



INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION



YEAR IN REVIEW

BUILDING A SAFER WORLD TOGETHER





For nearly 25 years, our teams have been on the front lines of the fight to end some of the most egregious human rights violations of our time: forced labor slavery, human trafficking, selling children for sex, and the brutality of everyday violence faced by people who are poor. In the face of these evils, you have helped us bring nearly 70,000 children, women and men out of abuse and into freedom—and held their abusers accountable for their crimes.

When IJM was in its early years, we believed that the key to ending this violence was the strengthening of local justice systems to protect their most vulnerable citizens. And while leading human rights experts and foundations agreed that this was the way it was supposed to work in theory—they told me they saw little hope of it ever working in practice.

Today, after decades of relentlessly pursuing justice for people who are poor, we have demonstrated a replicable, scalable model of protection that will empower and equip government authorities and trusted partners to protect 500 million people across the world and ensure they are never abused and exploited in the first place.

In 2021, we saw signs of tremendous progress, as governments held perpetrators accountable for their crimes, bringing us closer to a future where protection is the norm, not the exception. In Guatemala, local authorities are making it easier than ever to report violence (page 15). In Uganda, courts demonstrated a willingness to hand down strong sentences to those who abuse young boys (page 11). And in India, IJM partners are scaling our work to protect more people than ever (page 9).

Just a few years ago, this speed and scale of progress was unimaginable. Today, because of you, they are the new standard. This is the power of your support. This is the power of protection. Thank you for helping to bring justice and safety to the people around the world who need it most.

Gratefully,

Gary Haugen
IJM Founder and CEO

WITH YOUR HELP IN 2021, IJM AND OUR PARTNERS:

RELIEVED

9,967

victims from violence
and oppression

RESTRAINED

4,516

suspected criminals

RESTORED

430*

survivors to safety and stability

CONVICTED

1,816

perpetrators in local courts

TRAINED OVER

16,000

Justice system officials in actively
addressing cases of violence

TRAINED OVER

31,800

community members and other NGO staff
to recognize and respond to violence



**This number represents survivors “fully restored” using IJM’s externally validated Assessment of Survivor Outcomes (ASO) tool. There are thousands more survivors receiving care and participating in ongoing aftercare programs.*



OFFICES

- IJM Global
- Field Office

CASEWORK

- Forced Labor Slavery
- Sex Trafficking
- Violence Against Women and Children
- Police Abuse of Power
- Land Theft
- Online Sexual Exploitation of Children



OUR VISION

Our vision for 2030 is to rescue millions, protect half a billion and make justice for people who are poor unstoppable.

We envision a world where people are safe in their communities. A world where rescues are no longer necessary—**because people are never exploited in the first place.**

In 2021, we boldly moved closer to this future. Thanks to partnerships like yours, we are **building a future of protection** alongside our partners through bold rescues, raising the voices of survivors, expanding protection capabilities and strengthening justice systems.

We invite you to read on to discover the impact you've helped make possible.

This is the future of protection.

Index

Protecting through BOLD RESCUES	8
Protecting by BRINGING CRIMINALS TO JUSTICE	10
SURVIVORS LEADING THE CALL for protection	12
Protecting through TRANSFORMATIVE JUSTICE	14
Protecting through EXPANSIVE PARTNERSHIPS	16
DONOR SPOTLIGHT	18

THROUGHOUT THIS REPORT

Find these symbols to represent key partnerships that aided in rescue and justice:



**IMPLEMENTING
PARTNER**



**GOVERNMENT
PARTNER**



PROTECTING THROUGH

Bold Rescues

As IJM works to strengthen justice systems, we see faster, more effective efforts from governments and partners to intervene when there is injustice. In 2021, IJM teams and our partners rescued 9,967 children, women and men from slavery and violence. **With support from donors like you, decades of IJM training government officials and equipping a network of partner organizations have resulted in more rescues than ever before.**



RELIEVED

9,967

victims from violence
and oppression



PHILIPPINES

International collaboration results in back-to-back rescues

A complex international collaboration—from Australia to the Philippines to the United States—led to back-to-back operations that resulted in the rescue of 20 children exploited online by foreign sexual predators and the arrest of four suspects.

Through the Philippine Internet Crimes Against Children Center (PICACC), the Australian government tipped off authorities in the Philippines to the plight of children who were being abused online by perpetrators in Australia and the United States.

