



ACTION **PACK**

JUSTICE FOR ALL

ABOUT

This pack includes practical tools for supporters, partners, and grassroots campaigners to advance the goals of the Justice For All campaign - increasing funding and protection for grassroots justice defenders - during 2019: The Year of Justice.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Overview

In 2019, governments will be reporting on progress on SDG 16, including the commitment made by all governments to ensure “equal access to justice for all” by 2030. With the attention of decision makers trained on SDG16, we have the chance to spotlight the work of our community and highlight the existing gaps around financing and protection for grassroots justice defenders. Throughout the year, we want to mobilise our community to take local action to change the way that leaders deliver on their promise, made at the United Nations, to ensure all people have equal access to justice through the Justice For All campaign. .

The Story

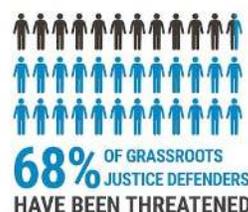
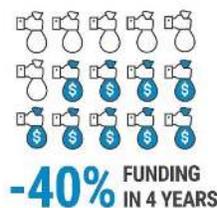
In 2015, governments agreed to make “justice for all” one of the goals for achieving sustainable development by 2030. This goal, known as Sustainable Development Goal 16, or SDG 16, is an important step towards confirming that without justice there can be no sustainable development.

Justice For All is a global campaign to deliver on these global ambitions by advocating for funding and protections for grassroots justice defenders.

Grassroots justice defenders help carry out the work of legal empowerment at the frontlines. They empower communities to know, use, and shape the law - a process known as legal empowerment. Their work is critical to advancing access to justice, especially for the most marginalised in society, who are often denied their rights and excluded from formal justice systems.

Unfortunately, the work of grassroots justice defenders is at risk.

**NOW IS THE TIME
TO FUND & PROTECT
GRASSROOTS
JUSTICE DEFENDERS!**



The work of grassroots justice defenders is chronically underfunded, and funds are diminishing each year. In 2017, 67% of members of the Global Legal Empowerment Network, said they either had to make cuts or may not be able to operate in the coming year due to funding sustainability concerns. Over 4 years donor funding for the justice sector decreased by 40% each year, and grassroots organisations are the most likely to miss out on what little funding opportunities are available. The SDGs are an ambitious agenda, and will take new kinds of investment - business as usual won't cut it.

Additionally, they are increasingly under threat - at risk of harassment, intimidation, or murder. In 2017 there were 207 documented murders of land and environmental grassroots justice defenders in Latin America alone. In the same year, 68% of Global Legal Empowerment Network members noted that they were threatened for carrying out legal empowerment work as an individual or an organisation.

This is unacceptable. If we want to achieve the “justice for all” ambitions of the Sustainable Development Goals, we must create an enabling environment for grassroots justice defenders to carry out their work. The moment is now. Join us as we #TipTheScales towards #JusticeForAll and tell governments, donors, and other actors to fund and protect grassroots justice defenders.

WHY IT MATTERS

The year 2019 is a landmark moment to spotlight the work of our community from the last decade and highlight the existing gaps around financing and protection for grassroots justice defenders.

This year will be the first year governments will review progress on SDG 16 on “justice for all”. This is a critical opportunity to assess progress, challenges, and opportunities on implementing this ambitious agenda moving forward. In early 2019, the Pathfinders Task Force on Justice will be launching a new global justice report on the justice gap and recommendations for how to accelerate progress on the justice commitments of SDG 16. In July, governments will be reviewing progress on SDG 16 during the High Level Political Forum at the United Nations. Is your country developing an SDG report next year, also known as a Voluntary National Review to be launched at the HLPF? If so, this is an important time to start having dialogues with your government about their plans for reporting, to ensure that justice is included in the final report. In September 2019, governments will be reviewing progress on all of the SDGs as a whole during the UN General Assembly, another chance to put a focus on SDG 16 and the justice commitments made by all governments in 2015. The year 2019 is a big year for justice, an opportunity for our community to ensure that issues facing grassroots justice defenders are front and center

To support reformers, Justice For All launched a global policy briefs with specific recommendations for how donors, governments, and other actors can take immediately to address the financing and protection challenges facing grassroots justice defenders. This policy brief is framed globally, but recommendations can be tailored to address your local, national, and regional priorities. **Read and share the policy brief with others.**

Organising a local action or activity can tap into the global energy around SDG 16 and shape broader national discussions on SDG 16 implementation, and what it's going to take to deliver on the “justice for all” commitments within your context.

