



Annual Report

Report and financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2019

Defenders of the Defenceless

THIS YEAR

91%

pass rate by our students
studying law with the
University of London

300

paralegals working
in prisons

1,800

legal awareness sessions

12,000+

prisoners receiving direct legal
support from our paralegals

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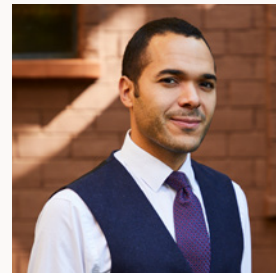
FRONT COVER:
Pascal Kakuru, former Ugandan Graduate – released in 2019 – attending our Graduation Ceremony, October 2019

BELOW: Paralegals working Langata Women Prison, Kenya



FOREWORD FROM OUR FOUNDER

For more than 10 years, we've been known as the African Prisons Project. Our work began with a handful of people wanting to see prison communities become places of transformation, inspired by my gap year experiences in Uganda.



Alexander McLean
FOUNDER & DIRECTOR GENERAL

We've gone on to work with organisations such as the University of London and the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission, as well as Google, The Queen's Commonwealth Trust, the University of The West of England and many others, to build a community of legal education and empowerment for prisoners and prison staff.

We hope to work towards a world where no one is punished or imprisoned without being able to tell their side of the story.

So over the course of the past year, we've been working long and hard to reimagine our organisation and its mission for the years ahead. That means a new name and renewed purpose for our mission and we have become **Justice Defenders**.

Together, we are working towards a posture of radical inclusion to ensure that the defenceless become the defenders. This work intentionally includes those who would consider themselves – or may be considered by others – to be outsiders, marginalised, or in conflict with the law. This means offering legal education and training in unlikely places.

One of the highlights of 2019 was the graduation we celebrated in Kamiti Maximum Security Prison, Kenya: 16 Kenyans – graduating students from 2017–2019 – and Bosco Mawanda, a prison officer from Uganda. Many of them have served as paralegals for others, or – like Willis Ochieng – having successfully argued in court for his own release, walked free after 20 years. Since then he's spent some time as a trainee in court procedure and now works with us in our Legal Practice Team in Kenya.

By equipping justice defenders to facilitate a just legal process – through legal education, training, and practice – we help ensure fair hearings for all. And if these defenders can be unleashed within the justice system, they can serve their communities and strengthen the system, helping ensure everyone's voices are heard.

Alexander McLean



ABOVE LEFT:
Paralegal at Kamiti
Prison, Kenya

ABOVE:
Academy at Kamiti
Prison, Kenya

LEFT:
Students at Kamiti
Prison, Kenya

WHO WE ARE

DEFENDERS

OF THE

DEFENCELESS

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Charity's objectives are to bring justice, dignity and hope to men, women and children in prisons.


All its charitable activities focus on the men, women and children in prisons, as well as those who work alongside them, and are undertaken to further Justice Defenders charitable purposes for the public benefit.

The trustees review the aims, objectives and activities of the charity each year. This report looks at what the charity has achieved and the outcomes of its work in the reporting period. The trustees report the success of each key activity and the benefits the charity has brought to those groups of people that it is set up to help. The review also helps the trustees ensure the charity's aims, objectives and activities remained focused on its stated purposes.

The trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that have been set.

The trustees present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended date. Reference and administrative information set out on page 3 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the memorandum and articles of association and the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102. This trustees' annual report includes a directors' report as required by company law.

RIGHT: Paralegals from Luzira Women's Prison, Uganda

A photograph showing three women from behind, walking away from the camera on a dirt path. They are all wearing bright yellow, short-sleeved dresses. The woman in the middle has her arm around the shoulder of the woman on the right. In the background, there are several houses with red-tiled roofs, a white fence, and a hillside with more houses in the distance. A soccer goal is visible on the left side of the frame.

“There are many things that can only be
seen through eyes that have cried.”

SAINT OSCAR ROMERO

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2019



FEBRUARY

Google Impact Challenge

In 2018, we were the recipients of the Google Impact Challenge (Kenya) out of more than 1,000 applicants. In February, Google organised an event in Nairobi, attended by staff members Morris Kaberia, Rahab Nyawira and Caroline Njambi, to discuss our plans for 2019, the challenges we face and the role of technology in our day to day work.

MARCH

International Women's Day

Luzira Women's Prison, Uganda, commemorated IWD2019 with participation from prisoners - singing, dancing, sports and drama. Guest of Honour Her Worship Kabugho Byakutaga Caroline - Magistrate at Luzira Court, led distinguished guests including Jacqueline Lule, partner at Bowman's law firm in Kampala, Dorah Caroline Mafabi from the Democratic Governance Facility, Patricia Atim from the Public Interest Law Clinic (PILAC) of Makerere University School of Law, and the Uganda Prisons Service.



FEBRUARY

World Congress Against The Death Penalty

Brand Ambassador, Susan Kigula - former death row prisoner and law graduate - was invited to attend and speak at the 7th World Congress in Brussels, alongside activists, ministers and political representatives, where she shared her inspiring story.



MAY

Secondment Journey

We welcomed our 2019 Secondees - Fairbain Ombeva, Gerald Rintagu and Dorothy Mutemi from Kenya, and Daniel Nde Tawembe from Cameroon - to the UK. They spent three months meeting senior justice officials, visiting HM Prisons, and meeting many of our partners and supporters, as well as learning how to address the many challenges facing our criminal justice system.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:

Dr. Florence Banoba, receiving the Google Impact Award on behalf Justice Defenders; Guest of Honour Her Worship Kabugho Byakutaga Caroline; Ugandan teenagers and their family; Patricia McKellar, Associate Director, University of London, visiting our students; European Union Delegation and honoured guests visiting Luzira Prison; 2019 Graduating students; Alexander McLean with Anderson Cooper; Peter Tibigambwa, former Regional Director, with Moot Competition students; 2019 Secondees; and Susan Kigula, Brussels.