When IJM helped launch the PICACC in 2019, such international collaboration was just a hope. But these rescues are evidence that these partnerships are working on a global scale which means protection for more people, and more perpetrators convicted, even if they are countries away.



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Bar closed following rescue of pregnant minors

An illegal bar—a source of tragic sexual abuse—was permanently shut down following the rescue of three victims. All three victims were pregnant, two were minors and two already had young children of their own. The rescue was the result of excellent coordination and collaboration between the Dominican Police and the Public Ministry, which IJM supported during the rescue by providing on-site trauma support and collaborating with local officials to transport the victims to a government-run shelter and a safe house. Your investment in IJM's model for justice allows us to support powerful collaborations that rescue and restore victims while shutting down sources of exploitation for good.

“The relationships established and maintained by IJM's partners have resulted in proactive government officials.”

– IJM India Staff Member



INDIA

IJM equips partners to lead rescues in India

With your help, IJM is training its partners to do the work of justice, allowing rescue to happen at the scale needed to bring more people out of slavery, faster.

The Foundation for Sustainable Development (FSD) used its IJM training to bring 14 people (including 12 minors) out of slavery at a plastics factory, well outside IJM's project area. When they heard what was happening at the factory, FSD went right to the police, and within 30 minutes, officials arrived at the factory and brought all the victims to safety.

A separate rescue was conducted after IJM-trained partner, SHED, received a tip-off that four brothers were trapped in slavery on a farm. The rescue made the front page of *The Times of India*

and inspired a state-wide child labor crackdown by the government.

In a third rescue, IJM's implementing partner, Jai Bhim, helped authorities rescue 33 people from exploitation at a brick kiln—ending eight months of abuse. Every day, the families—including 16 children—were forced to make thousands of heavy clay bricks in the hot sun, were beaten by the owner and frequently denied access to water or food. These survivors are now receiving aftercare and resettling back at home.



PROTECTING BY

Bringing Criminals to Justice

Strong convictions not only do the work of justice by ensuring accountability for perpetrators, they also dissuade future criminals from committing crimes. This year, IJM and our government partners issued 1,816 groundbreaking convictions that will help deter future crimes for years to come. Across the regions where we work, more people will be protected because fewer criminals will be willing to risk a hard sentence for their crimes.

CONVICTED

1,816

perpetrators in local courts

RESTRAINED

4,516

suspected criminals

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Four perpetrators convicted of online sexual exploitation of children

Four perpetrators were convicted in two separate cases of online sexual exploitation of children in Cebu, Philippines. In the first case, the three perpetrators were relatives of the seven children rescued, and will spend 15 years in jail, in addition to paying substantial fines for their crimes. In the second case, a mother was found guilty of exploiting her three-year-old son and a five-year-old girl in exchange for money. She will spend more than 23 years in jail, in addition to fines.



ROMANIA

UK court convicts trafficker of exploiting Romanian woman

A UK court delivered a guilty verdict in a cross-border trafficking case for exploitation of a young woman, Antonia*. Antonia had traveled from Romania to the UK with the promise of work to care for her family, but instead was forced into sexual exploitation and brutal abuse for eight long months. After a tip-off from Antonia's family, she was removed from exploitation by the London Metropolitan Police who also tracked down the perpetrators. IJM and our partners supported Antonia to return home to safety, receive the care and services she needed, and support her through delivering a brave testimony in court. Upon hearing the conviction, Antonia's social worker at IJM shared, "Thanks to Antonia's courage and bravery, the world is safer today." Five months later, Antonia's courageous testimony secured her significant compensation through the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act.

*A pseudonym



Abuser at Uganda school receives life sentence

The headmaster at a local school was given a life sentence for the sexual abuse of six young boys at his school. Elijah*, a young boy who was lured to the school by the promise of a scholarship, bravely shared his story with a school staff member who found him hiding in an unfinished bathroom on campus. At the same time, several other boys who were being abused came forward to get medical help. IJM's aftercare team, with support from local partners, connected the boys to a shelter to receive the love and care they needed.

