

Just Access Annual Report

2025-2026

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I. DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The 2025–2026 reporting period has been one of the most challenging, but also most defining, years in Just Access's journey. It has tested our resilience as an organisation while reaffirming the strength of the values and community that underpin our work.

During the year, several members of our core staff, including the organisation's leadership, moved on to new opportunities, including doctoral studies, other professional paths, and, in some cases, due to health-related circumstances. For an organisation with a small core team, changes of this scale inevitably create significant gaps in institutional knowledge, capacity, and leadership that must be addressed quickly to ensure continuity. Navigating this transition required considerable adaptability and determination from everyone involved, as we worked to maintain the quality of our programmes while rebuilding organisational capacity.

What has been most inspiring throughout this period, however, has been the extraordinary commitment of our volunteer community. Volunteers stepped into key responsibilities across our programmes, bringing not only their expertise but also an unwavering belief in our mission. Several have since joined Just Access in formal staff roles, demonstrating the unique strength of our organisational model: a community of dedicated people who support one another when it matters most.

Rather than simply responding to these challenges, we used this period to strengthen our foundations. We reviewed and refined key organisational procedures, expanded internal policies, improved onboarding materials, documented essential workflows, and invested in more robust knowledge-management systems. These are not the most visible aspects of our work, but they are essential to building a resilient, sustainable organisation capable of delivering lasting impact.

This year has reminded us that organisational resilience is not measured by the absence of challenges, but by the ability to adapt, learn, and continue moving forward together. I am deeply proud of what our team, volunteers, and partners have achieved under difficult circumstances. Their dedication, professionalism, and generosity have ensured that Just Access has not only continued its work, but emerged stronger and better prepared for the future.

During this period, we also continued to deliver meaningful impact across our core programme areas. Our advocacy work remained active and visible, including engagement with international institutions such as the United Nations, the International Criminal Court, the ICRC, and the

UNCAC Coalition, where we contributed legal expertise and policy input on issues ranging from climate justice and anti-corruption to international accountability and human rights protection. This also included the initiation of the Sudan Project as a new accountability and documentation initiative. In parallel, our publications, podcast, and public engagement activities continued to translate complex legal and human rights issues into accessible formats, strengthening public understanding and engagement. These combined efforts ensured that Just Access remained an active and credible voice in international human rights discourse throughout a year of significant organisational change.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our donors, partners, and supporters for their continued trust in our mission during a year of transition. Your confidence in Just Access has been essential in enabling us not only to sustain our programmes, but also to invest in strengthening the organisational foundations that will support our future work. I am equally grateful to our team and volunteers for their resilience, dedication, and professionalism throughout this demanding period. As we look ahead, we do so with renewed confidence in our collective capacity and an unwavering commitment to advancing access to justice for all.

Faithfully,

Cvetanka Kirovska

Interim Director, Just Access e.V.

II. MISSION STATEMENT

At Just Access, we believe that human rights are the foundation of a life with dignity. Our mission is to secure that dignity for every person by focusing on social, economic, cultural, and environmental rights through education, persuasive advocacy, and innovative strategic litigation. While these rights remain at the heart of our work, we also engage with civil and political rights where they are closely connected to protecting human dignity and ensuring meaningful access to justice, including by providing legal support to victims of war. By unlocking access to justice, individuals are empowered to claim their rights, shape secure futures, and enrich their communities.

In just six years, Just Access has become a dynamic force for change. Every day, we work to ensure that social, economic, cultural, and environmental rights are respected and protected. These rights—such as access to quality healthcare, secure housing, education, clean water, and a healthy environment—are the building blocks of a just and thriving society.

Our strength lies in systemic impact. By applying pressure at the right points, we create ripple effects that extend far beyond individual cases. Through targeted educational programmes and direct community engagement, we help people understand and claim their rights. By aiming to reach young people, we instil respect for human rights and a passion for justice from an early age.

Our advocacy and litigation efforts push boundaries, opening new avenues for justice and paving the way for stronger, more secure communities. By carefully selecting cases with the potential to set legal precedents, we not only address individual injustices but also drive changes in laws and policies that benefit society as a whole.

At Just Access, we confront both immediate challenges and the root causes of injustice. Our holistic approach ensures that our work has lasting impact—so that all people, today and in the future, can reach their full potential and live with dignity in a fair and just society.

III. TEAM

At Just Access, our impact is driven by people. Our team includes 6 staff members and 30 volunteers who bring expertise, passion, and commitment to advancing human rights. Meet our employees:

Birgit Albrecht, Finance Lead, has been working in the NGO sector in Heidelberg for over ten years, focusing on finance, administration, and German association and tax law. Since February 2025, she has also been supporting **Just Access**, contributing her extensive experience in finance and grant management. A trained business economist, Birgit previously spent twelve years in industry and commerce as a sales administrator and secretary. She lives in Walldorf with her husband, their four children, and their dog.

Luca Brocca, Head of Legal Research, has been part of Just Access since 2022, progressing from Legal Intern to Representative and, since January 2026, Head of Legal Research. He has authored numerous blog posts for Just Access on access to justice in international law and contributed to projects within the OSCE network and discussions related to the UNCAC Coalition. He is currently completing a Master's degree in Space Law and Geopolitics at LUISS Guido Carli. He holds an M.A. in European Studies from KU Leuven, with a specialisation in EU external relations and global politics, and an LL.B. in Comparative, European and International Legal Studies from the University of Trento, including an Erasmus+ exchange at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel. His academic work spans public international law, privacy and data protection, food security, and space law. Across his work, Luca adopts an approach centred on human rights, viewing them as the foundation of legal analysis.

Karthick Ganapathy, IT Implementation Specialist, is an IT professional with a strong foundation in technical support, cybersecurity, and machine learning. With experience in system administration, infrastructure troubleshooting, and IT security, Karthick focus on keeping systems secure, efficient, and reliable. He recently completed his Master's in Information Technology from SRH University Heidelberg, where he researched AI-driven malware detection using hybrid models. He enjoys staying hands-on with new technologies and continuously looks for smarter ways to solve complex IT challenges.

Cvetanka Kirovska, Interim Director, has been with Just Access for 4 years as Head of Projects. She has extensive prior experience working for inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations such as the OSCE-ODIHR, ICMP, UNICTY, UNHCR. She

has supported and/or led projects in areas starting from minority access to education; protecting the rights of families of missing persons from the former Yugoslav wars with the ICMP; fighting institutional corruption within the Macedonian Government; to providing legal aid to refugees and protecting their access to justice with the UNHCR. She holds a BA in English Literature and Translation, an MA in International Relations from the CEU, Hungary, and an MBA from the University of Roehampton, UK. She speaks Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, English, German, and Macedonian.

Marketa Klicova, Head of Design, has been with Just Access from the very start. She designed our first logo and some of our publications covers. She is a visual artist and designer with a BFA from Massachusetts College of Art and an MFA from Rutgers University. She has had solo and group exhibitions in both Europe and North America, and has taught visual art and design at the undergraduate level. She speaks English, Czech, German, French and Spanish.