**JUNE****Release of Juveniles**

This month saw the significant release of several juveniles from Uganda prisons, as a result of our hardworking paralegals and volunteers. Without valid legal documentation, many children are charged and sentenced as adults.

**AUGUST****Summer Exam Results**

More than 30 students – prisoners and prison staff across Kenya and Uganda – sat for their law exams earlier this year, with 24 passing their exams, adding five new law graduates to our University of London alumni.

**NOVEMBER****World Day Against The Death Penalty**

We hosted a solidarity visit at Luzira Prisons, attended by the Head of European Union Delegation to Uganda, ambassadors and deputy ambassadors of European Union heads of Mission, a representative from Ministry of Foreign Affairs and staff from the European Union delegation to Uganda.

JULY**Africa's Moot Court Competition**

40 teams participated in this annual event, which in 2019 was organised by the Centre for Human Rights and hosted by the Faculty of Law, University of Botswana. For the first time, prison law students took part from behind bars via livestream.

**OCTOBER****CBS 60 Minutes**

We were joined by Anderson Cooper and the CBS 60 Minutes film crew – a US news program – who interviewed our team for a documentary due for broadcast in 2020.

**OCTOBER****Graduation**

In a prestigious ceremony at Kamiti Maximum Security Prison, Kenya, we celebrated the graduation of 16 Kenyan students – from the class of 2017, 2018 and summer 2019 – along with prison officer Bosco Manda, from Uganda.



OUR MISSION

Defending justice with defenceless communities through legal education, training, and practice.

All human beings are born equal in dignity and rights. Some are more vulnerable than others, more at risk of poverty. Others are on the margins through unemployment, prejudice, or a crisis of circumstances. But each of us has something valuable to contribute.

So, we've been asking, would the world be different if those who've experienced conflict with the law became lawyers themselves? What would happen if those in financial need had access to the same quality of legal services as the wealthy? Would our prisons be less full? Would our nations be more just?

Around the world, three million people are currently affected by the excessive use of pre-trial detention – men, women and

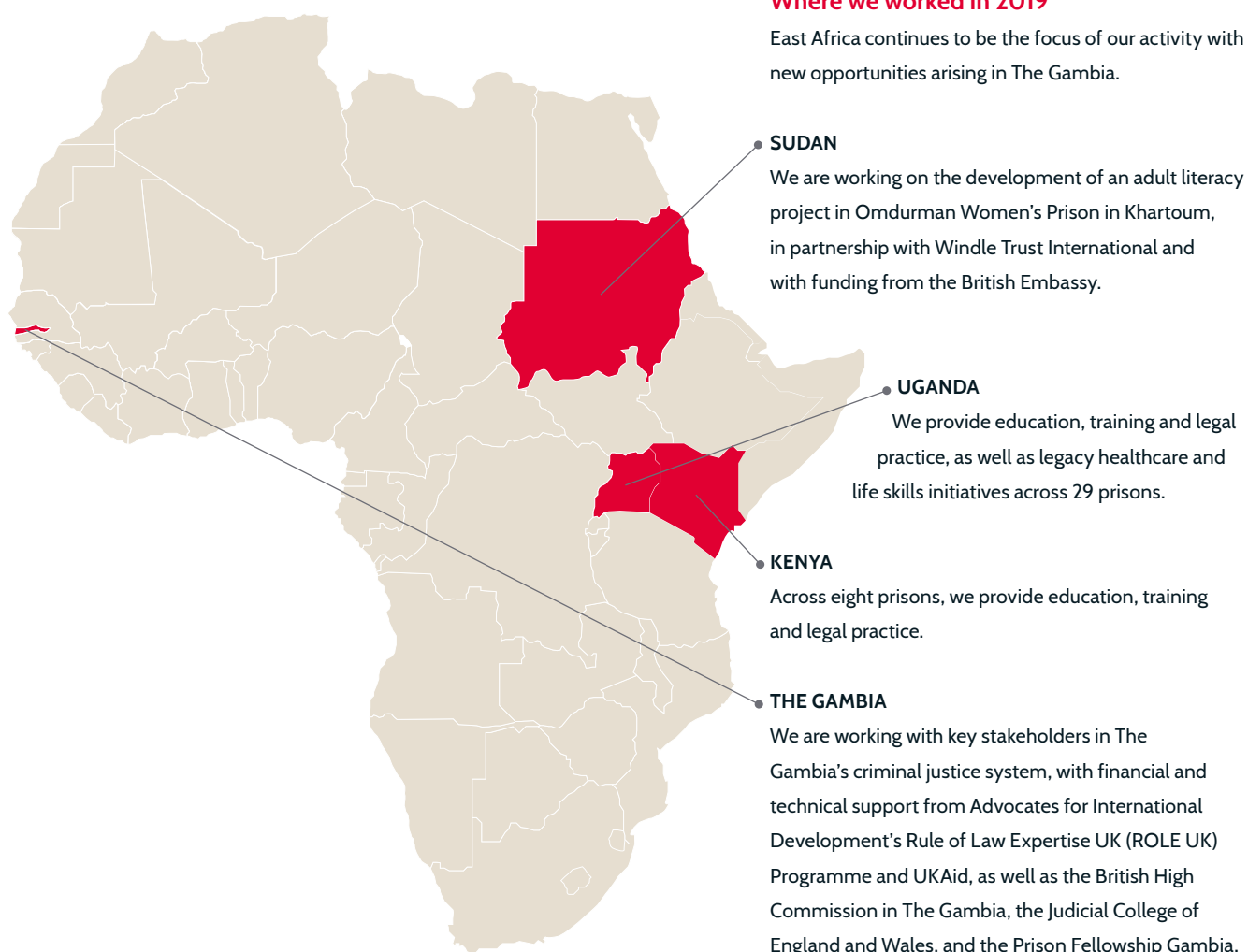
children. They await trial in overcrowded and under-resourced prisons, many without legal representation.

