



**JUSTICE FOR ALL**

**10 DAYS OF  
LOCAL ACTION**

**ACTION PACK**

## 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 - around the 10th Anniversary of the Commission of Legal Empowerment of the Poor, called the “10 Days of Local Action”.

### Overview

This September, world leaders and grassroots justice defenders will mark the 10th anniversary of the [Commission on Legal Empowerment of the Poor](#). This presents us with a unique opportunity. With the attention of world leaders trained on the anniversary, we have the chance to spotlight the work of our community from the last decade and highlight the existing gaps around financing and protection for grassroots justice defenders. In the 10 days following this landmark 10th anniversary, 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. We are calling it the “10 Days of Local Action”.

### 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.

Their work 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, grassroots justice defenders 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.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

### **The Commission on Legal Empowerment of the Poor**

The Commission on Legal Empowerment of the Poor was established at the United Nations in 2008. The *Commission* consisted of a group of high-level thought leaders and access to justice practitioners who researched and assessed the global justice gap and came up with recommendations on the way forward. The group published a report entitled, Making the Law Work for Everyone, which examined the global justice gap and estimated that 4 billion people around the world live outside of access to justice.

### **10 Days of Local Action**

September 25, 2018 marks the 10 year anniversary of the Commission on Legal Empowerment of the Poor. World leaders and grassroots justice defenders will mark the 10th anniversary of the Commission on Legal Empowerment for the Poor during the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly. The “10 Days of Local Action” will kick off on the 10th anniversary and will run from September 25, 2018 - October 4, 2018.

Throughout the 10 days, organisations are encouraged to organise local activities that advance advocacy goals on increasing financing and protection for grassroots justice defenders in their communities, and to work with media partners to spotlight the campaign’s core asks. We want you to focus on the most pressing justice issues in your local context.

During the UN General Assembly, governments from around the world meet to discuss pressing global issues. Given that justice will be a feature of a number of events, it will be an important opportunity to link what’s happening globally to local efforts. Some of the ways your community might be able to connect with the global conversation are through the following:

- Watching UN TV live to see what your government is discussing
- Following national media about announcements made by your government
- Following UNGA social media for announcements #UNGA73 #SDG16 #ThinkJustice #JusticeForAll
- Engaging in this community discussion around the UN General Assembly
- Participating in the 10 Days of Local Action in your community and online

We recognise that some national meetings may fall outside of this timeline to better align with national moments or activities. If you have existing activities planned during September/ October that could be a part of the Justice For All campaign we would be happy to support and promote these activities.

## Themes

During your 10 Days of Local Action activities, you may wish to keep the discussion focused broadly on access to justice or to focus on one specific theme or issue area. We encourage you to do what works best to advance your national advocacy goals on increasing financing and/or protection for grassroots justice defenders. Some of the themes our partners will be focusing on over the 10 Days of Local Action include:

- [Environmental justice](#)
- [Community land rights](#)
- [Women's rights](#)
- [Citizenship and legal Identity](#)
- [Peace and security](#)
- [Economic inequality](#)
- [Forced labour and modern day slavery](#)
- [Citizen engagement](#)

## WHY IT MATTERS

This 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.

The year 2019 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. [Is your country developing an SDG report next year, also known as a Voluntary National Review?](#) 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.

Hosting a local event or activity during the 10 Days of Local Action can help feed into 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.

## TAKE ACTION

### Organise a local event or activity

Hosting a local event, convening or meeting to commemorate the anniversary of the Commission on the Legal Empowerment of the Poor 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 event to hold. Do you want to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Commission on Legal Empowerment of the poor? 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 in the 10 Days of Local Action. 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.
- 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 the Commission on the Legal Empowerment of the Poor anniversary and share stories of success and challenges being faced by grassroots justice defenders.
- Take part in the Think Justice consultation, and in-person or [online survey](#) to share your recommendations and feed directly into high-level global access to justice discussions. See more about how to get involved in the consultation process on page 6.

Determine priorities and roles and responsibilities. Whether or not you or your organisation are organising a standalone event, 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 event, 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 event.