Jessica Rodenhiser, Head of Legal Strategy and Public Interest Litigation, is a US-licensed attorney with a strong background in human rights law, refugee law, and litigation strategy. She holds a Juris Doctorate from New England Law | Boston and is currently completing an LL.M. at Europa-Universität Viadrina, specializing in human rights and humanitarian law. She has extensive experience in immigration litigation and appellate advocacy, having represented asylum seekers and individuals in removal proceedings before the Executive Office for Immigration Review. As Head of Appellate Litigation, she led litigation strategy, trained attorneys on complex asylum and humanitarian relief cases, and oversaw teams handling waivers and appeals. When the US withdrew from Afghanistan, she played a key role in firm-wide efforts to assist Afghan refugees, training legal teams and coordinating large-scale humanitarian parole and asylum applications. Beyond immigration law, Jessica has engaged in legal research and advocacy on international human rights issues, contributing to reports for the United Nations on corporate accountability under human rights frameworks. She previously served as a Judicial Law Clerk at the U.S. Department of Justice, advising on the immigration consequences of criminal convictions and drafting decisions for immigration judges. Currently based in Berlin, Jessica is a Commercial Legal Counsel, where she focuses on AI governance, compliance, and intellectual property. She is involved in shaping internal AI policies to align with emerging regulatory frameworks and ethical considerations in technology. She remains deeply committed to human rights advocacy, with a particular focus on refugee rights, international justice, and the intersection of law and emerging technologies.

Alongside our staff, 27 passionate volunteers play a vital role in everything we do. Their dedication and diverse expertise amplify our impact and bring our mission to life. Meet our volunteers:

Nima Akhavan, B2B Events Manager, studied for his Bachelor's in Engineering in Iran and pursued his MA in Business Management with a focus on Strategic Marketing in Berlin. He is an Events and Marketing Manager with 5 years of experience in planning and executing successful cultural and international corporate events (supported and coordinated 50 concerts and catering events for Microsoft, BMW, Benz, and Deutsche Bank), management and execution of over 20 major Techno events for 500 – 1500 people, including raves and showcases in Berlin, Hamburg, Eindhoven, Dresden, Wrocław, Freiburg, Munich, Mönchengladbach, Lyon, Bordeaux, Malaga, Cologne, HansBunte, Augsburg. Nima decided to start his new path in our NGO since the climate issue and the Geopolitical situation in the world are rapidly changing. He pursues his passion for Western politics, Middle East geopolitics, contemporary Arts, and Iaido, (a traditional Japanese sword art). He speaks 5 Languages including, English, German, Farsi, Kurdish, and Tajik. His aim in our organization is B2B events collaboration with various organizations based on our policies.

Jesse Bade, Legal Fellow and Managing Editor of the Just Access Blog, recently completed her master's thesis on the relationship between neoliberalism and human rights law at Europa-Universität Viadrina, where she studied International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. She also holds a Juris Doctorate with a concentration in International Law from the University of San Diego School of Law, as well as a Bachelor's in Journalism and in Political Science from Hofstra University. Jesse has worked as an editor at various periodicals and provided legal assistance to vulnerable populations through her work at clinics. She is a passionate human rights advocate with a particular interest in immigration, as well as economic, social, and cultural rights.

Sandra Berty, Senior Legal Fellow, is an international refugee law and gender-based violence specialist with more than a decade of experience working with UNHCR, UNICEF, IOM, and IRC across Africa, the Middle East, Asia, Europe, and the United States. She has led gender based violence prevention and response in emergency and displacement settings, including the Ukraine and Afghan responses, and previously practiced as an immigration and humanitarian attorney in the U.S. She holds a JD from Suffolk University Law School and a Research Master's in Sociology and Demography

from Universitat Pompeu Fabra.

Debasmita Bhattacharya, Legal Intern, is in her final year of her JD program at the University of Ottawa. She has strong research and analytical skills pertaining to international relations, and has a keen interest in women's legal rights, health law and human rights. She joined Just Access as an intern and was excited to remain as a volunteer and permanent member of our team.

Iseult Daly, Legal Fellow, is currently in the final year of an LLB degree in Law and International Relations at the University of Edinburgh. Iseult is deeply interested in the ways in which law and politics interact to drive social change, and in exploring what avenues are most effective counter global economic injustice. She hopes to move into a master's course which will allow her to develop her skills and, in the professional world, to work to disarm privatised power abuse and economic exploitation globally.

Andreas Daum, IT Assistant, supports Just Access in IT related matters. Until 2025, he worked for many years in different roles in software development for a large software company. Previously, Andreas worked for several years in international basic physics research projects at University and a Max-Planck-Institute.

Sabina Grigore, Just Access Representative to the UNODC, Sabina Grigore is a graduate from the Liberal Arts and Sciences Program in Freiburg im Breisgau with a Double Degree, as part of a collaborative project between University College Freiburg and University College Maastricht. She has dedicated two bachelor's theses to the conjunction of international criminal law, international human rights law, and transitional justice in post-communist Romania. In 2022, she was given the chance to work as a teaching assistant in two university courses focused on human rights, international security, and sustainable development. As part of the Digital Interdisciplinary Mini-Academy offered by the University of Freiburg, she has been working with Ukrainian students, assisting them in pursuing university courses despite the war. She is currently a Master's student at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, specializing in International Crimes, Conflict and Criminology.

Sarrah Hammerl, Legal Research Fellow, holds an MA in Social Anthropology from FU Berlin and a MSc in International Crimes, Conflict and Criminology from VU Amsterdam. She is currently pursuing her PhD as Doctoral Researcher at the International Max Planck Research School in Halle, focusing on human rights fact-

finding processes in the digital age. Before joining Just Access, Sarah has been working with different humanitarian and human rights organizations, including Doctors Without Borders (MSF), United Against Inhumanity (UAI) and the European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR).

Dr. Viktoriia Lapa, Senior Legal Fellow, is a Lecturer at Bocconi University of Milan, Affiliated Scholar at the Center for Constitutional Studies and Democratic Development, Bologna, and Visiting Lecturer at the University of Bologna. Previously, she was Visiting Research Fellow at the Lauterpacht Center for International Law, University of Cambridge (2018); Researcher at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law (2017-2018); Junior Lawyer at Dentons, Ukraine (2014-2015); and Prosecutor in Ukraine (2011-2012). She holds a PhD in law from Bocconi University and an LL.M. from the University of Barcelona and Maastricht University. Viktoriia has published in the fields of international commercial law and constitutional law of Ukraine.

Fitri Lestari, Legal Fellow, has been working as a woman human rights defender, migrant workers defender, and researcher since 2017, collaborating with various Non-Governmental Organizations in the Southeast Asia and East Asia regions. She completed her Master of Arts in Social Studies (with a focus on Civil Society Leadership) at Ajou University in the Republic of Korea in February 2024, supported by a full scholarship from the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA). She possesses strong skills in analysis, research, and providing legal opinions on human rights and democracy within the Southeast Asia and East Asia regions. She has an understanding of international human rights law, the UN Human Rights Mechanism, international politics, human rights research, advocacy, and monitoring. She has a deep willingness and passion to contribute to the protection and fulfillment of women's human rights, migrants' rights, human rights, and democracy.

Bertina Lou, Legal Fellow and Deputy Editor of the Just Access Blog, is a second-year law student at the University of Ottawa. She holds a Master of Arts in Sociology from Western University and has held research and policy roles in academia and federal organizations prior to law school. With a strong Canadian background in social justice issues, she is looking forward to helping Just Access defend human rights at the international level further. In addition to her work as a Legal Fellow, Bertina is Deputy Editor of the Just Access Blog.