Why do we train people in prison rather than simply working to give more people access to lawyers? Because we believe "there are many things that can only be seen through eyes that have cried."

By equipping justice defenders to facilitate a just legal process – through legal education, training, and practice – we are the ones ensuring a fair hearing. Our work has taught us that everyone deserves the right to tell their story.

Where we worked in 2019

East Africa continues to be the focus of our activity with new opportunities arising in The Gambia.



• SUDAN

We are working on the development of an adult literacy project in Omdurman Women's Prison in Khartoum, in partnership with Windle Trust International and with funding from the British Embassy.

• UGANDA

We provide education, training and legal practice, as well as legacy healthcare and life skills initiatives across 29 prisons.

• KENYA

Across eight prisons, we provide education, training and legal practice.

• THE GAMBIA

We are working with key stakeholders in The Gambia's criminal justice system, with financial and technical support from Advocates for International Development's Rule of Law Expertise UK (ROLE UK) Programme and UKAid, as well as the British High Commission in The Gambia, the Judicial College of England and Wales, and the Prison Fellowship Gambia.



Those who need justice most are the least likely to gain access to it. And those who have the most to contribute to the justice system – who have experienced it for themselves – are the least likely to be heard.


Until now.




FROM TOP LEFT TO RIGHT: James Osano, Joseph Lodiaka, Jane Manyonge, Rahab Nyawira, Priscillah Cheron, Alex Dimba, Bosco Mawanda, Meshack Ouma, William Okumu, Pascal Kakuru, John Bosco Oryem, Morris Kaberia, Phillip Mueke, Tabitha Nyoro

OUR MODEL

Training paralegals and lawyers within defenceless communities to provide legal services for themselves and others – protecting their rights and addressing their wrongs, through education, training and practice.

 **Education**
We provide committed individuals with a formal education, legal training and exposure to global best practice.

 **Training**
We provide in-house training for prisoners and prison staff to become paralegals, advocates, and peer educators. We also provide professional development opportunities for prison staff and criminal justice decision-makers via our UK secondment programme.

 **Practice**
We provide free legal advice and support through prison-based legal clinics in men's and women's prisons staffed by our paralegals, as well as providing legal awareness sessions to large groups of prisoners.

A Common Cause
Who would imagine prison officers going to court to advocate for prisoners and win them their freedom? Or members of the public going to prison to access free legal services from prisoners?

We delight in finding common cause between unlikely allies. We work hand in hand with the judiciary. And we are pleased to bring them into the prisons we



RIGHT: Legal Awareness Session at Thika Women's Prison, Kenya

work, to share meals and discuss the challenges facing the community with our paralegals. As we study and practice law together we hope to grow in respect for each other and those we serve.

Whilst we focus our work on the criminal justice system, we're not doing this work alone. It's important that governments, civil society, and businesses work together to implement lasting solutions to deliver justice and ensure inclusive participation at all times. Serving together and calling out the potential in each other to contribute to change, hope, and peace in our environment.

We create bridges in justice systems. And we work for justice for everyone, without breaking fellowship with anyone. Prisoners, ex-prisoners, and prison staff offer unique perspectives on legal systems. Yet their experiences are rarely listened to. Bringing

them together with prosecutors, the police, judges, experienced lawyers, and academics creates remarkable possibilities for good.

We do this successfully by building a movement of justice defenders – our allies – who share our vision. We work to address the targets set out in the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (specifically SDG 16.3, 16.6, 16.A). And to build a consensus and accelerate progress towards this goal in partnership with governments, NGOs, national prison services, the judiciary, prisoners and prison staff, universities, and the wider legal fraternity.

BELOW: Paralegal training at Thika Prison, Kenya





Education

WHAT WE DO

We provide committed individuals with a formal education, legal training and exposure to global best practice access.

The education offered to those in prison should be of a similar standard to that offered to those who make laws and send people to prison. We work with justice defenders from any background; those willing and able to study, often in difficult and challenging circumstances, to reach a degree-level education.

HOW WE DO IT

We offer a formalised sponsorship programme enabling prisoners and prison staff to study law with the University of London, through distance learning.

Our classrooms are found in men's and women's prisons across Africa, where students are taught by qualified law tutors, visiting academics and professionals. Limited internet access, resources and security restrictions –

even basic classroom facilities are hard to arrange. But in 2019 we had a class of more than 50 law students – both prisoners and prison staff. Working together, studying alongside their other responsibilities, and often acting as paralegals in our legal offices.

As of 2019, 22 of our students have completed their Bachelor of wLaw undergraduate degrees (LLB).

PARTNERSHIPS

The University of London

The University of London provides a world-class law programme which our students access via its outstanding long-distance learning programmes.

It is one of the largest, most diverse universities in the UK with over 120,000 students in London, and

a further 50,000 studying across 180 countries on its degree courses. Its former students include Nelson Mandela and other Heads of State, as well as distinguished lawyers around the world.

“Attaining a law degree makes me feel competitive enough to face the world. My daughter feels like I have set the pace for her and my family is proud of me.”



Joseph Karanja, Law Graduate, Released (2019) – Kenya

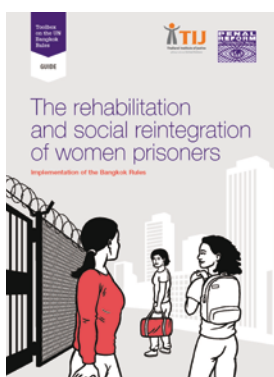
Joseph Karanja became a law graduate of the University of London in 2018 and has since been released after 20 years in prison.

Arrested in 2000, he was sentenced to death in 2001. However, in 2009, he was one of 4,000 prisoners whose death sentences were commuted to life imprisonment by Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki.

