



Summer 2008

HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH THE RULE OF LAW

**GJCnews**

The Mission of the Global Justice Center is to work with women leaders on the strategic and timely legal enforcement of international equality guarantees.

*Read more at*  
[globaljusticecenter.net](http://globaljusticecenter.net)

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#### GJC UPDATES

● **Training in Colombia on SCR 1325, the ICC, and the Justice Peace Law.** June 19-20 and June 26-27.

● **Janet Benshoof at Peace by Piece International Women's Conference.** Belfast, Northern Ireland. June 24-26.

● **Janet Benshoof interviewed on BBC Radio's "Women's Hour" on situation in Burma.** June 2008.

● **GJC President Janet Benshoof gives speech on Burma at Google headquarters.** May 2008.

For more information on any of the GJC's upcoming events, please contact the GJC office at

**In less than three years, the Global Justice Center has dramatically expanded the scope and influence of its programs. This summer we've been on the move and taking our work to a whole new level! We just relocated to a new office that will provide work and research space for our growing staff and allow us to host interns, colleagues and researchers from around the world.**

Please make sure to update your records with our new address! The Global Justice Center can now be found at:

25 East 21st Street  
 10th Floor  
 New York, NY 10010

Our phone number and fax number remain the same:

Telephone - 212.725.6530  
 Fax - 212.725.6536

The GJC is expanding more than just our square footage. In just the past four months, a new member has joined our Board of Directors, we held our first ever legal "Brain Trust" meeting, a new Global Justice Center project took root in Sierra Leone, we hosted a Kyrgyz women's rights leader as a visiting Fellow, and we held an event with new partners to increase our public advocacy a thousandfold.

The Global Justice Center is now better equipped than ever to offer new tools to the fight for human rights and equality. Thank you for supporting the GJC and enabling us to move toward a more just world

This month's GJC e-news features:

- The GJC Welcomes Steve Toben to the Board of Directors
- The GJC lays the groundwork for a new project in Sierra Leone
- The GJC hosts Dr. Nurgul Djanaeva, Founder and President of the Forum of Women's NGOs of Kyrgyzstan
- Global Justice for Burma B8 Events in San Francisco, New York, Delhi, and London

212.725.6530 or [via email](#)

- The GJC a Co-Convenor in September Women PeaceMakers Conference
- Meeting of the Minds - A summary of GJC's first Brain Trust meeting

## inthisissue...

### **The GJC welcomes Steve Toben!**

*An introduction to the GJC's newest Board member*

The GJC is thrilled to announce that Steve Toben has joined our Board of Directors. Through his work as an international lawyer, president of the Flora Family Foundation, and with several other non profits and advisory councils, Steve brings invaluable perspective and experience to our team.

For an extended bio of Steve Toben, [click here.](#)

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### **GJC conducts initial research on international law and gender equality in Sierra Leone**

*Work on women, peace, and security continues with new initiative for West Africa*

This summer GJC legal intern Stephanie Morin and GJC legal advisor for the Middle East and Africa, Adrienne Fricke, were on-the-ground in Sierra Leone where they held over 60 meetings with government officials, legal experts, and civil society and women leaders to explore how the current period of transition and the transitional justice processes undertaken by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Special Court for Sierra Leone can further advance gender equality through the law. The project, made possible by a grant from the New Field Foundation, looks at domestic, regional and international legal tools to identify opportunities to link the international and domestic legal processes. The full report will be released later this Fall. Stay tuned...

For more information about our project in Sierra Leone, [click here.](#)

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### **GJC hosts Dr. Nurgul Djanaeva, founder and president of the Forum of Women's NGOs in Kyrgyzstan**

*Researching SCR 1325 in Kyrgyzstan and working with GJC legal team to advance equality rights in Central Asia*

This summer the GJC welcomed Dr. Nurgul Djanaeva, Founder and President of the Forum of Women's NGOs of Kyrgyzstan for a two month fellowship to work with the GJC. The Forum of Women's NGOs' goals are to unite and support women's NGOs in Kyrgyzstan, achieve political and social equality and fight widespread

discrimination and violence against women. Dr. Djanaeva worked with the Global Justice Center to develop strategies to utilize international and comparative mechanisms to promote gender equality in governance and law reform.