Celeste Luciano, Fundraising Specialist and Research Fellow, is a social change passionate who has been looking for her way to make an impact for the most in need and disempowered. Her background in International Relations and Development has catalysed her last academic interest while supporting organisations, founding local development associations and joining some UN agencies efforts. This has led to a strong ethics-driven commitment for fundraising, capacity development and participatory mechanisms implementations across organisations. Activism and research interests include labour security, globalizations and food regimes, livelihoods rural and urban development, gendered livelihoods strategies. Celeste also pursues her passion for poetry, reading and sports.

Dr. Miranda Melcher, Senior Legal Fellow, earned her PhD in Defence Studies from King's College London, where she researched how to negotiate and implement peace treaties. Her research identifies methods for integrating opposing forces into unified post-conflict security institutions through peace treaty negotiation and implementation and her qualitative historical case studies focused on Mozambique and Angola. She works primarily with qualitative methods, including interviews and archival work, such as at the UN archives with recently declassified UN peacekeeping documents. Prior to her PhD, she earned an MA in Intelligence and International Relations from the Department of War Studies at King's College London and a BA in Political Science from Yale University. Dr. Melcher has taught at the Joint Services Command and Staff College (UK), Ecole de Guerre (France), King's College London (UK) and Northern Illinois University (USA). She also researches and teaches on neurodiverse inclusive teaching practices and pedagogy, finding surprising links between best practices in the classroom and political negotiations. Miranda is the unmistakable voice behind the Just Access Podcast.

Amelia Miller, Legal Research Fellow, is a Fulbright Postgraduate Award Recipient and holds an LLM in International Human Rights Law from the University of Nottingham, where she wrote a dissertation on the Right to a Healthy Environment and its potential to address the impacts of climate change on women. She also holds a B.A. in International Relations and a B.A. in Arabic Language and Cultural Studies from Tufts University. In the past, she worked and interned with organizations such as Greater Boston Legal Services, the Council on Foreign Relations, and Lawyers Without Borders. Amelia is deeply passionate about human rights advocacy, particularly issues related to climate change, women's rights, and rural issues. She is excited to continue

her advocacy by supporting the important work of Just Access.

Daren Nair, Head of Information Security, is a security consultant with 17 years experience helping organisations around the world keep themselves safe by implementing information security, physical security, privacy and business continuity. Daren has worked for global organisations in the UK including the Big Four consultancies and has been deployed to 23 countries worldwide. He has been helping Just Access e.V. *pro bono* as Head of Information Security since April 2024. Daren is also a former Director on the Board of Amnesty International UK where he was the technology subject matter expert on the board. Since 2016, Daren has been campaigning with the families of individuals held hostage or unjustly detained abroad to bring their loved ones home. His work on state-sponsored hostage-taking also known as hostage diplomacy has been cited in reports published by the UK Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee and the US Congressional-Executive Commission on China. Daren has been interviewed/quoted by news outlets worldwide including The Times of London, Reuters, Agence France-Presse, Deutschlandfunk, The Daily Beast, Haaretz as well as Australia's ABC Radio National.

Lena Neuhaus, Legal Fellow, completed her Bachelor's degree in German and French Law at the University of Nice and the University of Saarbrücken. She is currently pursuing a Master's in International Human Rights Law at the University of Groningen. Her thesis focuses on sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Lena is deeply passionate about European human rights and firmly believes that every individual deserves dignity, respect, and protection, regardless of their background, beliefs, or circumstances. She sees the defense and promotion of human rights as a shared global responsibility.

Melody Ugochi Nnaji, Legal Research Fellow, is an LL.B graduate with distinctions, is passionate about international law, human rights, diplomacy and global governance. She has developed research, legal analysis and advocacy experience through volunteer work with organisations engaged in human rights initiatives. Melody has also written articles examining developments in international law, governance and the protection of rights. In addition, she has participated in international fellowship and training programmes focused on diplomacy and global affairs, further strengthening her interest in the role of law and policy in addressing global challenges. Melody is particularly interested in how legal frameworks can move beyond theory to meaningfully improve the lives of individuals and communities. As a Legal Research Fellow at Just Access

e.V., she contributes to research and analysis on issues relating to international justice and human rights.

Rita Ostrowski, Pedagogical Advisor, joined Just Access in 2024 as Pedagogical Advisor, and is helping Just Access to design and deliver education programmes on human rights. Rita worked for social insurance for many years in various functions, including press and public relations as well as in the political field. She also spent several years working for several educational organisations and was responsible for funding management at a social services provider. She holds a bachelor's degree in health communication and an MA in Career Guidance and Organisational Development.

Josephine Preißler, Fundraising Specialist and Research Fellow, is currently a student in "Human Rights and Humanitarian Action" at Sciences Po Paris but originally from Dresden in Germany. During her Bachelor in "International Relations and Organizations" at Leiden University, she developed a passion for human rights and particularly the rights of migrants and refugees, on which she also focused her Bachelor Thesis. Her interest in the field of human rights was strengthened through her time working in Chile for the migrant organization Redin in Los Angeles, helping migrants with settling in the community. Now, she is continuing her devotion to this topic and human rights more broadly at Just Access.

Delasari Krisda Putri, Legal Fellow, is an adept researcher specializing in human rights issues, driven by a profound belief in the power of people to defend themselves and collaborate for impact. She holds Master's degree in Public International Law from Utrecht University. Previously Delasari served as a Human Rights Research and Advocacy Assistant at the Manushya Foundation, where she conducted comprehensive research and provided support for advocacy strategies. Her focus areas included democracy, digital rights, and access to justice for marginalized communities in Southeast Asia. Currently, Delasari contributes her expertise as a researcher at FIHRRST, where she is actively involved in conducting Human Rights Due Diligence Reports and researching International Human Rights Law. Her commitment to participatory approaches in human rights advocacy underscores her dedication to empowering communities and fostering collaboration for meaningful impact.

Joshua Rutter, Information Security Officer, after a long career in the arts and cultural field, Joshua has recently transitioned to working in IT and information security. Currently a student of Network Engineering at a technical college in Berlin, he began

assisting Just Access e.V. pro bono in April 2024 as their Information Security Officer. Joshua is very pleased to be able to play a small part in helping Just Access with its mission to champion the right of every person to access justice.

Prof. Mark Somos, Special Counsel and Board Chair, is a legal scholar and practitioner. He is the founder of Just Access and Chairman of the Board. He advises and represents private clients in human rights procedures at domestic and international fora, including urgent appeals and complaints to the UN Human Rights Council and Special Procedures. Mark holds an MPhil in Political Thought and Intellectual History from Cambridge, an AM in Government and Social Policy and a PhD in Political Science from Harvard, an LLM in International Security and Law from Sussex and a PhD in Law from Leiden. Currently in a Heisenberg position at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law, Mark taught law at Sussex, Tufts, Harvard and Yale universities. He published seven scholarly books and over seventy articles, and serves as co-editor-in-chief of *Grotiana*.

Ananya Timalisina, IT Support, is a software developer working primarily on web and mobile applications. Currently in high school, he pursues his interests in computer science and philosophy through building open-source projects and contributing to causes he believes in. At Just Access, he supports the organisation as an IT Assistant, contributing his technical skills to advance access to justice and human rights initiatives.