As one of our trained paralegals, Joseph made an application to the Chief Magistrate of Machakos Law Courts to permit him to act as an intermediary for three inmates. The court accepted his application and Joseph was able to stand before the court, providing legal representation. This resulted in the release of one of his clients, with the other two receiving reduced sentences, achieving justice for them all.



students successfully completed their studies in 2019



RECOGNITION OF OUR WORK

Penal Reform International highlighted our prison-university partnership with the University of London as a 'Promising Practice' in their 2019 Report on The Rehabilitation and Social Reintegration of Women Prisoners.

“The increase in prison-university partnerships around the world has been hailed as an exciting developing trend in prisoner rehabilitation. Such partnerships can be particularly useful in breaking down barriers to higher education for women in prison.”



LEFT:
Law Graduates Meshack Ouma
and George Karaba

BELOW:
Graduating Students with
Associate Director Patricia McKellar
and Professor Jenny Hamilton,
University of London



"It has not been easy and I must thank everybody for your unwavering support. I am indeed humbled to be a part of this magnificent team of changemakers. I dedicate my LLB to all of you."

HAMISI MZARI – JUSTICE DEFENDERS STAFF
AND UNIVERSITY OF LONDON GRADUATE

ABOVE TOP RIGHT:
Francis Munyao with Associate Director
Patricia McKellar

ABOVE RIGHT: George Karaba with
Mrs Kathy Brown, Senior Lecturer, University
of the West of England, and Wilson Kenyua

ABOVE FAR LEFT: Law Graduates Isaac
Kimaru, Willis Ochieng and Joseph Karanja

MIDDLE LEFT: Pascal Kakuru,
Law Graduate (2017)

BOTTOM LEFT: Footwashing by staff and
students at Graduation Ceremony

LEFT: Hamisi Mzari
Justice Defenders Staff and Law Graduate

THIS YEAR

50 students studied law (LLB) with our support via the University of London distance learning programme. This included **29** students from Kenya and **21** students from Uganda.

Eight students successfully completed their studies in 2019 including four prison officers, two former prisoners and two staff members.

Our 2019 Graduation Ceremony included the Kenyan graduates of 2017 and 2018 providing the opportunity to celebrate together.

23

students successfully completing their law degree from 2017–2019



Willis Ochieng, Graduate (2019) and Paralegal

Willis was sentenced to death for robbery with violence at Kisumu High Court in 2002. By 2006, he had exhausted all his appeals. Coming from a very humble background, he was dependant on his maternal uncle for support. He believed his life was over and spent his time often fighting with other inmates.

However, studying law in prison has not been an easy task. Some days Willis would go to sleep at 8:30pm and wake up at 1:00am to enjoy some quiet study time until 5:00am. He would then sleep for an hour and wake up to join the rest of the inmates for breakfast. By 7:00am he would report at the Kamiti Law Class ready for the day's classes.

“Many inmates lack legal representation due to poverty. Becoming a lawyer is something I had never dreamt of in my life.”

However, he began to recognise the potential of an education, and enrolled himself in the prison school, completing his Certificate of Secondary Education in 2012.

In June 2013, we visited Kamiti Prison to introduce its first legal education programme, a Diploma in Common Law from the University of London (UOL). Willis met the qualifications required for enrollment and on completing his Diploma, he studied for UOL's Bachelor of Law degree (LLB). He completed his degree in December 2018.

As an active paralegal Willis worked on many successful appeals. This year, he was released after 20 years, having appealed against the injustice of his own sentence.



Training

WHAT WE DO

We provide in-house training for prisoners and prison staff to become paralegals, advocates, and peer educators.

We also provide professional development opportunities for prison staff and criminal justice decision-makers. This UK secondment programme – in partnership with the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission – selects those who have a track record of excellence.

We build capacity via rigorous training, networking, and leadership skills, with judicial symposia for magistrates, registrars and court clerks along with resident judges, with quarterly reviews of the state of access to justice for prisoners.

HOW WE DO IT

Paralegals

We've seen that those in conflict with the law are well suited to provide simple, accessible legal services to those in need. This training model involves sharing simple, accessible information about the court process, as well as potentially life-changing legal advice. This means they can provide simple, accessible legal services to those in need. By the end of 2019 we had trained more than 300 paralegals across Kenya and Uganda.

Professional Secondment Programme

We provide professional development opportunities for prison officers, members of the judiciary, and allied professions. This UK secondment programme selects prison staff who have a track record of excellence.

We build their capacity via rigorous training, networking, and leadership skills. And we work together to bring about strengthened justice systems and criminal justice reform in Africa.



Women like Jane – charged with the murder of her husband, herself a victim of domestic violence – can provide legal support to others through our prison-based law clinics.

THIS YEAR

327 trained paralegals have worked across **39 prisons** in two countries, with more than **12,000 prisoners** receiving free legal advice.

Four men and women, from Kenya and Cameroon, took part in our Secondment Programme. They brought with them a wealth of experience in administration and leadership across the justice system.

28

talented individuals have participated in our Secondment programme from 2015–2019

PARTNERSHIPS

Strathmore University

Through the commitment of their staff and students, Strathmore have provided ongoing training and support for our paralegals and students.

The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission (CSC)

Through our partnership with the CSC we have enabled 28 talented justice officials from across Africa to participate in this unique learning experience.

Clifford Chance (CC)

Having received the Access to Justice Award from CC in 2011, we have continued to partner with them receiving strategic and financial support to grow our work on the ground and plan for our future from the firm's funding, charity and volunteering arm, the Clifford Chance Foundation.



“In my professional world, the role of a prison sentence is punishment alone. However, through my visit to the UK, I have a better understanding of the place of rehabilitation within the justice system and I hope to introduce new practices at home.”

DANIEL NDE TAWEMBE – JUDGE AND EXAMINING MAGISTRATE IN CAMEROON, 2019 SECONDEE.

