



**Global
Justice Center**

Human Rights Through Rule of Law

2025 Annual Report



Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown

Rohingya human rights advocate and GJC partner Lucky Karim speaks at the UN during the High-level Conference on the Situation of Rohingya Muslims and Other Minorities in Myanmar

About 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.

GJC's initiatives begin with identifying key gaps in international law that fuel gender inequality. From there, the team crafts innovative feminist legal interpretations that fill those gaps and generate robust, durable standards. GJC is adept at seizing windows of opportunity and developing strong collaborations with experts, civil society partners, and governments. This integrated strategic approach, combined with rigorous advocacy, continues to produce concrete results. Our methods honor the fearless, pioneering legacy of the organization's founder and her commitment to building a gender-equal world.

Letter from our Board Chair & Executive Director

Dear GJC community,

In 2025, GJC navigated a turbulent global landscape marked by increasing authoritarianism and blatant disregard for international human rights and international criminal law. Backlash against gender rights and justice was both a leading edge and a rallying cry of authoritarian actors, with resurgent patriarchy as a key aim.

GJC confronted the challenges head-on. We called out regressive measures in solidarity with partners across the human rights and feminist movements. We took advantage of opportunities that remain to pioneer advances for reproductive autonomy and justice for gender-based international crimes. We analyzed trends and worked in coalition to mobilize the most strategic responses.

Through it all, we saw reasons for hope even in a difficult time. Our 2025 Annual Report offers key highlights and details how GJC's small but mighty team continues to punch above its weight.

Thank you to our supporters who have made these efforts possible. We are enormously grateful for all you do to advance gender equality by supporting Global Justice Center.

Much warmth,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elise Keppler".

ELISE KEPPLER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elisabeth Wicker".

ELISABETH WICKER
BOARD CHAIR



GJC Executive Director Elise Keppler speaks at a UN Women event commemorating the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Women, Peace, and Security agenda.

Championing Accountability for Sexual and Gender-based Crimes

REPRODUCTIVE VIOLENCE

In 2025, Global Justice Center ramped up its campaign to increase recognition and documentation of — and accountability for — the often overlooked harms of reproductive violence around the world.

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. Examples include preventing births, forced pregnancy and forced abortion, enforced sterilization, interference with breastfeeding, and targeted attacks on maternal health and reproductive healthcare facilities.

Broader recognition will ensure these

gendered crimes are documented, victims are offered appropriate reparations, and international investigators establish a factual historical record. It will also bolster efforts to prevent these gender-based crimes in the first place.

In 2025, we submitted an [amicus brief](#) to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights that urged the court to recognize Peru's 1990s-era forced sterilization program as a form of reproductive violence. Such recognition (which was secured in 2026) will better foster prevention, accountability, and reparations, commensurate with the crimes. We also [highlighted](#) the need for a new analysis from the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to recognize reproductive violence in conflict

prevention and peacebuilding efforts.

Given the widespread lack of familiarity with reproductive violence, we also focused on creating accessible materials and events for diverse audiences that build on our [2024 landmark report](#) on the issue published with UN Women. We produced a [Q&A](#) that unpacks core concepts for advocates and policymakers. We consulted with UN special rapporteurs and commissions of inquiry to strengthen their documentation of reproductive violence. And we held events that educate and organize activists, including a [workshop](#) at the annual Commission on the Status of Women.

CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY TREATY

After a [landmark UN decision](#) in December 2024 that created a four-year timeline for states to negotiate the first standalone treaty on crimes against humanity, GJC worked closely with activists, advocates, and diplomats to advance gender justice in the treaty.

GJC has worked on this effort since 2017, before the International Law Commission, a UN expert body charged with developing and codifying international law, first adopted the “Draft Articles” on crimes against humanity. We recognized from the beginning that the treaty represented a unique opportunity to codify

overlooked sexual and gender-based crimes and center victims and survivors in the process and content. In 2025, we mobilized civil society ahead of a January 2026 conference where states would begin discussing amendments to the draft treaty.

We published [short-form summaries](#) of several of a 2023 series of legal briefs we prepared with partners that call for codification in the treaty of reproductive violence, forced marriage, gender apartheid and the slave trade, as well as greater protections for victim and survivor rights. These digestible versions were critical to discussions with diplomats and to our organization of a [civil society declaration](#) supporting gender justice in the treaty. These summaries also brought new visitors to

[our microsite](#), which continues to be a major resource for all interested in the treaty.