Uygar Ulusoy, Digital Marketing and Engagement Lead, is originally from Istanbul, where she studied sociology before earning her Master of Arts in Media Studies at The New School for Social Research in New York. She has extensive experience as a communication consultant, specializing in digital strategy, content creation, and brand management. Uygar has worked in both corporate and agency settings, helping organizations enhance their messaging and engage with diverse audiences. Fluent in Turkish, German, and English, she thrives in multicultural environments. At home, she enjoys life as a mother to two children and the owner of two playful cats.

Sorana Ungur, Research Fellow, is currently a student in “International Economics and Management” at Bocconi University in Milan, Italy. Originally from Romania, she has developed a strong interest in global economic and political dynamics. Her passion for writing and international affairs is reflected in her role as a writer for the European Generation blog, where she explores pressing global issues. She has also gained hands-

on experience through internships in finance and public administration, as well as volunteering initiatives supporting refugees and vulnerable communities. Now, she continues to deepen her expertise in economics, policy, and international relations.

Zinovia Verikokidi, Just Access Representative to the Coalition for the International Criminal Court, holds a Bachelor of Laws degree from Maastricht University and is now advancing her education as an LLM candidate in Trade and Investment Law at the University of Amsterdam. Her bachelor's thesis explored women's abortion rights, while her master's thesis assesses the impact of trade sanctions and their WTO compliance following the coup d'état in Myanmar. Professionally, Zinovia has garnered experience as a paralegal, with a focus on Intellectual Property Law. Additionally, she has served at the NATO Office Information Centre, where her efforts were directed towards promoting Moldova's European and Euro-Atlantic integration. Beyond her professional pursuits, Zinovia is an animal rights activist and is committed to animal welfare. She is the founder of Saving Moldova's Forgotten Animals NGO, an organization dedicated to rescuing animals and facilitating their adoption both nationally and internationally. In her social commitments, Zinovia has volunteered for multiple NGOs, including Little People Romania, War Child, and ALGA.

Vishal Wadhwani, Brand Strategist, is a seasoned professional in brand-building and marketing communications, with a wealth of experience spanning over 15 years across various categories and brands, from global titans to local gems. Among the notable brands he's contributed to are Unilever (Vaseline), Abbott Nutrition (Ensure), World Gold Council, Acer Laptops, and Parachute Coconut Hair Oil (India's largest hair oil brand), amongst others. Beyond his professional endeavors, Vishal is deeply committed to humanitarian causes, engaging in social work and charitable pursuits on a personal level in his native India. In his leisure time, he finds joy in following European football and reconnecting with nature, often immersing himself in his passion for bird photography. Fluent in English and Hindi, he's also currently mastering Deutsch.

In addition, during the reporting period we have had two very talented interns who supported our work, bringing new energy, skills, and commitment to advancing our mission.

Maya Davutoglu, Intern, is a high school student at the Internationale Gesamtschule Heidelberg with a strong interest in human rights. She joined Just Access for a three-week internship as part of her 11th-grade civics curriculum. During her time with us, she conducted valuable research on the presence of human rights content on social

media platforms targeting teenagers, as well as emerging trends across different channels. She also explored strategies for effectively reaching young audiences and raising awareness of human rights among teenagers.

David Mehlhorn, Legal Intern, is a fourth-year law student at the University of Passau. As the internship with Just Access is his first closer contact with human rights law, he is especially looking forward to the exciting opportunity of using his academic education to fight for people in need.

Flóra Merész, Legal Intern, is a Public International Law LL.M. candidate at Leiden University. She recently graduated from Leiden University College, where she majored in International Justice. Additionally, she completed an Erasmus+ semester at Sciences Po to deepen her understanding of international relations. Her main research interests lie at the intersection of International Human Rights, Humanitarian and Criminal law. Flóra is especially interested in the use of military AI, and its impact on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, a topic on which she has been conducting extensive research for both her Bachelor's and Master's Thesis. In the future, she aspires to combine legal research with practical relevance for victims of international crimes and human rights violations, particularly in the context of armed conflict.

IV. ACHIEVEMENTS

During the reporting period, Just Access made significant progress across its core areas of work, further strengthening its role as a trusted actor in international human rights advocacy. Building on its established expertise and networks, the organisation expanded both the scope and depth of its engagement, responding to emerging global challenges while remaining firmly anchored in its mission to advance access to justice, accountability, and human rights protection.

The achievements outlined in this section reflect sustained efforts across advocacy, strategic litigation, human rights education, as well as internally on organisational development. They demonstrate not only the impact of individual projects and initiatives, but also the cumulative effect of long-term relationship-building, coalition work, and knowledge production. Together, these results highlight a year of consolidation and growth, marked by increased visibility, stronger partnerships, and meaningful contributions to key policy and legal debates at international level.

IV.1. ADVOCACY

Advocacy remains at the heart of Just Access' mission. Through active engagement with international institutions, expert networks, civil society coalitions, and policy processes, Just Access works to advance accountability, strengthen access to justice, and promote the protection of human rights worldwide. During the reporting period, the organisation expanded its advocacy across climate justice, anti-corruption, international criminal justice, humanitarian protection, and civic space, contributing legal expertise, policy recommendations, and strategic input to numerous international initiatives.

- In November 2025, Just Access participated in the Climate Ethics Workshop hosted by the University of Heidelberg, contributing to expert discussions on climate justice and environmental ethics.
- From 2–7 December 2025, Just Access attended the Twenty-fourth Session of the Assembly of States Parties to the International Criminal Court in The Hague, strengthening engagement with international accountability actors and contributing to discussions on developments in international criminal justice.
- On 11 March 2026, Just Access submitted recommendations to the consultation on the implementation of the EU Whistleblower Directive.

- On 13 March 2026, Just Access presented at the Second International Scientific Conference on International Legal Aspects of Climate Change, delivering a presentation on climate adaptation as a human rights obligation.
- On 13 March 2026, Just Access submitted expert input to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) consultation *Delivering for People in Conflict Settings: Reflecting on an Evolving Humanitarian Landscape*, including a paper entitled *Strategic Litigation and the Future of Humanitarian Protection*.
- In March 2026, Just Access participated in the UNCAC Coalition Annual Community Survey.
- In March 2026, Just Access attended the 21st UNCAC Victims of Corruption Working Group Meeting on judicial intervention in victim standing and compensation.
- In March 2026, Just Access co-signed a joint civil society letter supporting the European Parliament's proposal to strengthen AgoraEU within the 2028–2034 Multiannual Financial Framework.
- On 30 March 2026, Just Access submitted expert input to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to a Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment on participatory mechanisms, including citizens' assemblies.
- In April 2026, Just Access participated in the Third International Sudan Conference in Berlin, contributing to discussions on accountability, humanitarian protection, and peacebuilding.
- In April 2026, Just Access attended a UNCAC Coalition working group meeting on the implementation of the EU Whistleblower Directive.
- In April 2026, Just Access responded to the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) consultation on the experiences of civil society organisations working on human rights across the European Union and candidate countries.
- In April 2026, Just Access joined an open letter, coordinated through the UNCAC Coalition, calling for stronger European leadership towards a global agreement on environmental crimes.
- In April 2026, Just Access provided legal advisory support on engagement with United

Nations Special Procedures concerning disability rights.

