



# INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION CANADA



Griselda\*, survivor of gender-based violence supported by IJM Guatemala  
\*a pseudonym

## Working with global policymakers, stakeholders, and law enforcement to end exploitation and violence.

International Justice Mission (IJM) is the world's largest anti-slavery and human trafficking organization. Since 1997, IJM has worked to protect those living in poverty from violence by rescuing victims, bringing criminals to justice, restoring survivors to safety and strength, and assisting local law enforcement.

IJM Canada is the direct connection between Canadians and the fight to end violence and exploitation worldwide. The office was established in 2003 to support international operations through advocacy, fundraising, and community engagement. As of March 31, 2024, IJM Canada has 19 full-time employees, raising \$8.3 million CAD in contributions from 8,740 Canadian donors, including 3,420 monthly donors.

## Working Toward a Future Free from Violence

An estimated 5 billion people have unmet justice needs, making them vulnerable to violence and exploitation. They cannot obtain justice for everyday problems and are excluded from the protections that the law provides (World Justice Project, 2019).


1 in 3 women experience violence, with younger women being the most at risk (World Health Organization). 243 million people live in extreme conditions of injustice like modern slavery, an industry that generates \$200 billion per year.\*\* For millions of victims of violence and exploitation, accessing justice is impossible because of poverty. Global action is needed to end modern slavery and violence, and ensure equitable access to justice for all.


When Canada's Modern Slavery Act was presented before Senate, IJM appeared twice as witness and encouraged Canadians to write their MPs. The Act was successfully passed on May 23, 2023 and requires corporations that produce, sell, distribute, or import goods to file an annual report on the steps they take to prevent and reduce the risk of forced labour in their supply chains.




\*\*Modern Slavery refers to exploitation that a person cannot refuse or leave because of threats, violence, coercion, deception, and/or abuse of power (Global Slavery Index. Walk Free. [walkfree.org/global-slavery-index](http://walkfree.org/global-slavery-index))

### IJM'S THEORY OF CHANGE

 Decrease the prevalence of exploitation and violence by building strong, reliable, and accessible justice systems.

 Provide local trauma-informed and gender-sensitive interventions for rescue and rehabilitation.

 Hold perpetrators accountable through just sentences, legislation, and national action plans.

IJM Canada is a member of:



### A GLOBAL NETWORK OF ACTIVISM

IJM has local teams in 33 communities across 19 countries.

Throughout Africa, Latin America, and Asia, we partner with attorneys, investigators, social workers, and community activists poised at protecting 500 million people from violence and exploitation by 2030.

# Next Steps Towards a Safer Global Future

## 1 Alignment with Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy (FIAP)

Poverty is a leading predeterminant of violence — women represent two-thirds of those living below the poverty line. Women and girls with disabilities, from indigenous communities, or visible minorities increasingly face more acts of aggression. It is our task at IJM to end the disproportionate harm women and girls face.

### Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls

IJM challenges biases and inequities women and girls face. We advocate and support the creation of gender- and child-sensitive justice system services.

### Human Dignity

Through programming, IJM helps to connect the most marginalized populations, who are often women and girls, to critical justice and protection services.

### Inclusive Governance

IJM works with duty bearers and responsibility holders to support the effective investigation and prosecution of violent criminal offenders. IJM also offers direct, gender-responsive rehabilitation support to survivors of human rights abuses.

## 2 IJM Canada's Programmatic Advocacy Priorities

The path forward for IJM Canada will be informed by listening to communities affected by violence, alongside continued partnership with local agencies. By including recommendations and perspectives of survivors at every step of the process, culturally-sensitive and trauma-informed solutions will be identified — a necessity for implementing long-term, sustainable policy change. The ultimate goal is for today's youth to grow up safe, without the fear of violence and exploitation.

### Stop the Online Sexual Exploitation of Children (OSEC)

IJM is regularly meeting with stakeholders to push forward key initiatives to end OSEC by Canadian-based abusers. Stakeholders include Public Safety Canada, national and provincial police, Internet Child Exploitation Crown Attorneys, Canadian Centre for Child Protection, Senators, and Members of Parliament committed to ending this crime.

### End Violence Against Women and Children in Latin America

Latin America has the highest rate of femicide in the world. IJM Canada works closely with local partners and IJM operations throughout Central and South America to increase resources for women and children experiencing violence.

### Monitor Progress and Success of the Modern Slavery Act

Ongoing consultation with corporations and government leaders regarding the implementation of the Modern Slavery Act and its effectiveness.

### In a single year:

- 6,866** Children, women, and men relieved from violence.
- 136** Survivors fully restored to safety, stability, and strength. Thousands more are currently receiving support services and participating in aftercare programs.
- 2,386** Suspected perpetrators of violence apprehended.
- 1,244** Traffickers and abusers convicted in local courts.
- 44,333** Justice Systems officials, NGO staff, and community members trained to recognize and respond to violence.

\* from April 2023 to March 2024



### Over three decades of International Justice Mission.

- 95,000+** people relieved from violence
- 10.8 million+** people protected from exploitation

### IJM reduced slavery and violence by 50-86% in nine different jurisdictions around the world.



PO Box 88031 RPO Levi Creek  
Mississauga, ON L5N 8M1  
1. 877.579.5030  
advocacy@ijm.ca  
LEARN MORE: IJM.CA

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

All text and images (C) 2024 International Justice Mission. To protect IJM survivors, we have used pseudonyms, obscured some images and included photos that do not depict actual victims where appropriate. Consent gathered for all images.