The Advocates
There can be no justice without peace,
and there can be no peace without justice.

~DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR~
There are 10 million people in prison around the world. Three million are awaiting a fair trial. Access to justice is a fundamental human right.

The Advocates defend that right.

Everyone deserves the right to tell their story. We’re equipping the accused. Informing the indicted. Educating the incarcerated. And taking the law to the margins of society – to uproot the unjust. We train paralegals and lawyers within defenceless communities to provide legal services for themselves and others. We don’t simply give more people access to lawyers. Why? Because, as said by Saint Oscar Romero; “There are many things that can only be seen through eyes that have cried’.”
We are Justice Defenders

Justice Defenders is a community of 350 people working across 26 prisons in three African countries. We are a movement of people treading with a limp, from different walks of life. There is no us or them, no beneficiary or benefactor. Each of us is both.
We go where others aren’t willing. Doing what hasn’t been done before.

It takes a certain type of person to invest in marginalised communities. The Advocates is a select community of philanthropists, committed to a single mission: working together to serve one million defenceless clients by 2030.
You are
The Advocates

Our supporters are fearless and audacious and are not afraid to be part of our unlikely community.

By joining us, you will be in the company of like-minded global donors bringing justice to some of the most fringe communities in the world.

We’re generating returns on our investment with ripple effects far beyond our legal offices and education programme.
We are EQUIPPING the ACCUSED

250 people in prison and prison officers trained as paralegals

We provide in-house training for prisoners and prison staff to become peer educators, paralegals, and lawyers.
We are **INFORMING** the **INDICTED**

33,100 imprisoned clients without access to justice, served with free legal advice

We establish law practices within prisons, providing free services and running legal awareness offices for those without access to justice.
EDUCATING the INCARCERATED

We are

89% pass rate by our students in the University of London law degree programme

We partner with world-class academic institutions, such as the University of London to tutor and facilitate law degrees for prison communities.

*Exams taken by students in Uganda and Kenya in 2020.
Gilbert Wanami was on remand for eight years, before he was convicted of a crime.

“My lawyer wasn’t competent enough to represent me well, I was given a life sentence,” Gilbert explains. “After being let down by him, I represented myself in my appeal, helped by my fellow paralegals. I managed my own submission before the judge, and I thank God my sentence was reduced.”

In 2019 Gilbert began studying for a degree in law with the University of London, from Kamiti Maximum Prison and in 2020 he was released.

Standing with his wife after his release, Gilbert says: “I am a free man now and I am very happy that society has accepted me.”
Tabitha Nyoro has been working in Kenya’s prison system for nine years as a human rights officer. Now a University of London law graduate and trained paralegal at Naivasha Maximum Prison, Tabitha has learned how to write appeals, and has seen sentences reduced and occasionally, seen inmates go home.

“Most people are in because they are poor,” Tabitha explains. “They don’t have good lawyers and they don’t have the right education to be able to represent themselves in court well.”

She’s noticed that Justice Defenders legal offices have meant prisoners have begun to feel differently, that the administration was not working against them. “The atmosphere has really changed. Previously in Naivasha there were a lot of indiscipline cases. It’s not because they are bad, it’s because they are despairing. Our work has brought hope to prison.”
Margret’s story

In February 2003, Margret Mweni (right), a single mother of two young children was arrested. After spending years in prison, in 2007 she pleaded not guilty to the offence of robbery with violence but was found guilty and sentenced to serve three death sentences.

After more than 10 years in prison, in 2019 Margret was able to appeal her case again, and her death sentence was successfully reduced to a 30-year sentence.

Hearing about Justice Defenders’ legal office, she approached Eunice Mbijiwe (left), a trained paralegal. Eunice encouraged her to apply for a sentence review. Eunice drafted and submitted papers to the court, which resulted in Margret’s sentence being reduced to 20 years, leaving her with less than three years to serve in prison.
Join our courageous community

“[Justice Defenders] is doing absolutely and utterly extraordinary things... going to the most unfashionable places and trying to make people’s lives half decent.”

~ SIR RICHARD BRANSON ~
FOUNDER OF THE VIRGIN GROUP

“I’ve seen people society has written off become instruments of change in the very system that disempowered them, using legal knowledge to give back to their communities.”