THE ISSUES

The Themes

The policy brief focuses on a number of key themes and characteristics that recognise the significance and potential role legal empowerment plays in fostering peace, prosperity, inclusion, and good governance.

Legal empowerment does the following:

- Improves livelihoods
- Reduces inequality
- Addresses the root causes of conflict
- Strengthens the delivery of essential services
- Combats environmental destruction
- Promotes citizen engagement

The Recommendations

The policy brief calls on governments, donors, and institutions to take up a number of recommendations to address the financing and protection challenges facing grassroots justice defenders to drive progress on the commitments made to achieve “justice for all” in the SDGs.

Recommendations to address financing challenges include:

- Creating a coordinated strategy between donors, governments, and civil society to align resources to finance legal empowerment.
- Assessing how legal empowerment can work beyond the justice sector, and tapping into resources to invest in this work.
- Ensuring that investments in legal empowerment don’t curtail the independence of justice defenders.

Recommendations to address protection challenges include:

- Compelling governments to create safe spaces for civil society to operate.
- Generating evidence of the scale of attacks on justice defenders.
- Ensuring all attacks are fully investigated.

Download the policy brief to read over 20 recommendations on how world leaders can close the justice gap.

TAKE ACTION

Use the policy brief

With the Justice For All policy brief in-hand, now you are ready to define what your asks are to your government or other relevant actors. You and your organization should design specific recommendations for how decision makers can take concrete steps to scale up funding and protection for grassroots justice defenders in your context.

There are many ways you can advocate for change in your national contexts by utilizing some, many, or all of the recommendations from the global policy brief depending on the which is most appropriate for your national or local context. For example, in Kenya, legal empowerment groups were able to push for the establishment of a new Legal Aid Law, which provides funding for legal empowerment groups in the legislation. In Sierra Leone, the government was able to establish a funding mechanism where any land deal has to include the provision of funding set aside in a “basket fund” for legal empowerment work. In Latin America, legal empowerment groups were able to call for the establishment of the Escazú Agreement, the first regional binding human rights document that calls for the specific protection of environmental justice defenders, ratified by 15 governments in September 2018. [Download the policy brief to find out more about these efforts.](#)

Is your government developing a new legal aid budget, drafting an Open Government Partnership (OGP) National Action Plan, or writing an SDG progress report, called a Voluntary National Review. If so, these are all global opportunities that can support your national advocacy efforts, help to direct funding to grassroots justice initiatives, and ensure that governments report on violations against grassroots justice defenders and end the culture of impunity for those who carry out these attacks. If we can ensure the access to justice and legal empowerment efforts are included in many of these global reporting mechanisms, our entire community will be stronger.

Utilise Global Moments

Global moments and processes can also serve as hooks for drawing attention on your issues. A few of the key moments and opportunities include:

- April - SDG Regional Forums (rotating)
- April - [SDG 16 Expert Group Meeting](#) (rotating)
- April [World Bank / IMF Spring Meetings](#) (Washington, D.C., United States)
- May - [Open Government Partnership Global Summit](#) (rotating)
- July - [High Level Political Forum](#) (New York, United States)
- September - [UN General Assembly](#) (New York, United States)
- October - [World Bank / IMF Fall Meetings](#) (Washington, D.C., United States)
- and more!

Organise a local action

Hosting a local action, convening or meeting can be a useful way to bring stakeholders, whether civil society, government, or donors, together to discuss issues of financing and protection for grassroots justice defenders.