Define “the asks”. During the 10 Days of Local Action, you and your organization have the opportunity to design specific recommendations for how governments can take concrete steps to scale up funding and protection for grassroots justice defenders in your context. For example, perhaps your government is writing a new legal aid budget, developing an Open Government Partnership OGP plan, or writing an SDG progress report called a Voluntary National Review. These are a few examples of global opportunities that have national implications, which can help ensure that funding for justice initiatives make it to the grassroots, and that governments are reporting on violations against grassroots justice defenders and taking actions to mitigate the issue.

Plan the event. 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 event 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 event, 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.

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 a political commitment will be agreed to. Build in sufficient time for feedback and dialogue as well as presentations.

Prepare for your event. Consider whether additional resources, information, or preparatory materials are needed ahead of the event. Design and send invitations and follow-up notes to encourage participants to attend. As a Justice For All event, 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 event materials, have the agenda ready, and plan for your event.

Host your 10 Days of Local Action event!

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

Follow-up after the event, 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 event 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.

## **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 also wants to hear from you and your teams on how you are celebrating the and taking local action during the 10 Days of Local Action. **Join the conversation** to stay connected on

what's happening around the world and share experiences and opportunities 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](#).

Share findings and recommendations directly with global policy makers working to advance the access to justice agenda globally by taking part in the **Think Justice** consultation in-person or online through **this survey**. More information about the Think Justice consultation can be accessed on page 8.

## Spread the word

Here are some ways to help spread the word and amplify the message on social media by using the hashtags #TipTheScales towards #JusticeForAll - additional social media messages can be accessed [here](#):

- Sign and share the petition on social media
  - Sample tweet: Sign and share the petition to tell governments to fund and protect grassroots justice defenders and #TipTheScales towards #JusticeForAll. <https://bit.ly/2MzkigH>
- Watch and share the [Justice For All video](#)
- Promote your local event 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 on the 10 Days of Local Action.
- On September 25, 2018, Justice For All is launching a new campaign video in New York during the UN General Assembly at a 10th Anniversary of the Commission on Legal Empowerment of the poor event to tell world leaders it's time to take action now. [Watch the video and share](#) with your social media channels.
- Download and share the 10 Days of Local Action image using #TipTheScales towards #JusticeForAll

## Sign the petition

Join us in telling world leaders at the UN 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.

### **Sign the petition.**

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](#).

## Think Justice

The Task Force on Justice and the Justice For All campaign are partnering to gather ideas, insights, and inspiration from around the world through a grassroots consultation. [The Task Force on Justice is an](#)

initiative of *Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies*, a group of national governments, international organisations, and networks committed to achieving the aims set out in the Sustainable Development Goals to provide access to justice for all.

Think Justice is a consultation of justice defenders and grassroots organisations, whose input will feed into the work of the Task Force on Justice. Grassroots organisations and justice defenders activists are invited to:

- Share their experience and justice stories;
- Contribute data and evidence on justice needs;
- Suggest grassroots responses to these needs; and
- Propose and debate potential areas of recommendation.

This information will be collected jointly by the Global Legal Empowerment Network - on the **community discussions platform forum** - and NYU CIC - through a **survey**. The information collected will form the basis of a short report which will be submitted to the Task Force on Justice from 10-12 October 2018 in Freetown, Sierra Leone. The report will inform the work of the Task Force, as they investigate the scale and nature of the justice gap, and build a case for investment in justice. Their findings will be presented at the 2019 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the UN's central platform for review of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs. Get involved:

- Take the Think Justice survey **here**
- Share your experiences, recommendations, and ideas in the community discussion **here**

## TOOLS & RESOURCES

### Use the Justice For All logos

During the 10 Days of Local Action, supporters are encouraged to promote the Justice For All campaign at your local event or through online activities. If you would like to show that you are a part of the global movement and show that thousands of others support your efforts around the world, you are welcome to use the Justice For All logo for your 10 Days of Local Action activity. Click [this link](#) to get access to and download logos directly.

### Social media messages

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

### 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 resources [here](#).