“The atmosphere has really changed. Our work has brought hope to prison.”



Tabitha Nyoro – Prison Officer, Paralegal and final year law student – Naivasha Prison, Nairobi, Kenya

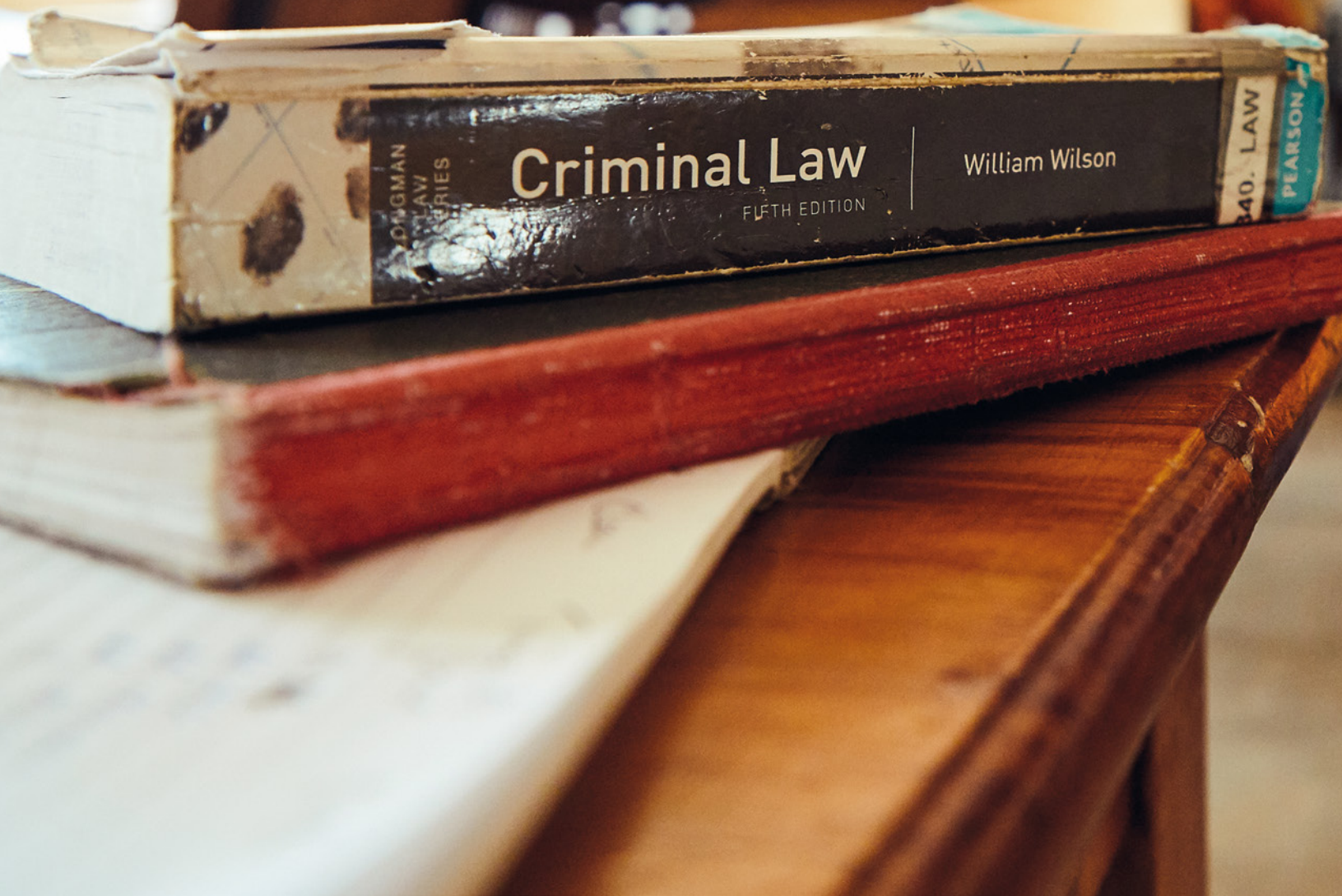
As a human rights officer, Tabitha Nyoro has been working in Kenya's prisons system for nine years to ensure prisons uphold standards of care and treatment to all inmates. But she would often see those who had entered the facilities without adequate representation in court.

Now a final year law student and paralegal at Naivasha Prison, Tabitha has learnt how to write a lawful and effective appeal for inmates, many of whom have no other access to legal services. Across the prison, she has seen lengthy and inappropriate sentencing reduced or revoked, and notes that the inmates have begun to feel differently, that the administration is not working against them.

“The atmosphere has really changed. Previously, there were a lot of indiscipline cases, (but now) our work has brought hope to prison.”

“There can be no justice without peace,
and there can be no peace without justice.”

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR





Practice

WHAT WE DO

We provide free legal advice and support through prison-based legal clinics in men's and women's prisons staffed by our paralegals, as well as providing legal awareness sessions to large groups of prisoners.

HOW WE DO IT

Through legal awareness sessions and case management, our paralegals provide basic legal support and advice to prisoners. Their work includes preparing inmates to present their cases effectively in court particularly during bail and mitigation hearings, tracing of sureties on behalf of those seeking to apply for bail, resolving cases through Alternative Dispute Resolution, and acting as a link between those inmates who have overstayed on pre-trial detention and the justice officials; among others.

This practice takes place across Africa's prisons, where we staff our legal offices with prisoners and prison officers alongside our team and volunteers. Some offices occupy their own building, newly built or repurposed, within the prison's walls. Others take place under a tree or tarpaulin, or in a cell block.

We are equipping the judiciary to make more effective decisions, because they get to hear both sides of the story. We are not acting as judges. Rather, we're helping the judges to follow due process, by ensuring that each defendant can effectively engage at their hearing.