- On 4 May 2026, Just Access submitted recommendations to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) consultation on corruption and human rights.
- In May 2026, Just Access represented civil society at the inaugural meeting of the implementation committee established following the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights study on prison conditions in Africa.
- On 13 May 2026, Just Access submitted recommendations on South Africa's Protected Disclosure Bill.
- In June 2026, Just Access submitted recommendations to the consultation on the European Union Anti-Corruption Strategy.
- In June 2026, Just Access attended the UNCAC Victims of Corruption Working Group meeting on sanctions and victim compensation in the context of multilateral development banks.
- In June 2026, Just Access participated in the UNCAC Coalition webinar *Repatriating the Profits of Corruption: The Next Frontier in Asset Recovery?*
- In June 2026, Just Access participated in the ICC–NGO Roundtables on sexual and gender-based violence, strengthening engagement with international justice practitioners and civil society organisations.
- In June 2026, Just Access participated in a webinar organised by the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) on the development of an online glossary on sexual and gender-based violence.
- In June 2026, Just Access co-signed a joint civil society letter calling on European leaders to adopt an EU budget that adequately addresses current societal and global challenges.
- In June 2026, Just Access' paper on children's rights and climate adaptation was accepted for presentation at the Association of Human Rights Institutes Conference, further contributing to international discussions on climate justice and human rights.

IV.2. STRATEGIC LEGAL ACTION

In 2026, Just Access underwent a period of significant organisational restructuring that required the organisation to prioritise institutional stability and the continuity of its core operations. As a consequence, we were not able to pursue new strategic litigation cases before domestic or international courts, nor were we able to implement all of the planned follow-up actions arising from the strategic litigation portfolio developed in previous years.

In particular, the intended next steps relating to our interventions before the European Court of Human Rights, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, and other international human rights mechanisms had to be temporarily postponed while organisational resources were redirected towards ensuring the long-term sustainability of the organisation. This was a difficult but necessary decision, reflecting our commitment to preserving the institutional capacity required to continue our strategic litigation work in the future.

Despite these constraints, 2026 was far from a dormant year from a strategic legal perspective. Rather than engaging primarily in litigation, Just Access invested significant resources in developing innovative legal arguments, documenting international crimes, supporting victims, and laying the evidentiary and jurisprudential foundations for future accountability processes. This work culminated in one of the organisation's most ambitious accountability initiatives to date - the Sudan Project.

Since September 2025, the project has focused on documenting violations committed by the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), developing innovative legal arguments under international law, supporting survivors, and engaging extensively with international accountability mechanisms. During the reporting period, Just Access collected first-hand testimonies from survivors, prepared numerous submissions and confidential communications to United Nations mechanisms and international justice institutions, and continued its advocacy for the recognition and protection of Sudan's Emergency Response Rooms as legitimate representatives of Sudanese civil society.

While the Sudan Project has not yet resulted in active litigation before domestic or international courts, it has laid important evidentiary and jurisprudential foundations for future accountability processes, including engagement with the International Criminal Court and UN investigative mechanisms. A detailed overview of the Sudan Project, including its objectives, activities, legal innovations, international advocacy, and anticipated impact, is provided in the **Projects** section of this report.

IV.3. HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION AND AWARENESS RAISING

Throughout the reporting period, Just Access further strengthened its human rights education work by combining accessible public engagement formats with in-depth legal and academic content, aiming to bridge the gap between complex international legal frameworks and wider public understanding.

A central pillar of our educational work continued to be the Just Access Podcast, which remains one of the organisation's most important tools for public legal education. During the reporting period, the podcast expanded both in scope and reach, producing seventeen new episodes across the end of Season 3 and the beginning of Season 4. These episodes covered a wide range of topics, including ceasefires and peace processes, corporate accountability, artificial intelligence and law, domestic prosecution of international crimes, public health in conflict settings, gender-based violence, and access to justice in Europe and beyond. By engaging leading scholars, practitioners, and international experts, the podcast continued to translate complex legal debates into accessible conversations for a broad audience, while also highlighting practical pathways for advancing human rights and accountability.

The educational impact of the podcast was further strengthened through improved production structures and volunteer engagement. The introduction of a dedicated podcast workflow policy and a structured Slack-based coordination system significantly enhanced collaboration, consistency, and quality control. These improvements also created more meaningful opportunities for volunteers to engage directly in content production, thereby extending the educational reach of the organisation through participatory learning and skills development.

In addition to audio-based education, Just Access expanded its written human rights education through its blog, which published five new articles during the reporting period. These contributions addressed pressing issues in international law and human rights, including the weaponisation of economic and social rights, gender justice, climate accountability, and structural inequalities in global governance. The blog continued to serve as a key platform for translating legal analysis into accessible public-facing content for students, practitioners, policymakers, and the wider public.

Human rights education was also advanced through innovative public engagement formats. The second season of the "International Law and Popcorn" film screening series, co-organised with the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law and Gloria Kino, combined cinema with expert-led discussions on themes such as armed conflict, colonial

legacies, migration, and the evolving challenges to international law. By situating legal reflection within cultural and narrative formats, the series made international law more accessible and fostered inclusive public dialogue on justice and accountability.

Further educational outreach was achieved through participation in public awareness initiatives, including the “Verlassene Kinderzimmer” campaign in Heidelberg. Through symbolic public installations focused on children’s rights, mental health, and family separation, Just Access contributed to raising awareness of the lived experiences of children affected by structural and legal inequalities, linking these themes to broader human rights frameworks.

Across all these activities, Just Access continued to pursue a consistent educational approach grounded in accessibility, interdisciplinarity, and engagement with both expert and non-expert audiences. By combining academic analysis, storytelling, cultural formats, and digital outreach, the organisation strengthened its role as a public educator in international law and human rights, while ensuring that complex legal issues remain accessible, relevant, and impactful.

IV.4. INTERNAL INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

If The 2025–2026 reporting period was marked by a significant internal transition that required Just Access to prioritise organisational resilience, continuity, and institutional strengthening. Following the departure of several core staff members, including members of leadership, the organisation faced substantial gaps in capacity and institutional knowledge. In response, a central focus of the year became the consolidation and formalisation of internal structures to ensure the continuity of operations and the long-term sustainability of the organisation.

A key priority was the systematic review and strengthening of internal procedures and workflows. Across all programme areas, Just Access invested in documenting essential processes, refining internal policies, and improving onboarding materials for staff and volunteers. This included clearer articulation of roles and responsibilities, as well as the standardisation of recurring operational procedures. These measures have significantly improved organisational clarity and reduced dependency on individual institutional knowledge.

A major development during the reporting period was the introduction of more structured and collaborative communication systems across the organisation. The launch of a monthly internal newsletter in May 2026 strengthened internal information-sharing and ensured greater visibility of activities across teams, volunteers, and staff. In parallel, coordination tools were further

developed to improve alignment between legal research, advocacy, communications, and project implementation.

Volunteer integration was further strengthened as part of this restructuring process. Volunteers continued to play a central role across all areas of work, and many stepped into increased responsibilities during the transition period. Several volunteers subsequently joined the organisation in formal staff positions, reflecting the strength and continuity of Just Access's community-based model. Internal coordination systems were adapted to better integrate volunteers into core workflows, ensuring more consistent participation and clearer pathways for engagement.

Digital infrastructure and workflow management also saw targeted improvements. A dedicated podcast workflow policy was introduced, formalising responsibilities and procedures across all stages of production, from topic selection and guest coordination to editing, publication, and dissemination. To support this, a dedicated Slack-based coordination system was established, connecting the core podcast team with volunteers and improving efficiency, quality control, and collaboration.