Decide what kind of action to hold. Do you want to link to a global or national moment? Commemorate a specific anniversary? Do you have a specific funding or protection challenge you would like to discuss with local policy makers? What would be the most productive format to engage in a dialogue around this important topic? Think about the political situation in your country right now, determine what is going to work best in your context. There are a number of ways that partners can participate. Examples include:

- A high level meeting between civil society and policy makers - civil society can share the forthcoming Justice For All global policy [video](#), petition and/or relevant national advocacy papers.
- A high level meeting between civil society and policy makers - civil society can share the forthcoming Justice For All global policy brief, petition and/or relevant national advocacy papers.
- Convene donor organisations to discuss challenges around financing access to justice and brainstorm ways more financing can be dedicated to grassroots justice defenders in your country.
- Convene civil society organisations to celebrate the work of grassroots justice defenders, to discuss remaining challenges, and to plan campaign activities to overcome these challenges.
- Host a public walk to mobilise and celebrate your community and to draw attention to remaining challenges being faced by grassroots justice defenders.
- Host a press conference or take over a TV show/radio program to discuss th and share stories of success and challenges being faced by grassroots justice defenders.

Determine priorities and roles and responsibilities. Whether or not you or your organisation are organising a standalone action, or you are working with others to convene a local activity, it is important to determine what the intended goal or outcome of the meeting will be. Perhaps the goal will be to share recommendations on ways to increase investments to grassroots justice defenders, or your group would like to share personal experiences of harassment and violations of grassroots justice defenders with a request for the government and local actors to take action to address the issue. Determining the goals of the action, who is responsible for carrying out which of the activities, and defining the advocacy outcomes will help shape the structure, format, and outcomes of the action.

Plan the action. Once the priorities and asks have been defined, it is time to determine the guest list. Ensure that you seek out a diverse group of participants and allow enough time for the group to come to a consensus on the best way to increase financing and protection for grassroots justice defenders in your context. Inviting an influential person to speak at your action can help increase participation and help your issue get more traction. Remember, for many participants, this might be the first time they are hearing about the goals of the Justice For All campaign.

When preparing the agenda for the action, frame the meeting around the Justice For All campaign and the issues facing your community. Ideally, the agenda allows for learning as well as discussions, with the ultimate goal of obtaining a political commitment from government participants to take on the group's recommendations. Examples of a political commitment could include a grassroots justice commitment in an OGP National Action Plan, a commitment to track violations against grassroots justice defenders through the Universal Periodic Review process, or plans to report on progress on justice in an upcoming Voluntary National Review report. [See the policy brief recommendations for more ideas.](#)

Ensure that all key stakeholders have met before the meeting and come up with some loosely agreed outcomes for the meetings to make it more likely that next steps or a political commitment will be agreed to. Build in sufficient time for feedback and dialogue as well as presentations.

Prepare for your action. Consider whether additional resources, information, or preparatory materials are needed ahead of the action. Design and send invitations and follow-up notes to encourage participants to attend. As a Justice For All action, you are welcome to use the Justice For All **logo** at your activity to encourage support and link to global efforts that are happening on these important topics. Prepare the action materials, have the agenda ready, and plan for your action.

Host your action!

Think ahead. What are the next steps after the action? Perhaps you want to get more involved civil society SDG reporting, in the Open Government Partnership process, or something else.

Follow-up after the action, send thank you notes to your attendees and invite them to participate in the next session. Be sure to **tell the Justice For All campaign team** about your action or post about it **here**. We will share it on our website and digital channels, to further support and promote your actions.

Build momentum

Some additional advocacy tactics to scale up funding and protection for grassroots justice defenders in your community include the following:

- Lobbying through informal or formal face-to-face meetings with policy makers and advocacy letters or emails. This is a wonderful opportunity to share recommendations on planning and policies directly with government officials.
- Campaigning by mobilising others to publically rally behind issues of financing or protection for grassroots justice defenders.
- Raising awareness about the issues of financing or protection in your community through mass communication, by engaging with the media, writing articles and research, getting active on social media, or getting an influential person to champion your issue.

Understand risks and challenges

Remember, that you will likely face a number of risks and challenges when you begin advocating for increased financing and protection. It is useful to be aware of these challenges and the fact that you may need to address them periodically. The best advocacy requires constant reflection, evaluation and revision to overcome challenges. Here are some of the most likely challenges and risks you may face, along with tips and tricks for overcoming them:

- You run into low levels of political will and support for your plan:
 - find new allies to champion your cause,
 - bring together community members, community paralegals and decision makers to stimulate conversation.
- Government officials are telling you that the SDGs are not important:
 - look at statements your government has made at the UN and quote it back to them,
 - encourage celebrities and high level persons support your campaign and the sdgs. The Justice For All campaign has been endorsed by mainly high level people including The Elders.
 - build community support for the sdgs.
- Your government is unwilling to work with civil society:

- build relationships with all access to justice stakeholders. Relationships such as these are built over time and through proactive outreach. Be prepared to make these efforts repeatedly; stakeholders that are resistant at first may become more open to collaboration over time.
- display your expertise and value.
- remind decision makers that the SDGs have promised to be transparent and people centred. Target 16.7 specifically commits to “ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.