"My desire was to equip myself with the relevant legal knowledge and skills to enable me to contribute towards justice and order in Uganda and the world at large."

JOHN BOSCO ORYEM – LAW GRADUATE

PARTNERSHIPS

Legal Aid Service Providers' Network (LASPNET)

We work with the LASPNET and other Legal Aid Service providers on advocacy for legal, policy and practice reforms, access to justice, sharing of research information and dissemination of reports.

"I have gained so much knowledge. Both the law degree and paralegal training in prison have sharpened me. I enjoy what I do. I have seen judges in court ask lawyers to prepare similar submissions to those that are prepared in Kamiti."



Peter Kago Law Graduate – Kenya

Peter's most memorable case is one where his client, who had been sentenced unjustly to life imprisonment for robbery, sought advice. Peter considered the case and prepared an appeal. The judge heard the appeal and reduced the sentence to five years. Taking into consideration the time that had already been spent in remand, which was three years, this was also deducted. The client now faces less than a year before his release, rather than life in prison, after receiving a just hearing and serving a fair sentence.

1,800

legal awareness sessions
conducted in 2019

THIS YEAR

During a legal clinic at Luzira Prison in Uganda, our paralegals met with a teenager named Sserunkuma. He was being held on remand as an adult, **unable to prove his age**.

Our staff and volunteers attempted to trace his birth documentation from a hospital some miles away, only to find that the papers had been lost in a fire. However, with their advice and support, he was able to secure a sentence of ten months which he had already served.



ABOVE: Sserenkuma reunited with his family.

Morris Kaberia was released from Kamiti Maximum Security Prison in 2018 after his conviction was overturned on appeal.

Since his release, Kaberia works with us as Assistant Legal Aid Officer at Machakos Prison. Recently he led a successful petition which sought a declaration for the remission of sentences for all inmates serving determinate sentences irrespective of their offence.

In response to the petition, Justice George Odunga stated that denying some inmates remission based on their offence was unconstitutional. He ordered that prisoners convicted of specified offences should be allowed to access remission. Now many prisoners around the country accused of these offences will benefit from Kaberia's defence of justice.

In **December 2019**, Kaberia completed his legal studies with the University of London.



ABOVE: Morris Kaberia joined us on staff as an Assistant Legal Aid Officer at Machakos Prison, Kenya

RIGHT: Paralegals at Thika Prison

“Justice Defenders have a high level of rehabilitation and make straightforward candidates for potential presidential pardon.”

MICHAEL KAGIKA – CEO, POWER OF MERCY COMMITTEE (KENYA)



LEGACY PROGRAMME

Improving Prison Conditions

WHAT WE DO

We have established a high quality, low cost healthcare and life skills infrastructure.

We've provided library facilities and learning environments for inmates, prison staff and their families, to ensure that prisons continue to become places of positive transformation through the programmes and partnerships we've established.

In Ugandan prisons, over the past decade, we have provided a range of basic services to the most vulnerable groups, including ongoing nutritional support to death row prisoners living with HIV and support to terminally ill prisoners through the cancer support fund. During 2019 we have continued to hand over our healthcare services to the Ugandan Prison Service.

HOW WE DO IT

After the launch of the Okimanyi Project in 2017, we began construction on the Youth and Community Centre at Luzira Prison, Uganda. The Centre was opened in 2018 and is a legacy of our commitment to improve prison conditions.

Set within the Luzira Prison Complex, the Youth Centre includes a meeting hall, a well-stocked and contemporarily furnished library, a counselling room, several storage rooms and a multi-sports court. It has been designed to provide a focal point for youth from within the Prison Barracks and outside the prison, to meet, learn and receive guidance to achieve better outcomes in their lives. As well as the library, the Centre is to host a number of health advisors for young people aged 14 to 24. They provide guidance and counselling on a range of health topics from personal hygiene and sanitation to the spread of Sexually Transmitted Diseases including HIV/AIDS.

FAR RIGHT: Prisoners using the the Library at Kamiti Prison

MIDDLE: Paralegal at work at Naivasha Prison

RIGHT: Students using the Library at Lang'ata Prison

Books beyond bars

The transformative potential of prison libraries



Lisa Krolak

RECOGNITION OF OUR WORK

In 2019 UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning published “Books Behind Bars: The Transformative Potential of Prison Libraries” by Lisa Krolak featuring some of the libraries, book clubs and workshops we’ve established over the years – particularly at Lang’ata Women’s Prison in Nairobi, Kenya, and at Luzira Upper Prison, Uganda.

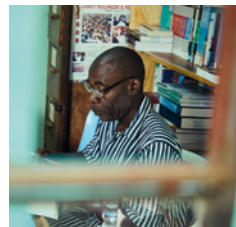
During 2019, we trained 15 members of the Okimanyi Project task force on implementing guidelines for the protection of children and vulnerable adults in Luzira Prison complex. The team included medical doctors, clinical officers and nurses, officers in charge, welfare officers and local council representatives in Luzira Prison complex.

PARTNERSHIPS

Overseen by Ugandan Country Director Dr. Florence Banoba and her Okimanyi Project team, the work has been funded by The Peter Cundill Foundation, The Jones Day Foundation, The Queen’s Commonwealth Trust and Wendy Dawson.

THIS YEAR

A snapshot of November 2019 reflects the type of support we’re able to provide: 46 inmates living with HIV/AIDS and the elderly in Luzira Upper Prison were given **nutritional support**. Supplementary food items like eggs, vegetables, simsim and beetroot were also provided. One inmate was given **medical support**, via funds to the prison authorities to provide a CT-U programme in Mulago Hospital. Five new mothers living with HIV/AIDS were given **financial support** to purchase baby formula milk, to reduce the risk of their babies becoming malnourished or infected with HIV through breastfeeding.



“In Kenya, where most prison libraries are also described as more than collections of books, the spaces accommodate life skills programmes, including adult literacy courses and vocational training.”