Similarly, the organisation's publication processes were strengthened through the introduction of a new blog workflow via Slack. Dedicated channels for writers and editors enabled more structured collaboration, improved editorial oversight, and streamlined publication processes. This contributed to a more transparent and participatory content production system, while also increasing output consistency and engagement across the volunteer network.

In addition to workflow improvements, Just Access invested in broader knowledge management and institutional learning systems. Documentation practices were expanded to capture key operational knowledge, ensuring continuity across projects and reducing reliance on individual staff members. These efforts were particularly important during a year of organisational change and helped safeguard institutional memory while enabling smoother transitions in staffing and responsibilities.

Taken together, these measures reflect a deliberate shift towards a more resilient, structured, and sustainable organisational model. While the reporting period presented significant challenges, it also served as an opportunity to strengthen the internal foundations of Just Access. The organisation emerges from this period with more robust systems, clearer processes, and improved capacity for coordination across its growing portfolio of legal, advocacy, and public engagement work.

V. PUBLICATIONS

Throughout the reporting period, Just Access continued to strengthen its role as a trusted voice on international law, human rights, and access to justice. While our publication output was more selective this year, each article was closely aligned with our strategic litigation, advocacy, and research priorities, providing timely, accessible, and analytically grounded commentary on emerging legal and human rights challenges.

The Just Access blog remained an important platform for public education and awareness-raising, translating complex legal developments into accessible analysis for practitioners, policymakers, students, and the wider public. During the reporting period, we also introduced a new editorial workflow that strengthened collaboration among volunteer writers and editors, streamlined the publication process, and established clearer procedures for developing, reviewing, and disseminating content. These improvements have laid the foundation for a more sustainable and consistent publication strategy in the years ahead.

During the reporting period, Just Access published the following articles:

- You want your meds? Swear allegiance to Russia first’: How Russia is weaponizing economic and social rights to erase the Ukrainian identity in occupied Territories – 28 January 2026;
- The Opposites Within – 3 March, 2026;
- Since when is counter-terrorism a bad thing? – 18 June, 2026;
- When Space Debris Hits Your House Who Do You Sue? – 24 June, 2026;
- Offshore Detention and the Right to a Remedy – 26 June, 2026.

Alongside our blog publications, Just Access maintained an active presence across LinkedIn, Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), Bluesky, Mastodon, Instagram, and TikTok. These platforms enabled us to disseminate our publications, share developments from our legal and advocacy work, promote podcast episodes and events, and engage with a growing international audience. By integrating our publications with broader digital communications, we continued to expand the reach and accessibility of our work while fostering informed public dialogue on international law and human rights.

VI. PARTNERSHIPS AND NETWORKING

1) INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL NETWORKS

Throughout the reporting period, Just Access further strengthened its engagement with international institutions, expert networks, and civil society coalitions working on human rights, accountability, climate justice, and access to justice.

- Just Access actively contributed to international accountability processes through participation in the 24th Session of the Assembly of States Parties to the International Criminal Court (December 2025) in The Hague, as well as the Third International Sudan Conference in Berlin (April 2026), co-hosted by Germany, the EU, the African Union, France, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- The organisation provided legal and policy input to international mechanisms, including a submission to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) consultation on humanitarian protection in conflict settings (March 2026), as well as advisory support to UN Special Procedures on disability rights (April 2026).
- Just Access strengthened its engagement with African human rights mechanisms through participation in the inaugural meeting of the implementation committee following the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights study on prison conditions in Africa (May 2026), building on prior contributions relating to detention conditions in Sudan.
- The organisation continued its engagement with international justice networks, including participation in ICC–NGO roundtables on sexual and gender-based violence (June 2026) and a webinar organised by the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) on the development of a global glossary on sexual and gender-based violence (June 2026).
- In the field of anti-corruption and access to justice, Just Access remained actively engaged in the UNCAC Coalition, contributing to working group discussions and policy processes on whistleblower protection, victims' rights, sanctions, and asset recovery, as well as submitting expert responses to consultations including the EU Whistleblower Directive, the South Africa Protected Disclosure Bill, the EU Anti-Corruption Strategy, and OHCHR consultations on corruption and human rights.

- Just Access expanded its contribution to EU-level civil society advocacy by co-signing joint statements on strengthening AgoraEU in the EU Multiannual Financial Framework (March 2026), contributing to the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights consultation on civil society experiences (April 2026), and signing a civil society call for an EU budget aligned with current global challenges (June 2026).
- In the field of climate justice and human rights, the organisation participated in expert forums and academic networks, including the Climate Ethics Workshop at the University of Heidelberg (November 2025), contributions to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to a Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment (March 2026), and acceptance of a paper on children's rights and climate adaptation for the Association of Human Rights Institutes Conference (June 2026).
- Just Access also contributed to international academic and policy dialogue through participation in the “Inter-Civilisational Dialogue from a European Perspective” project led by Dublin City University and the Institute for Integrated Transitions, presenting in Barcelona (May 2026) on fragmentation and accountability in international law.
- The organisation's application for ECOSOC consultative status was reviewed during the January and May 2026 sessions of the UN NGO Committee. Following requests for clarification, the application was deferred to the next review cycle in January 2027. Just Access remains committed to the process and to strengthening its engagement with UN-level policy forums.

2) RAISING VISIBILITY AND PROMOTION

Throughout the reporting period, Just Access significantly expanded its public-facing activities, strengthening the accessibility of international law and human rights discourse through cultural, educational, and digital formats.

- Together with the Max Planck Institute, Just Access co-organised the second round of the “International Law and Popcorn” film screening series (April–July 2026), combining film and expert discussion to make international law accessible to broader audiences. The organisation has also begun preparatory work for a similar initiative in Barcelona with local partners.
- In Heidelberg, Just Access participated in the “Verlassene Kinderzimmer” public

awareness campaign, using symbolic installations of stuffed animals carrying messages on children's rights, mental health, and parental separation. The installations were placed in public spaces to encourage reflection on children's lived experiences and rights protection.

- The Just Access Podcast continued to serve as a key outreach platform, reaching 81 published episodes to date. During the reporting period, Season 4 focused on humanitarian protection, access to justice, and accountability, including interviews with leading international experts.
- The Just Access Blog published five new articles addressing issues such as gender justice, pinkwashing, climate accountability, and the weaponisation of economic and social rights.
- Internally, Just Access launched a monthly internal newsletter in May 2026 to improve communication and visibility across teams, volunteers, and staff, strengthening organisational cohesion and knowledge sharing.

VII. PROJECTS

1) JUST ACCESS PODCAST

Our podcast continued to be a cornerstone of Just Access’ outreach, education, and public engagement efforts throughout Year Six. Guided by the motto “**Everyone can be a Human Rights Defender,**” the podcast makes complex legal and human rights issues accessible to a broad audience while providing a platform for leading scholars, practitioners, policymakers, and activists to share their expertise and experiences. By combining in-depth discussions with an engaging and accessible format, we seek to raise awareness, inspire action, and foster informed public dialogue on access to justice and human rights.