~ JON SNOW ~
CHANNEL 4 NEWS

“Join our courageous community”

~ LORD BRIGGS OF WESTBOURNE ~
SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

~ BARONESS PHILIPPA STROUD ~
LEGATUM INSTITUTE, CENTRE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

~ MICHAEL & XOCHI BIRCH ~
ENTREPRENEURS, FOUNDERS OF BEBO

~ THE RIGHT REV’D ROSE HUDSON-WILKIN ~
BISHOP OF DOVER

~ SCOTT HARRISON ~
FOUNDER OF CHARITY:WATER

~ ANDERSON COOPER ~
CNN & CBS ‘60 MINUTES’
The DGF is governed by a Board that provides strategic direction and performs the general oversight role for the programme. It is constituted by the Heads of Mission (HoMs) of the Development Partners funding the DGF.

A Steering Committee composed of governance experts from the same Development Partners make the operational decisions regarding DGF's initiatives.

The Facility Management Unit (FMU) is composed of international and national professionals who ensure the day-to-day running of the programme. The FMU team works closely with the implementing partners to execute the mandate of the programme and is managed by the Head of Facility who oversees daily operations and reports to the Steering Committee and the Board.

SCOPE OF WORK

During the first phase, DGF through its partners reached millions of citizens across Uganda with messages about civic awareness, human rights and accountability. This in turn increased citizens' vigilance in demanding accountability and better service delivery from their leaders. The DGF implementing partners also supported vulnerable men and women in seeking legal redress and helped to recover misappropriated funds from corrupt individuals.

For more details, please refer to the DGF's reports at: https://www.dgf.ug/

The DGF's second phase will build on these achievements and put even more emphasis on research, learning and knowledge sharing among implementing partners. Depending on need, the programme will also allow more flexibility to address emerging issues related to the areas of intervention.

OUR PARTNERS

DGF works with a broad and disparate constituency of partners who share a commitment to democratic governance and a stake in the future growth and stability of Uganda. These include state institutions, constitutional bodies, professional associations, a diversity of Civil Society Organisations (non-government, community-based and faith-based) as well as inter-political party platforms, the media, academia and research institutions.

State Institutions

The DGF supports selected state institutions with the aim of strengthening them in their respective mandates and enabling them to become more effective in serving the citizens of Uganda. This includes interventions designed to strengthen the consultation and participation of citizens in governance processes.

Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)

Nearly half of DGF support has been dedicated to support a wide array of diverse CSOs operating in various parts of the country. Most of these partners were selected through an open, transparent and competitive 'Call for Proposals', in which hundreds of Ugandan organisations participated. Others have been identified based on their "niche" in service delivery. The DGF strives to achieve a fair mix and balance between national, regional and district-based partners so as to ensure both national coverage and local reach.
I’ve worked in 60 countries and interviewed thousands of people, but I’ve rarely been as moved and impressed as I am by Alexander McLean and his work in Kenya and Uganda.

~ANDERSON COOPER~
CNN & CBS ‘60 MINUTES’
Defend the future with us

**QUARTERLY IMPACT REPORT**
Receive regular insider updates on challenges faced, issues addressed, impact achieved.

**ANNUAL ADVOCATES ROUNDTABLES**
Access exclusive events with our community to consider solutions, share understanding and celebrate progress.

**COMMUNITY CONNECTION**
Engage with other members, from visiting prisons to participating in our events.

**EXPERT ADVISORY**
If you choose, contribute your unique expertise as a specific advisor to our programming and operations.
Help us break the chains of injustice

An Advocate is a philanthropist who donates to the core of the organisation as a means of tackling global injustice. Making a minimum unrestricted gift of £10,000 a year for three years allows Justice Defenders to exist as a sustainable and scalable solution to tackling the justice gap. Our Angel investors are helping launch The Advocates by providing providing at least £100,000 for three years.

Your support empowers us to break ground. Knock on the doors that others won’t. Fight for a world where justice is accessible, reliable, and can be realised best by those who need it most.

Your investment could help us recruit a new employee who isn’t afraid to building bridges with prison authorities, or implement the infrastructure to expand legal services to more communities. We invite you to join The Advocates.

> £10,000 ($13,225)
> £25,000 ($33,225)
> £100,000 ($132,225)
Are you interested in joining The Advocates? Get in touch to find out more about our work and membership in this exclusive community.

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