BOOKS BEHIND BARS – UNESCO 2019
FEATURING JUSTICE DEFENDERS

OUR IMPACT

INTRODUCING JUSTICE DEFENDERS

The African Prisons Project was founded by Alexander McLean to enable him to work in prisons in Africa after his gap-year experiences there, more than ten years ago. The organisation has reached the stage where it needs a new identity to define itself for a new decade.

Becoming Justice Defenders is naming the work that we have already been doing and positioning ourselves for growth, whilst ensuring that the organisation remains focussed on what it does best. This has been newly defined as defending justice within defenceless communities with legal education, training and practice. It also acknowledges the uniqueness of this work, which is a radical solidarity between those living and working in prison, released from prison, or having never been to prison.

This has been a year-long collaborative process between the Board and Trustees, staff in the UK and Africa, and external partners who have provided their expertise on a clear vision, mission and strategy, which has resulted in a new name and brand identity.

In order to be effective in our work, we need to engage with the media, donors, the academic community and other partners to raise awareness and funds. We believe that the time spent on this rebranding process has helped us clarify our mission and the strategy for accomplishing it. And we believe that a new name and identity better helps us engage with a global audience, which will in turn impact our work in African prisons, and beyond.

**AFRICAN
PRISONS
PROJECT**

**Justice
Defenders**



ACROSS AFRICA

Longer term, we want to expand geographically, where there is a wider need. So we will take this model – which is working so effectively in Uganda and Kenya – and implement it more widely across Africa.

BEYOND AFRICA

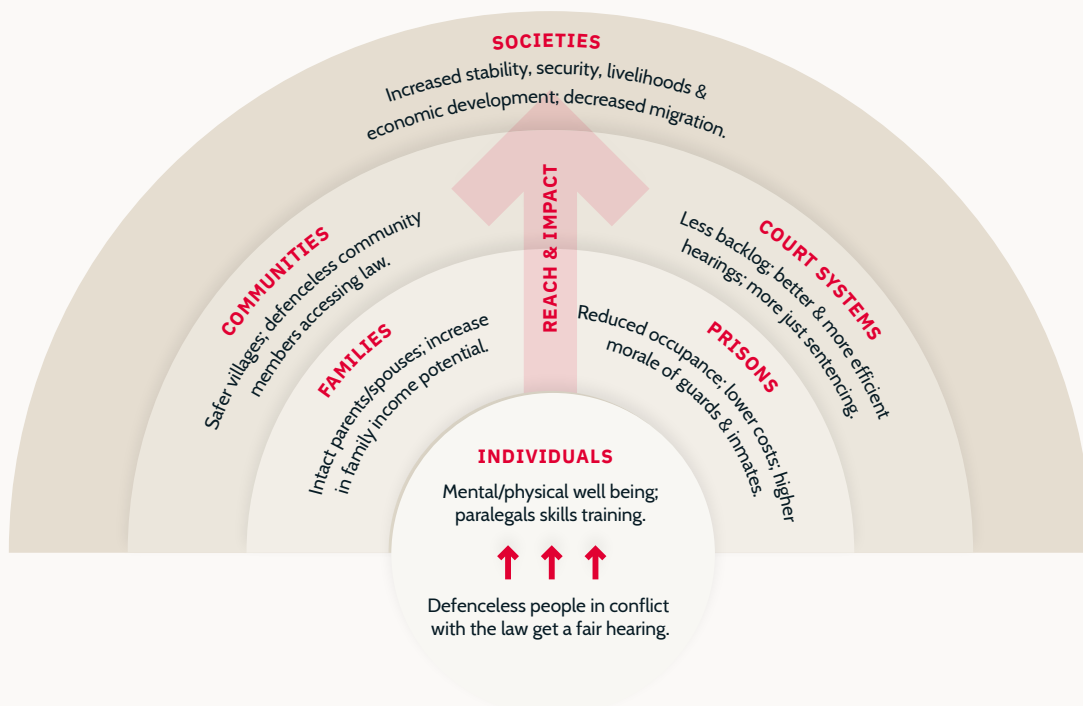
We will continue to share the impact of our work and the possibilities for transformation within the criminal justice system, where there is the will to affect change. We will provide pathways to allow our students to apply their gifts to their wider communities and impact their nations upon their release. By empowering those who have been most disadvantaged, we can harness their talent and passion for a fairer world and see genuine systemic change.

AMBITION FOR SCALE

Our model for change is people-centred, affordable, adaptable, collaborative, and sustainable.

Today, we work within 40 plus prison communities across Africa. But this model is scalable to sex workers in Thailand, street children in Brazil, migrant and refugee communities across Europe, or immigrant construction workers in the Middle East.

We want to take legal knowledge and services to the margins of society. And ensure that 1,000,000 defenceless people in conflict with the law get a fair hearing by 2030.



ABOVE: The ripple effect of individual impact
LEFT: Paralegals at work, Naivasha Prison, Kenya

JOIN US

We are ensuring defenceless people in conflict with the law get a fair hearing.



Imagine that you are a poor, single parent.

You need to put food on the table for your five young children – and your options are limited. You steal a bag of rice in a moment of desperation and immediately find yourself thrown in prison. Or, you're arrested for child neglect because you took a sick child to hospital and left the other children at home.

Where is your access to a lawyer? A fair court? To speak to your family or children? What if you don't speak the language your guards and legal system operate in?

The lack of meaningful access to justice currently impacts nearly two of every three people worldwide. From developing countries like Uganda to the United States (which has the highest population of prisoners globally) – we are living amidst a global justice crisis.



In an overcrowded and under-resourced prison there are men, women, and even children who have not been found guilty.

This is the case for three million people around the world currently affected by the excessive use of pre-trial detention.

Once in the system, they lack the financial resources to afford proper legal representation or bail. As a result, they're more likely to get prison sentences than non-custodial options.