Between June 2025 and July 2026, we published seventeen episodes across the end of Season 3 and the beginning of Season 4. The season featured conversations on ceasefires and peace agreements, legal technology and artificial intelligence, Rules as Code, corporate accountability and democracy, compliance with European Court of Human Rights judgments, public health in conflict settings, domestic prosecutions of international crimes, careers in international criminal justice, gender-based violence, and the protection of human rights across Europe. Guests included internationally recognised experts such as **Professor Michael O’Flaherty**, Commissioner for Human Rights at the Council of Europe, **Professor Joel Bakan**, one of the world’s foremost scholars on corporate power and democracy, as well as leading academics and practitioners from institutions including the University of Edinburgh, the University of Amsterdam, the Government of Canada, and the Heidelberg Institute of Global Health. These conversations continued to position the podcast as a platform connecting cutting-edge research with practical approaches to advancing justice.

During the reporting period, we also significantly strengthened our podcast operations by introducing a dedicated **Podcast Workflow Policy**, establishing clear procedures and responsibilities for every stage of production—from identifying topics and inviting guests to recording, editing, publication, and promotion. To support collaboration across our growing volunteer network, we launched a dedicated **Slack podcast channel** connecting the core production team with all podcast volunteers. This streamlined workflow has improved coordination, increased efficiency, enhanced quality control, and created more meaningful opportunities for volunteers to contribute to the production of the podcast.

Here is the complete list of Just Access podcast episodes published during the reporting period, listed by title:

- **Season 3 - Episode 14:** *How Does Data Shape the Way We Understand Peace Agreements?* – Interview with **Dr. Marika Sosnowski**, legal scholar and author of *Redefining Ceasefires: Wartime Order and Statebuilding in Syria*, and **Dr. Sanja Badanjak**, Data Director at PeaceRep and Chancellor’s Fellow at the University of Edinburgh Law School, (14 July, 2025).
- **Season 3 - Episode 15:** *What Can Ceasefires Really Achieve in Today’s Conflicts?* – Part 2 of the interview with **Dr. Marika Sosnowski**, legal scholar and author of *Redefining Ceasefires: Wartime Order and Statebuilding in Syria*, and **Dr. Sanja Badanjak**, Data Director at PeaceRep and Chancellor’s Fellow at the University of Edinburgh Law School, (6 August, 2025).
- **Season 3 - Episode 16:** *How Can Coding Transform the Way We Understand Law?* - Interview with **Martin Perron**, a lawyer and developer at the Government of Canada, about his unconventional path from law school to leading-edge work on *Rules as Code*, (23 June 2025)
- **Season 3 – Episode 17:** *Can Technology Democratize Legal Knowledge?* – Part 2 of the interview with **Martin Perron**, lawyer and developer with the Government of Canada, on Rules as Code, legal automation, and how technology can improve access to justice and democratize legal knowledge (16 September, 2025).
- **Season 3 – Episode 18:** *Why Look at Corporations to Understand Inequality?* – Interview with **Dr. Joel Bakan**, Professor of Law at the University of British Columbia and author of *The Corporation* and *The New Corporation*, on corporate power, democracy, and accountability (13 October, 2025).
- **Season 3 – Episode 19:** *How Are Corporations Eroding Democracy?* – Part 2 of the interview with **Dr. Joel Bakan**, Professor of Law at the University of British Columbia, on corporate influence, democracy, strategic litigation, and reclaiming public institutions (27 October, 2025).
- **Season 3 – Episode 20:** *How Can We Research the Impact of European Human Rights Rulings?* – Interview with **Dr. José Reis**, Research Analyst at the Portuguese National Cybersecurity Center, and **Dr. Marcel Garz**, Associate Professor at Jönköping University, on researching how media attention influences compliance with judgments of the European Court of Human Rights (10 November, 2025).

- **Season 3 – Episode 22:** *Does Media Attention Make Countries Obey Human Rights Rulings?* – Part 2 of the interview with **Dr. José Reis**, Research Analyst at the Portuguese National Cybersecurity Center, and **Dr. Marcel Garz**, Associate Professor at Jönköping University, on the relationship between media coverage and state compliance with European Court of Human Rights judgments (24 November, 2025).
- **Season 3 – Episode 23:** *Healing Communities: A Doctor's Role in Public Health* – Interview with **Dr. Fekri Dureab**, physician-researcher at the Heidelberg Institute of Global Health, on public health in conflict settings, disease surveillance, misinformation, and strengthening fragile health systems (9 December, 2025).
- **Season 3 – Episode 24:** *Healing Communities in Crisis: Public Health, Hunger, and Preparedness in Conflict Settings* – Part 2 of the interview with **Dr. Fekri Dureab**, physician-researcher at the Heidelberg Institute of Global Health, on epidemic preparedness, malnutrition, humanitarian ethics, and sustainable health systems in conflict-affected regions (30 December, 2025).
- **Season 4 – Episode 1:** *Domestic Courts, International Crimes: Who Decides What Gets Prosecuted?* – Interview with **Sabina Grigore**, PhD Candidate at the University of Amsterdam, on domestic prosecutions of international crimes, prosecutorial discretion, and access to justice (20 January, 2026).
- **Season 4 – Episode 2:** *Why Prosecutors Play a Decisive Role in Shaping Access to Justice?* – Part 2 of the interview with **Sabina Grigore**, PhD Candidate at the University of Amsterdam, on prosecutorial discretion, institutional gatekeeping, and the pursuit of just outcomes (3 February, 2026).
- **Season 4 – Episode 3:** *Working at the ICC – How to Get There and What Is It Like?* – Interview with **Ignacio Baeriswyl**, Chilean-qualified lawyer, former Associate Legal Officer at the ICC Reparations Section, Lecturer and PhD Candidate at the University of Amsterdam, on careers at the International Criminal Court and victim-centred justice (17 February, 2026).
- **Season 4 – Episode 4:** *Researching the Mechanics of Prosecuting Atrocities* – Part 2 of the interview with **Ignacio Baeriswyl**, PhD Researcher and Lecturer at the University of Amsterdam, on domestic extraterritorial atrocity prosecutors and accountability for international crimes (6 March, 2026).

- **Season 4 – Episode 5:** *What Can a Career Fighting Gender-Based Violence Look Like?* – Interview with **Sandra Berty**, international refugee law and gender-based violence specialist, on humanitarian work, justice for survivors, and careers in international protection (20 April, 2026).
- **Season 4 – Episode 6:** *Violence Against Mothers & the Future of Accountability* – Part 2 of the interview with **Sandra Berty**, legal professional specialising in gender-based violence and international justice, on violence against mothers, reproductive rights, and emerging developments in international law (4 May, 2026).
- **Season 4 – Episode 7:** *A Conversation with Europe’s Field Diplomat* – Interview with *Professor Michael O’Flaherty*, Commissioner for Human Rights at the Council of Europe, on protecting human rights in Europe, Ukraine, Roma communities, AI, migration, and the role of human rights defenders (18 May, 2026).

2) **INTERNATIONAL LAW AND POPCORN – FILM SCREENING SERIES**

Building on the success of last year’s inaugural season, Just Access once again co-organized the *International Law and Popcorn* film screening series in partnership with the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law (MPIL) and Gloria Kino in Heidelberg. The second season explored the increasingly discussed crisis of the international legal order, examining how contemporary challenges to international law are rooted in historical processes and continue to shape conflicts, human rights, and global justice today.