As the case unfolded, IJM supported the investigation and helped the Ugandan police

arrest the perpetrator in April 2019. After two years of delays due to COVID-19, the trial began, and in April 2021, the boys had the chance to testify against the perpetrator. IJM and its partners provided critical support to the courts and the boys, including audio-visual equipment to ensure they could testify without having to come face-to-face with the man who had abused them. After six months of trial proceedings, the judge handed the teacher “a sentence that would deter others”—life imprisonment. Upon hearing the verdict, Elijah and the other boys erupted in cheers and dancing, knowing that once and for all justice had been done.

KENYA

IJM aftercare team helps survivor deliver strong testimony

The abuser of a young girl in Kenya was given a life sentence after she powerfully shared her testimony against him in court. Cindy* was just nine years old when her neighbor took advantage of her disability to sexually abuse her. He thought he wouldn't get caught because of her struggles to communicate, but he did not account for the diligent help of the IJM aftercare team, the support of her grandmother and Cindy's own bravery.

IJM learned of Cindy's case after the trial was already underway in court, and the prosecution was struggling to secure a testimony from her. IJM stepped in to support the public prosecutor

and began counseling Cindy through her trauma, equipping her to share the truth in court. Her grandmother accompanied Cindy to her counseling sessions and made sure she never missed a court session.

Eventually, with the help of an intermediary, Cindy testified bravely against her attacker.

Your investment in IJM's aftercare program helps survivors leverage their strength and use their voice against their perpetrators—providing testimonies that help secure the strongest possible sentence.

Survivors leading the call

FOR PROTECTION

When survivors share their unmatched experience and expertise, they lead the way in stopping the very violence they've survived. This year, networks of local survivor leaders around the world shared their stories, trained other survivors and advocated for a future of protection.

RESTORED

430

survivors to safety and stability

The Global Survivor Network

The Global Survivor Network (GSN) continues to have significant impact around the world. Launched in 2019 by a coalition of survivor leaders with support from IJM, the GSN empowers and equips survivors as leaders by supporting the initiation of Local Survivor Networks. 2021 was a banner

year for these local networks as—together—survivor leaders are collecting their voices, integrating their points of view into policy and decision-making, and regularly convening to amplify their perspectives into public spaces of accountability and advocacy.



NORTHERN TRIANGLE

Survivors train survivors in public narrative

Forty survivors of violence from Guatemala, El Salvador, Dominican Republic, and Bolivia gathered virtually for IJM's first-ever "Public Narrative: Advocacy and the Power of Story" training. IJM's Global Survivor Network leadership council helped train the Local Survivor Network on a leadership practice called 'public narrative' that invites individuals to reflect on their own stories of trauma that shape who and where they are today. Participants crafted a five-minute public narrative that included powerful moments of overcoming challenges from their own lives (Story of Self) that would inspire their audience to view themselves as a community (Story of Us) that can take a specific, urgent action to create change (Story of Now). "We are a force of resistance and resilience," shared a survivor in the opening ceremony.



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Dominican Republic survivor network defies stigma

Survivors in the Dominican Republic triumphantly founded the Global Survivor Network Branch "Cicatrices de Oro" which translates to "Scars of Gold," after they were told it would never happen due to the stigma behind being survivors of sexual exploitation. The group will enable members to view their personal stories as powerful tools that can bring about real change, rather than allowing the fear of stigma to keep them silent.

INDIA

Released Bonded Laborers Association (RBLA) delivers protection and advocacy in India

The RBLA is a coalition of more than 2,000 bonded labor survivors across India working to end slavery in 10 districts across three states. The RBLA has led to the rescue of more than 250 people from slavery, raised awareness to prevent trafficking in their local communities, helped protect families from COVID-19 and highlighted modern slavery in local media and international platforms. The RBLA is a powerful example of community-led survivor leadership.

PROTECTING THROUGH

Transformative Justice

In the face of increased violence during the pandemic, IJM helped governments make justice more accessible. By leveraging technology to make it easier to report crimes, increasing law enforcement's capacity to conduct rescues, and in one case, outlawing child marriage, governments around the world led the way to a future of protection.



TRAINED OVER

16,000

justice system officials in actively addressing cases of violence



GHANA

Ghana Police launch Marine Patrol Unit

IJM Ghana and the Ghana Police trained 40 marine police in anti-human trafficking skills, including investigative best practices and survivor-informed care of child victims. From that group, 10 were selected to form an elite crew of marine police—the first ever police patrol on Lake Volta. While police stations exist in towns around the lake, many of the lake's banks and islands are cut off from direct police assistance. Equipped with training on naval interventions, drone operations, and official processing of children once rescued, this specialized police unit marks a significant step forward in strengthening Ghanaian law enforcement and ending slavery in Volta's fishing industry. Your generosity and partnership fuels this level of protection, where children are safe because local police demand criminal accountability.