They simply cannot afford a just defence.

Lives are lost waiting for justice to arrive.

Help us reach our 10-year target

To ensure 1,000,000 defenceless people in
conflict with the law get a fair hearing.

A fair hearing doesn't always mean a court appearance. A fair hearing might mean the right to be notified of the charge against you and the ability to meet that charge. But fundamentally, it is a chance to tell your story before being imprisoned or punished.

Help us train paralegals and lawyers within defenceless communities to provide legal services for themselves and others – protecting their rights and addressing their wrongs:

EDUCATION

£15,000

will enable one prisoner to
complete their law degree
via distance learning

TRAINING

£6,000

will enable one prison officer
to benefit from our UK
secondment programme

PRACTICE

£200

will enable one prisoner to
complete paralegal training to
provide legal support to others

Give now at www.justice-defenders.org/donate

BELIEFS AND ETHOS

Justice Defenders was founded on Christian values. We are committed to serving all prisoners and prison staff regardless of their religion, background, offence, sentence, race or gender. We believe every person's life is fundamentally valuable – their past need not define their future.

We believe that transformational change in prisons will only come by building relationships with people: understanding their needs, empowering their development, and putting the power for change in their hands.

We understand that to create lasting change we must prioritise our partnerships with local prison communities, prison services and other agencies. It is only by working together that we can create change both on the ground and at policy level.

These values underpin each and every aspect of our work with beneficiaries, colleagues, volunteers, supporters and partners. They are integral to what we do and how we do it, and so we look for them in everyone we work with.

RIGHT: Washing the feet of prisoners during the Graduation Ceremony at Kamiti Maximum Security Prison, Nairobi, Kenya - October 2019



REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Company number	06260329
Charity number	1121764
Registered office and operational address	Fox Court, 14 Gray's Inn Road, London, WC1X 8HN
Country of registration	England & Wales
Country of incorporation	United Kingdom
Other names by which the charity is known	The charity changed its name from African Prisons Project to Justice Defenders on 18 December 2019.
Trustees	<p>Trustees, who are also directors under company law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:</p> <p>Mr P F Cavadino – Resigned 25th February 2020 Professor G Daly Professor N J Johnson Dr A Merriman MBE Mrs S Oh – Resigned 6 January 2020 Mr J S Price Mr D Hollow Mr T Dighton – Appointed 13 August 2019 Mr J Holt – Appointed 15 October 2019 Mr T Johnston – Appointed 30 April 2019 Miss S Cook – Appointed 15 October 2019 Mrs J Lule Mrs L McLean – Resigned 18 June 2019</p>
Key management personnel	Alexander McLean, Director General Thomas Gill, Chief Operating Officer Florence Banoba, Uganda Country Director Miriam Wachira, Kenya Country Director
Bankers	Coutts & Co, 440 Strand, London, WC2R 0QS
Auditor	Sayer Vincent LLP Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor Invicta House 108-114 Golden Lane, LONDON, EC1Y 0TL
Patrons	Dame Linda Dobbs Lord David Ramsbotham Lord Paul Boateng Jon Snow Lord Rowan Williams Rev'd Rose Hudson-Wilkin

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

FINANCIAL REVIEW

During 2019, Justice Defenders received income of

£1,834,936

(2018: £1,071,727)

Of this **£948,419** (2018: £485,916) is unrestricted and **£886,517** (2018: £585,811) is restricted.

During the year **expenditure was £1,423,187** of which £781,730 was spent from the restricted funds leaving a balance on these funds of £316,976.

Reserves policy

Over the past few months, we developed a new contingency budget that has enabled us to conduct a full review of our unrestricted reserves policy. From this review we have determined that our lower 3-month unrestricted reserves figure is £106,000, and our upper 6-month unrestricted reserve is £212,000. The board is in the process of opening a dedicated reserves bank account which, by the end of 2020 will have the 3-month figure within it and by the end of 2021 hold the full 6-month figure.

At 31 December 2019, Justice Defenders held unrestricted free reserves of £336,879 (2018: £22,601) and restricted reserves of £316,977 (2018: £212,189) in addition to the fixed assets. It is noted that the balance of unrestricted reserves as at 31 December 2019 exceeds the upper target reserve figure, but this is on account of the timing of a donation received at the end of the financial year of unrestricted funds that forms a large part of the 2020 budget, so it is expected that ultimately the reserves will sit within the predetermined target range.

In addition the board are also mindful given the current Covid 19 pandemic that it is appropriate to keep these figures under constant review to potentially hold reserves at a slightly higher level during these times of uncertainty.

Remuneration policy

A remuneration committee (which is a sub-committee of the board) reviews the salaries annually and recommends pay rises considering benchmarking of other charities of similar size and focus as well as inflationary cost of living factors.

Fundraising disclosures

Justice Defenders approach to fundraising is largely focused on trusts and foundations, a limited number of high net worth individuals, some institutional funders and corporate donations totalling around 150 – 200 organisations/people. Most of these tend to be repeat, multi-year donations. Whilst Justice Defenders does receive smaller one-off or monthly donations from individuals and smaller institutions, such as churches or schools, these are not targeted and tend to arise from contacts with staff, the website, or such individuals/institutions themselves taking the initiative to follow up on wider publicity Justice Defenders has received. Vulnerable individuals are therefore protected from potential exploitation by Justice Defenders not targeting any ordinary individuals, whether via by mass mail-shots or by any form of 'high-street' presence. Furthermore, Justice Defenders does not use professional fundraisers or commercial participators, has no third parties undertaking fundraising on its behalf, and although it uses freelance consultants to support its work (for example to support bid-writing), such work is only ever submitted directly by Justice Defenders. Justice Defenders is subject to the UK Fundraising Regulator, has not received any complaints in respect of its fundraising activities and is not aware of any breach, material or otherwise, of any fundraising code or regulation.





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