Events remain a critical forum for expanding awareness and building support among diplomats, activists, and experts working to advance gender justice in the treaty. We organized [events](#) on the treaty during the annual Commission on the Status of Women in March and the Women Peace and Security week in October. We also held a civil society [workshop](#) at the Assembly of States Parties to the International Criminal Court.

GJC Legal Advisor Tess Graham serves as a featured panelist during GJC’s Commission on the Status of Women event on gender justice in the draft crimes against humanity treaty.





GJC Legal Fellow Allison Love travels to Geneva with partner organizations ahead of a UN human rights review of the United States.

Championing Reproductive Autonomy in the US and Abroad

Driven by broader efforts to undermine gender and racial equality, restrictions on abortion, contraception, sexuality education, gender-affirming care, and fertility services expanded rapidly under the second Trump administration. In 2025, Global Justice Center worked to expose the U.S. reproductive justice crisis on the global stage and to develop new theories to further defend and promote reproductive autonomy as a human right.

As part of a coalition of local reproductive justice groups and

international human rights organizations GJC has worked with for years, we submitted a [shadow report](#) for consideration during a UN review of the U.S. human rights record. Our submission drew on the lived experience of pregnant people, medical providers, abortion funds, and supporters in Texas and Louisiana to demonstrate the ways in which U.S. abortion bans violate international human rights law. A Texas-based doula captured the feeling of those impacted by diminishing reproductive and bodily autonomy: “They [are] trying to kill us.”

We later [traveled to Geneva](#) with our coalition to appeal directly to UN member states. During our trip, the U.S. announced its withdrawal from the review. While the news was expected, we took opportunities to [emphasize](#) the gravity of the decision amid the U.S. reproductive justice crisis. This included [media](#) and [podcast appearances](#) featuring GJC experts that aimed to popularize the

international human rights framework within the U.S. reproductive rights movement.

With its deep implications for access to reproductive healthcare in the United States, GJC also carried out research and analysis on the intersection of abortion rights and conscience, religion, and belief. We published a [Q&A](#) with the UN Working Group on Discrimination Against Women and Girls that explained how what is known as “conscientious objection” is often misused to prevent care. This was followed by an expert brainstorming session on the issues we co-organized during the Commission on the Status of Women. We also produced a [webinar series](#) with human rights experts, scholars, and health practitioners to explore the legal landscape on abortion provision as an expression of one’s conscience, religion, or belief, upending traditional arguments that assert freedom of religion to impede abortion care.

Fighting back against rights regressions

Throughout the year, GJC called out regression and resurgent patriarchy at every level with partners across the feminist and human rights movements. We joined partners opposing the Trump administration's attacks on [nonprofit organizations](#), [funding for reproductive healthcare](#), and the [International Criminal Court](#).

GJC also took several opportunities to join allies in publicly condemning [attacks on trans and gender-diverse people](#) as well as [attacks on the rule of law](#). And in December, we issued a [statement on the investigation](#) into alleged sexual misconduct by the International Criminal Court prosecutor that highlighted how patriarchy and impunity continue to shape global institutions, even those dedicated to the pursuit of justice.

“GJC recognizes that the ICC, like all institutions of power within the global order, was created, and continues to work within, complex intersecting structures of oppression, including patriarchy, racism, and colonialism. Machinations to frustrate or deflect accountability efforts are not simply symptoms of patriarchy, but constitutive of it.”

Global Justice Center Statement on Conclusion of Sexual Misconduct Investigation into ICC Prosecutor



GJC Legal Fellow Allison Love, elected officials, and partners join U.S. Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez to discuss reproductive and bodily autonomy as a human right.

Demanding Peace & Justice for Myanmar

In 2025, we continued our long-time partnerships with Myanmar human rights defenders to campaign for accountability for sexual and gender-based crimes.

The first-ever UN conference dedicated to the situation of Rohingya and other ethnic minorities offered an opportunity for grassroots actors to stand alongside international policymakers. We organized and co-sponsored several [events](#), including a [marquee event](#) featuring our activist partners in conversation with the UN Special Rapporteur on Myanmar and the Head of the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar. A [video](#) we co-produced for the event that showcased appeals for justice from Rohingya living in the Cox's Bazar refugee camps received tens of thousands of views on social media.