GUATEMALA

A milestone in victims accessing help online

In Guatemala, IJM supported a nationwide radio campaign—in 23 different languages—inviting victims to report violence to IJM-trained police agents who can dispatch immediate help. The campaign highlighted the Public Ministry's expanded emergency hotline and website to include reporting of where direct instances of violence against women can be reported. Previously, such crimes could only be reported

in person. But with violent crime on the rise due to the pandemic, a new way to report abuse was desperately needed. Online, victims can work with a chat bot in their language which will help them navigate the website as they file their report. This powerful technology revolutionizes the way we can build and scale protection alongside law enforcement in Guatemala.



UGANDA

New shelter provides safety to victims reporting crimes

After reporting a crime in Uganda, victims now have a safe place to go. IJM funded a much-needed shelter for victims of sexual violence who came to the police station after abuse. The existing space was not secure and comfortable, nor was it large enough to shelter the many survivors who come through the unit.

But thanks to support like yours, that all changed last year when the new shelter opened. Now, women and children have a one-stop support

location that is close to police, health facilities and other critical social services. When a crime is reported, the survivor is connected with many of the comprehensive services they need. With this shelter, they will never again have to sleep in a jail cell or go home to their abusers while an investigation is underway. The Department Head of the Sexual and Gender Based Violence unit said, "It is within our mandate as police to provide safety and shelter for people."

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Bill to eliminate child marriage begins "new stage" in Dominican Republic

The Dominican Republic government launched 2021 with a historic bill that eliminates all legal ground for child marriage and safeguards the fundamental rights of children—particularly girls—who had been vulnerable to this prevalent practice. In 2020, over 15 civil society organizations and coalitions joined IJM's demand for change, including a powerful CNN OpEd by Clayton Kershaw and a social media push by other athletes in Team Freedom, IJM's pro athlete community. The bill's passing means that countless young girls will be protected from abuse.

To-date, the Dominican Republic has had the highest rates of child marriage in the Latin American and Caribbean Region, but the government's strong stance against this practice ushers in a new future that supports trafficking prevention efforts. "Through this law, a new stage begins in the country. Our girls and adolescents will be protected...and cannot be forced into marriage in their childhood or adolescence," said Sonia Hernandez, Associate Director of Public Justice System Strengthening for IJM.

PROTECTING THROUGH

Expansive Partnerships

Building a future of protection is made possible through strategic partnerships—a collective of voices leveraging their expertise, influence and resources. From law schools to social media platforms to generous donors, this year IJM experienced the power of partnership, moving justice forward across multiple strategic sectors.



*Stock image



IJM Mumbai trains lawyers to join fight for justice

IJM Mumbai is training key agents of change to lead the fight for justice in India.

In May, the team completed its first full run of an innovative, five-month elective program for students at Maharashtra National Law University, a prestigious law school. By training these influential law students with IJM's theory of change, the team equipped the next generation of leaders to sustainably address human trafficking.

In October, our Mumbai team celebrated the success of Special Public Prosecutor Geeta Sharma, who has cumulatively secured 100 convictions in child sex trafficking cases since 2017. Sharma represents the momentum we are seeing across the justice system in Mumbai—where well-trained, victim-sensitive officials are standing up for the most vulnerable and ensuring criminals can no longer exploit children with impunity.



IJM partner conducts first rescue

IJM Ghana's partner, Caritas, conducted its first solo rescue of two children who were exploited into fishing and farming on the shores of Lake Volta. This is the fruit of two years of mentorship and training from IJM, including a joint rescue between IJM and Caritas in 2020. When our partners are equipped to fight trafficking on their own, it results in protecting communities at scale. Together with our partners, this is exactly the future we're building toward.



*Stock image

PHILIPPINES

IJM, TikTok launch joint campaign

IJM Philippines and social media platform, TikTok, launched an innovative new partnership to ramp up reporting of the trafficking of minors. Through compelling videos, the #Report2Protect campaign works with influential TikTok creators to display the Philippine National Police's Women and Children Protection Center hotline numbers and urge anyone who hears of trafficking in their community to report.

