice.

Throughout 2024, we conducted extensive research and consultations with UN investigators, civil society, academics, and other experts to analyze

the problem. And in September, we published a first-of-its-kind joint report with UN Women on the issue. The [80-page report](#) uncovers barriers to documentation, offers pathways to ensure reproductive violence is documented and analyzed accurately, and provides in-depth novel legal guidance on forms of reproductive violence.

GJC legal advisors and report co-authors Tess Graham and Ashita Alag presented on the report as featured panelists at events in The Hague and Geneva. This included the [launch event](#) during the 57th session of the Human Rights Council, where Tess spoke alongside panelists from UN-mandated mechanisms and governments.

“This publication offers critical legal analysis that will equip investigative teams to accurately label and report on instances of reproductive violence as violations of human rights and, at times, international crimes.”

– KIRSI MADI, DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, UN WOMEN

AMPLIFYING GRASSROOTS VOICES DEMANDING PEACE & JUSTICE FOR MYANMAR

In October 2024, Wai Wai Nu, founder of [Women's Peace Network](#) and a longtime GJC partner, [became the first Rohingya to brief](#) the UN Security Council during the Open Debate on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS). GJC supported her historic address, which highlighted the devastating and dangerous post-coup situation for women and girls in Myanmar. This partnership with Wai Wai typifies GJC's strategy to break international stagnation on the Myanmar crisis by amplifying women's human rights defenders and their voices for accountability, ensuring they are heard in elite halls of global power.

Following Wai Wai's address, we organized closed door dialogues and public events with the UN Special Rapporteur on Myanmar, UN Ambassadors and officials, and the head of the Independent Investigative Mechanism on Myanmar. Here, women's rights activists and GJC were able to press for greater attention and support for accountability for sexual and gender-based crimes and other abuses. GJC Legal Advisor Tess Graham also traveled to Thailand for the Women's League of Burma's 25th anniversary, and subsequently briefed the Gender Equality Network, a grassroots network of activists from Myanmar, on reproductive violence documentation and advocacy.

As Senior Legal Advisor Michelle Onello wrote in an op-ed for [The Diplomat](#), the women of Myanmar are leading the fight against a coup with deep gendered impacts, so we must fight for their voices to be heard.



2024 IN NUMBERS



+189%

in website visits



+44%

in LinkedIn followers



18

events



3

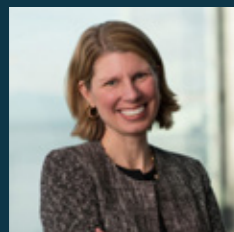
signature
publications



17

op-eds & earned media

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

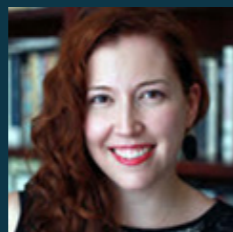


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Executive Committee

Partner, Keller Rohrback LLP

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Nominating Committee
Executive Committee

Executive Director and Adjunct Professor of Law, Leitner Center for International Law and Justice, Fordham Law School

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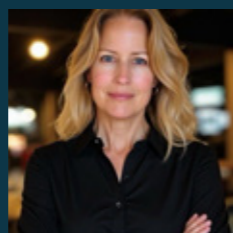


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Nominating Committee
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Managing Coordinator, Global Action Against Mass Atrocity Crimes (GAAMAC)

TREASURER



TRACY HIGGINS

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Professor of Law, Founder and Co-Director, Leitner Center for International Law and Justice, Fordham Law School



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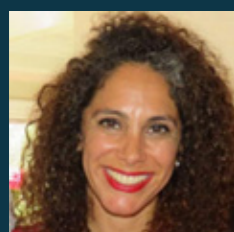
Co-Founder, CEOworks



VIREN MASCARENHAS

Investment Committee

Partner, Litigation and Arbitration, Milbank LLP



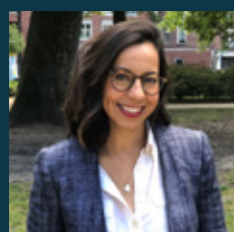
DR. YALDA AFSHAR

OB/GYN and Researcher, The University of California



JAMIE SHANDRO (tenure ended 12/31/23)

Professor of Emergency Medicine, The University of Washington School of Medicine, Harborview Medical Center



SHANNON RAJ SINGH

Co-Chair, IBA War Crimes Committee



PAYAL SHAH

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

— as of September 30, 2024

OUR FINANCIALS

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$	154,261
Grants and contributions receivable		
Without donor restrictions		152,566
With donor restrictions		378,579
Prepaid expenses and other assets		9,083
Security deposits		21,167
Investments		579,120
Property and equipment, at cost, net of accumulated depreciation		5,171
Operating lease right-of-use asset		78,605

Total Assets: **\$1,378,552**

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$	55,998
Operating lease liability		78,605
Total Liabilities		134,603

COMMITMENT

NET ASSETS		
Without Donor Restrictions		
Operating		275,286
Board designated		584,383
Total Without Donor Restrictions		859,669
With Donor Restrictions		384,280
Total Net Assets		1,243,949

Total Liabilities and Net Assets: **\$1,378,552**

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

CHANGES IN NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS

REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT		
Grants and contributions	\$	621,106
Donated services		288,249
Net investment income		115,282
Program service fees		-
Miscellaneous Income		50
		1,025,087

NET ASSETS RELEASED FROM RESTRICTIONS		
Satisfaction of time and program restrictions		477,297

Total Revenue and Other Support **1,502,384**

EXPENSES		
Program Services		1,120,164
Supporting Services		
Management and general		185,229
Fundraising		173,111
Total Expenses		1,478,504

Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions **23,880**

CHANGES IN NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS

Contributions	\$	166,095
Net assets released from restrictions		(477,297)
Write-off of contribution receivable		-
Return of restricted grant		-

Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets With Donor Restrictions **(311,202)**

Decrease in net assets		(287,322)
Net assets, beginning of year		1,531,271

Net Assets, End of Year: **\$1,243,949**

OUR VALUED DONORS

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, 2023 and September 30, 2024**. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to gender justice, reproductive freedom, and human rights!

TRAILBLAZER (\$250,000+)

Wellspring Philanthropic Fund
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If your name was inadvertently omitted, please contact Benil Mostafa at bmostafa@globaljusticecenter.net