If you are threatened for undertaking your action please [report this violation](#) on the Justice For All website. If you are in need of emergency support please contact Frontline Defenders [emergency team](#).

Join the conversation and connect with others

Raise some noise and engage with others in your countries to let government leaders know that we demand access to justice for all. Send an email to your supporters about your plans, write a blog post or op-ed, or post on social media.

The Justice For All community wants to hear from you and your teams on how you are taking action. **Join the conversation** to stay connected on what’s happening around the world, share experiences and opportunities, and discuss how to overcome challenges that you are facing with other campaigners. If you want to connect directly with others in your context, [click on your country on the globe](#) or look through the [member directory](#).

Spread the word

Here are some ways to help spread the word and amplify the message.

- Share on social media using the hashtags #TipTheScales towards #JusticeForAll - additional social media messages can be accessed [here](#).
- Watch and share the [Justice For All video](#) online.
- Promote your local action or activity online using #TipTheScales towards #JusticeForAll for the chance to be retweeted by the Justice For All campaign team.
- Share recommendations with your policy makers, government officials, and key influencers. Look up their social media handles and tag them in a post about the need to fund and protect grassroots justice defenders in your community. Use #TipTheScales towards #JusticeForAll for the chance to be retweeted by the Justice For All campaign team.
- Post your recommendations and ideas in the [online community forum](#) and join the conversation.

Sign the petition

Join us in telling world leaders that we must ensure that all people have equal access to justice. Only by funding and protecting grassroots justice defenders can we make justice, not injustice, the norm. After you have signed the petition, encourage 10 additional people to sign the petition by sharing directly or tagging them online. You can find the petition in English, French, Spanish, and Portuguese [here](#). **Sign the petition.**

TOOLS & RESOURCES

Use the Justice For All logos

Supporters are encouraged to use the Justice For All logo and promote the Justice For All campaign at your local action or through online activities. Show that you are a part of the global movement with thousands of others supporting your efforts around the world. Click [this link](#) to get access to and download logos directly.

Use the policy brief

This policy brief offers recommendations for policymakers, donors, and multilateral institutions on how to finance and protect the grassroots justice defenders who provide essential legal support to communities. In every region of the world, these champions of legal empowerment—who mostly hail from civil society—are helping people to know, use, and shape the law. Grassroots justice defenders are vital to expanding access to justice, yet they are under-resourced and under threat. By pledging to invest in legal empowerment efforts and secure the safety of grassroots justice defenders, world leaders can take crucial steps toward achieving the 2030 Agenda’s commitments for people, planet, prosperity, and peace.

Download the policy brief.

Social media messages

[This link](#) will take you directly to Justice For All social media messages for downloading, cross-promotion, and sharing. **Follow Justice For All on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).**

Please feel free to use the following social media messages to share some of the Justice For All tools with your communities.

Policy Brief

Want to help #TipTheScales towards #JusticeForAll? Share this policy brief with your local policy makers and tell them to fund and protect grassroots justice defenders now. bit.ly/JFAbrief

Video

The moment is now. It’s time to #TipTheScales towards #JusticeForAll by funding and protecting #grassroots justice defenders. Share this video with others to help spread the word. <http://bit.ly/JFAvideo>

Petition

Only by funding & protecting grassroots justice defenders can we make justice, not injustice, the norm. Join us in calling on the world leaders to take action now. Sign the petition at <http://bit.ly/justice2030>. #TipTheScales #JusticeForAll

Learn more

Read more about ways to get involved in national advocacy on SDG 16 with the [Advocacy, Justice, and the SDGs toolkit](#) and see additional advocacy and campaigning tools and resources [here](#).