“We are proud to announce today our partnership with IJM to address the worrying issue of online child abuse. This partnership reiterates our commitment to combating [online sexual exploitation], and the opportunity for TikTok to strengthen our commitment in promoting a positive and safer online environment for children.”

– KRISTOFFER RADA, HEAD OF PUBLIC POLICY, TIKTOK

ASIA PACIFIC

Corporate Partnership with Walmart Foundation combats trafficking in Southeast Asia

In 2015, IJM and the Walmart Foundation forged a new and powerful partnership to combat trafficking and abuse in the Thai fishing industry. The Walmart Foundation's generous support over the past six years has significantly bolstered our cross-border programs through a baseline prevalence study, a new office dedicated to addressing cross-border trafficking, stronger law enforcement interventions and improved collaboration between source and destination communities. Already, our model in the Cambodia-Thailand corridor is being replicated in the Myanmar-Thailand corridor. Moving forward, our partnership is especially focused on conducting further studies to identify where help is needed most, strengthening government responses to the issue and building stronger protections for workers across the region.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Your Support Leads to Expansion



Sheetal Agrawal

“In 2013, I went to an IJM benefit in Dallas. I feel called to speak up for those experiencing violence and oppression, so when I learned of the incredible work IJM does all over the world to protect and seek justice, I knew I had to be part of it. Since then, I have been a monthly Freedom Partner and have served on the Dallas benefit committee. I believe we can see an end to slavery and violence against men, women and children in our lifetime.”

Mark and Sarah Silk

“We love the work IJM does and consider it a privilege to have been supporting their work for over fifteen years. There are so many key ways in which IJM works very effectively, but we get most excited about IJM’s work in getting laws enacted and enforced to protect the poor and vulnerable. It is very motivating to see exploitation of the poor reduced dramatically as IJM is able to help local governments fight these crimes and prosecute the perpetrators.”



LOOKING AHEAD



Some people might think that the goal of protecting half a billion people from violence in less than a decade is a little audacious. I agree. But the stakes are too high to set modest goals, and

I'm proud of the way our teams have charged headfirst into this next chapter in IJM's history.

For nearly 25 years, IJM has taken an active approach to intervene and bring individuals out of horrific abuse. This approach has not only helped rescue nearly 70,000 people from slavery and violence, it has proven to governments and authorities that they are not only responsible for the safety of their citizens, they are capable of providing that safety.

Bringing one child out of abuse in a brothel will always be a victory. But training governments and partners to prevent a child from being trafficked and exploited in the first place? That's a game-changer.

Our model of strengthening justice systems and scaling protection is already working, and the evidence to support our theory of change only continues to grow.

I can remember when government officials in South Asia told our teams that forced labor slavery simply didn't exist. Today, those same

officials are some of our strongest partners as we focus our efforts to protect more than 300 million people in South Asia from slavery.

How did that transformation happen? By giving authorities the chance to see the suffering of people in their communities. By training them in how to conduct a rescue. By elevating the standards of survivor care. And by building trusted partnerships with local and national leaders who are already carrying the torch and leading the fight to end slavery in their own communities and their own contexts.

We are also proudly partnering with another group of change-makers: survivors. By centering the experiences and voices of survivors and making sure they are at the tables where decisions are made, survivors are sharing about the factors that lead to exploitation and the solutions that will stop it.

Yes, the work of scaling protection to 500 million people is audacious. It has to be. And if I've learned anything over the last 14 years of working at IJM, it is that supporters like you are exactly the kind of people we want by our side until we reach—and surpass—this goal.

Until all are free,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Melissa Russell".

Melissa Russell

Regional President, IJM North America



INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION
PO BOX 2227
Arlington, VA 22202

T 703.465.5495
F 703.465.5499

IJM.org



Impact numbers reflective of information compiled by February 2022 for calendar year 2021.

INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION is a global organization that protects people in poverty from violence. IJM partners with local authorities in 24 program offices in 14 countries to combat slavery, violence against women and children, and other forms of abuse against people who are poor. IJM works to rescue and restore victims, hold perpetrators accountable, and help strengthen public justice systems. Learn more at: **IJM.ORG**

All text and images © 2022 International Justice Mission.

