



IJM CASEWORK SERIES

# VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN

**Violence affects millions of women and children around the world, and those living in poverty are some of the most vulnerable.**

They are at risk in their homes, schools and in their communities to a range of crimes—including land theft, domestic violence and sexual violence. In some communities, when a man dies, it is common for neighbors, relatives and other community members to steal the home and property from the surviving widow and children. When a man assaults his wife or partner, it is often seen as a “family matter” that should not be reported to authorities. And for children, sexual violence is all too frequent. Police and courts are not always equipped and can be slow to respond to women and children who desperately need protection.

## QUICK FACTS

Nearly **1 in 5 girls** is sexually abused at least once in her life.<sup>1</sup>

More than **570,000,000 women** are estimated to be subject to gender-based violence annually.<sup>2</sup>

Worldwide, up to 50% of sexual assaults are committed against **girls under 16 years old**.<sup>4</sup>

## Kampala, Uganda: Project Empaanyi

Our team in Kampala launched a project in 2012 to combat land theft. Widows frequently experienced this crime, but perpetrators were rarely held accountable. At the end of the project in 2017, there was a significant reduction in the prevalence of land theft in the county where we worked (nearly 50%). An external evaluation found that this reduction was connected to IJM’s efforts to strengthen the justice system.

## OUR IMPACT AROUND THE WORLD



**2,500+**

Victims relieved from sexual and domestic violence



**3,300+**

Widows and orphans returned to their homes since 2004



**2,200+**

Women and children restored to safety and strength through IJM’s aftercare program and partners since 2013

<sup>1</sup> UNICEF, <sup>2</sup> World Justice Project, <sup>4</sup> UN Women.



## WHERE WE COMBAT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN



### Uganda

Fort Portal, Gulu, Kampala



### Guatemala

Guatemala City



### Bolivia

La Paz



### El Salvador

San Salvador



### Kenya

Nairobi

## OUR SOLUTION

In the face of abuse, IJM and our partners collaborate with local authorities to build communities where all people can expect to be safe and protected. Together, we:

### Strengthen Justice Systems

We collaborate with law enforcement and community leaders to effectively respond to violence. Together, we design improvements that serve women and children with sensitivity, move cases through the justice system more smoothly and deter criminals.

### Rescue and Restore Victims

We identify cases through referrals from social services, police, families and community members. We collaborate with partners and law enforcement to ensure that survivors are brought to safety, and that they receive services like trauma counseling or skills training.

### Bring Criminals to Justice

We work alongside law enforcement and community partners to ensure criminals are held accountable. IJM works to ensure adequate evidence is collected to build a strong case, and we support survivors who choose to share the truth in court.

### Scale Demand for Protection

We convene and equip champions—from grassroots community leaders and survivors of violence to global corporations and development institutions—call on governments to strengthen their justice systems and protect women and children.

## COMMUNITY PROTECTION

### *Bolivia*

In 2018, IJM launched a program training a total of 63 Community Volunteers who are now equipped to provide support to survivors of sexual violence and their families.

## JOIN US

Help us make justice unstoppable. Use your time, talents and passion to help protect people in poverty from violence today.

Join us at [IJM.org/Get-Involved](https://www.ijm.org/Get-Involved)



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LEARN MORE: [IJM.ORG](https://www.ijm.org)

INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION is a global organization that protects people in poverty from violence.

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