Dr. Djanaeva served as the Chair of the national working group on SCR 1325 on women, peace and security and drafted amendments to the law on gender equality in Kyrgyzstan. She is also the author of more than 50 articles and two books, "Kyrgyzstan Women in Transition" and "From Seetings to Seathings: Strategies for Women's Political Participation in Asia Pacific." It was exciting to collaborate with her for the past four months and we look forward to continuing our relationship with her as she returns to Kyrgyzstan.

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## **B8 Global Justice for Burma Events**

*GJC coordinates worldwide events to call for criminal accountability in Burma*



The GJC, [alldaybuffet.org](http://alldaybuffet.org), Serene Communications, the International Burmese Monks Organization, the '88 Generation Students and the U.S. Campaign for Burma came together to create *Global Justice for Burma*. On August 8, 2008, the campaign was launched, calling for international political buy-in to bring Burma's Senior General Than Shwe and the criminal regime in Burma to justice at the International Criminal Court. The campaign was kicked off with a series of coinciding "B8 Events," that brought together members of the Burmese, global human rights, activist and creative communities in art galleries in New York, Delhi, London and San Francisco to "see art. meet monks. collaborate for justice."

Stay tuned for a full report of what happened at B8 in this Fall's eNews, and until then, sign the online call for justice at the ICC, [click here](#).

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## **GJC Co-Convenor of Women Peacemakers Conference, "Crafting Human Security in an Insecure World"**

*September 26-26, 2008, San Diego*

The GJC is proud to be a co-convenor of the 2008 Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice (IPJ) Women PeaceMakers Conference, "Crafting Human Security in an Insecure World." Other conference partners include: the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), and the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (UN-INSTRAW).

The GJC is advising the conference coordinators on the theme "Enforcing Gender Equality Mandates as Central to Peace and

Security: What is the New Vision of the Role of Law?" which will examine the right under international law to redress and legal accountability for mass atrocities, including widespread or systematic sexual violence and how the international community's obligation to provide justice for these crimes is critical to stability and peace. This conference will provide a forum to call attention to the need for the Security Council and other governing bodies to implement international legal guarantees such as SCR 1325 and 1820 on women, peace and security.

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## **Meeting of the Minds - the GJC convenes a "Brain Trust" of legal experts to discuss the journey toward gender equality, peace, and security**

*First Brain Trust meeting looks ahead to new legal tools*

On June 9, 2008, the GJC convened top lawyers and legal scholars working on international human rights and gender equality at the Nathan Cummings Foundation in New York. The Brain Trust brought together leading thinkers as part of the GJC strategic planning process to ensure that our work stays cutting edge and relevant and makes us even more effective at implementing legal strategies that integrate a gender perspective into the law. The unusual mix of academics and practitioners shared ideas and strategies, guided by three questions:

1. What international law developments do you think have had the most significant impact on gender equality? Where did they come from?
2. What do you believe are the most "enduring obstacles" to the enforcement of international law in general?
3. How do these obstacles compare to international law on gender? What are the specific challenges to enforcing civil and political gender equality?

The conversation illuminated the important role that new legal norms increasingly play in guaranteeing equality for women on the ground. We also discussed how to capitalize on international legal developments and embed them into the domestic system through the judiciary, government, education and partners on the ground. Each of these conversations was colored with relevant examples in the participants' own work that shed light on a broader conversation about the law, gender equality, and strategies for resolving conflict and maintaining peace. Two specific topics of interest were complementarity requirements of the International Criminal Court as an untested legal tool and strategies for using Security Council Resolution 1325 as binding international law. The Global Justice Center looks forward to delving further into the ideas and issues raised in the discussion and integrating these into our strategic program.

Brain Trust participants included:

- Betsy Apple:

- [Bio](#)
- Kelly Dawn Askin:
  - [Bio](#)
  - [Prosecuting Wartime Rape and Other Gender-Related Crimes under International Law: Extraordinary Advances, Enduring Obstacles](#)
- Adrienne Fricke:
  - [Bio](#)
- Anne Tierney Goldstein:
  - [Bio](#)
- Jessica A. Neuwirth:
  - [Bio](#)
  - [Inequality Before the Law: Holding States Accountable for Sex Discriminatory Laws Under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and Through the Beijing Platform for Action](#)
  - [Women and Peace and Security: The Implementation of U.N. Security Resolution 1325](#)
- Dr. Jeremy Sarkin:
  - [Bio](#)
- Ruti G. Teitel:
  - [Bio](#)
  - [Respondent: The Future of Human Rights Discourse](#)
  - [Humanity's Law: Rule of Law for the New Global Politics](#)
  - [Transitional Justice Genealogy](#)

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