In February, warrants were issued for top officials in a pioneering case in Argentina against Myanmar officials for the Rohingya genocide, which has involved extensive sexual and gender-based crimes. We used the opportunity to [update](#) and [translate](#) into Burmese [our Q&A](#) on the case, which is taking place under the principle of universal jurisdiction.

“No solutions are valid or viable without the meaningful and safe inclusive participation of Rohingya women and without due consideration of the gendered impacts of next steps.”

MICHELLE ONELLO

Senior Legal Advisor,
Global Justice Center



GJC Executive Director Elise Keppler and Senior Legal Advisor Michelle Onello attend a roundtable discussion with Nicholas Koumjian, Head of the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar, that we co-organized with long-time Rohingya partner Wai Wai Nu.

2025 IN NUMBERS

27 PUBLICATIONS

- 4 summary proposals to shape the Crimes Against Humanity treaty
- 5 submissions to UN mechanisms
- 11 coalition letters challenging anti-rights attacks

64,000 VIDEO VIEWS

9 OP-EDS

21 EVENTS

26,198 VISITS TO THE CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY TREATY MICROSITE

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Former Executive Director, Planned Parenthood Global



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



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JELENA PIA-COMELLA

Audit, Nominating, Executive & Investment Committees

Independent Member, UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women

Adjunct Lecturer, John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Adjunct Assistant Professor, Hofstra University

Financial Overview

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$	232,416
Grants and contributions receivable		
Without donor restrictions		10,300
With donor restrictions		22,603
Prepaid expenses and other assets		13,200
Security deposits		11,499
Investments		630,374
Property and equipment, at cost, net of accumulated depreciation		1,861
Operating lease right-of-use asset		231,679

Total Assets: **\$1,153,932**

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

LIABILITIES

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$	47,771
Operating lease liability		233,652
Total Liabilities		281,423

COMMITMENT

NET ASSETS

Without Donor Restrictions		
Operating		100,092
Board designated		635,650
Total Without Donor Restrictions		735,742
With Donor Restrictions		136,767
Total Net Assets		872,509

Total Liabilities and Net Assets: **\$1,153,932**

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

CHANGES IN NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS

REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT

Grants and contributions	\$	566,440
Donated services		1,750,562
Net investment income		74,509
Miscellaneous Income		1,297
		2,392,808

NET ASSETS RELEASED FROM RESTRICTIONS

Satisfaction of time and program restrictions		317,891
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Total Revenue and Other Support **2,710,699**

EXPENSES

Program Services		2,459,116
Supporting Services		
Management and general		183,080
Fundraising		192,430

Total Expenses **2,834,626**

Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions **(123,927)**

CHANGES IN NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS

Contributions	\$	70,378
Net assets released from restrictions		(317,891)

Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets With Donor Restrictions **(247,513)**

Decrease in net assets		(371,440)
Net assets, beginning of year		1,243,949

Net Assets, End of Year: **\$872,509**

Our Valued Donors

We extend our sincere gratitude for the generous support of our donors. Your unwavering commitment to gender justice, reproductive freedom, and human rights makes our work possible. **We are honored to recognize the members of our community who contributed between October 1, 2024, and September 30, 2025.**

TRAILBLAZERS (\$250,000+)

Wellspring Philanthropic Fund
Oak Foundation

GAME CHANGER (\$100,000+)

UK International Development from the UK government & UN Women

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Ronald Rolfe & Sara Darehshori

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Hannah Rosenzweig
Katherine Wallace
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IN HONOR OF RICHARD MUNEY



GJC's Executive Director's father-in-law was a steadfast supporter of human rights and equality. Following his passing at age 94, friends and family honored his legacy through memorial contributions supporting GJC's mission, namely:

Nina Wolarsky	Judy Tucker	Beth Rose
Jane Manners	Sarah Ritch	Elise Keppler
Kelly Nelson	Molly Steenson	Julie Dobrow

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bmostafa@globaljusticecenter.net*

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To join our community and make GJC's work possible, visit our [website](#).

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