The programme included:

- **What Remains – Journalists in Crisis Areas** – on the protection of women journalists in conflict zones and the gendered shortcomings of international humanitarian and human rights law, discussed by the movie’s director Lotta Pommerien & Annika Knauer (MPIL);
- **Apocalypse Now** – on the role of public discourse and international humanitarian law in shaping and normalizing perceptions of war, from Vietnam to Gaza; discussed by Leon Seidl (MPIL);
- **Dahomey** – on colonial legacies, the restitution of cultural heritage, and the enduring legal and ethical questions surrounding colonial dispossession, discussed by Matthias

Goldmann (MPIL);

- **Khartoum** – on the ongoing conflict in Sudan and the lived experiences of civilians affected by war, displacement, and humanitarian crisis, discussed by Mark Somos (Just Access eV.); and
- **Green Border** – on the human impact of European border policies, the securitisation of migration, and the legal obligations of European states under international and European human rights law, discussed by Dana Schmalz (MPIL).

As in the previous year, the screenings attracted engaged audiences and were followed by lively discussions with legal scholars and practitioners. By combining cinema with expert analysis, the series created an accessible space for critical reflection on complex international legal issues, encouraging dialogue on the historical and contemporary forces shaping today's global legal order. The continued success of the initiative further strengthened our collaboration with MPIL and Gloria Kino and reaffirmed the value of innovative public engagement on international law.

During the reporting period, Just Access also laid the groundwork for bringing the *International Law and Popcorn* series to Barcelona, where we plan to launch the programme in collaboration with local partners, expanding its reach to new audiences and fostering cross-border dialogue on international law and justice.

Please see the promotional poster below:

INTERNATIONAL LAW & POPCORN

Film and Lecture Series – Summer Semester 2026



mon 02/03 8:00 p.m.

WHAT REMAINS

JOURNALISTS IN CRISIS AREAS

discussed by the movie's director
Lotta Pommerien & Annika Knauer (MPIL)



mon 20/04 7:30 p.m.

APOCALYPSE NOW

discussed by Leon Seidl (MPIL)



mon 11/05 8:00 p.m.

DAHOMEY

discussed by Matthias Goldmann (MPIL)



mon 08/06 8:00 p.m.

GREEN BORDER

discussed by Dana Schmalz (MPIL)



mon 06/07 8:00 p.m.

KHARTOUM

discussed by Mark Somos (Just Access e.V.)

Moderator:

Moritz Vinken

(Max-Planck-Institute)

Films in original language
English subtitles for non-English films

Introductions and discussions
in English



DIE KAMERA – Brückenstraße 26 – 69120 Heidelberg-Neuenheim
Reservation: 06221 40 98 02 – Ticket shop: gloria-kamera-kinos.de

3) INTERCIVILISATIONAL DIALOGUE

In its sixth year, Just Access joined “Imagining Inter-Civilisational Dialogue from a European Perspective,” a multi-stakeholder academic project led by the Centre for Religion, Human Values, and International Relations at Dublin City University (DCU) and directed by Professor Philip McDonagh. The project convenes scholars, diplomats, practitioners, and representatives of religious and philosophical traditions from across Europe, West Asia, South Asia, North America, and Africa to reflect on the “effective shared values” that might underpin a renewed multilateralism.

Conceived as a civil-society contribution to the inter-civilisational, intercultural, and interfaith dialogue promoted by the United Nations (and drawing on precedents such as the Helsinki Final Act, the UN Alliance of Civilizations, and the International Day for Dialogue among Civilizations) it seeks to open space for a values-based “civilisational diplomacy” running in parallel with day-to-day politics. Its conclusions will take the form of a learning brief and a fuller report, with a public launch envisaged to coincide with the International Day for Dialogue among Civilizations in June 2027.

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ust Access, represented by Luca Brocca (Head of Legal Research), took part in the first two of the project’s three plenary workshops, bringing the legal and access-to-justice perspective to a conversation otherwise centred on political philosophy, religion, and diplomacy. At the first workshop, held in Dublin (Albert College) on 27-28 November 2025, Just Access presented a paper on the jurisprudence of outer space, “Space and Inter-Civilisational Dialogue from a European Perspective,” co-authored by Luca Brocca and Mark Somos (Special Counsel). The paper asks whether Europe’s human-rights-based conception of peace can guide an inter-civilisational dialogue on the growing militarisation of outer space. Taking the 1967 Outer Space Treaty and its unresolved principle of “peaceful use” as its starting point, it shows how that ambiguity has been read differently across civilisational traditions (American deterrence, Chinese sovereignty and harmony, and the European idea of peace through law) even as the European Union’s own discourse has drifted from a civilian, cooperative enterprise toward the vocabulary of security and defence. Just Access argued that Europe’s post-war legal humanism offers a normative framework for governing space; that human rights principles (transparency, accountability, participation, and non-discrimination) provide a common language in which diverse civilisations can engage; and that Europe is well placed to act as a “mediating civilisation,” including through confidence-building measures and a possible

Human Rights and Space Ethics Charter.

At the second workshop, held in Barcelona (Recinte Modernista de Sant Pau) on 7-8 May 2026, Just Access presented “The State of Debate on International Jurisprudence: Fragmentation, Accountability, and the Search for Shared Legal Values,” in a session shared with David Donoghue (co-facilitator of the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals) and Daniel Cloney (Office of the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief). The paper examines the tension between international law’s claim to universality and the deep inequalities of access that mark the system in practice. Weaving together the International Law Commission’s diagnosis of “fragmentation,” Antony Anghie’s account of international law’s colonial foundations, and two live developments (the July 2025 ICJ Advisory Opinion on climate change and the twenty-year evolution of the Responsibility to Protect) it argues that access to justice is a condition for the legitimacy of the international legal system, and that genuine inter-civilisational dialogue must include the communities most directly affected by the law’s failings if it is to hold the powerful to account. This argument sits at the very heart of Just Access’s mission, drawing an explicit line from our day-to-day litigation and advocacy to the structural questions animating the project.

Both contributions were warmly received. In June 2026, the organisers invited participants to develop their papers into chapters of an edited volume. The draft chapters have since been submitted for review. Just Access looks forward to taking part in the project’s concluding workshop, planned for Vienna toward the end of 2026, and to the publication of the project’s outputs in 2027.

Beyond the specific contributions, participation in this project has extended Just Access’s network into a distinguished circle of diplomats, academics, and civil-society and faith-based actors, and has reaffirmed the organisation’s conviction that access to justice and human rights are a shared language through which very different traditions can reason together about peace.

4) THE SUDAN PROJECT – ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THE SUDANESE ARMED FORCES

Since September 2025, Just Access has been documenting violations and pursuing accountability for crimes committed by the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) in Sudan’s ongoing war. International attention has focused overwhelmingly on the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), and rightly so, but the SAF is responsible for grave violations of its own, including unlawful airstrikes, arbitrary detention, torture, ethnic profiling, and the obstruction of humanitarian aid.

The SAF has also been the party most resistant to negotiation. By giving voice to the SAF's victims and placing their testimony on the record, the Sudan Project seeks both to advance accountability and to move the parties toward a credible, inclusive, and negotiated end to the conflict.

The project is built on first-hand testimony and submissions to international mechanisms. During the reporting year, a Just Access team has interviewed survivors of the conflict now living in a refugee camp, gathering detailed accounts of SAF violations. Each statement was provided with the informed consent of the witness for use in accountability and advocacy work. These testimonies form the evidentiary backbone of our submissions to UN calls for inputs, special rapporteurs, treaty and Charter bodies, the UN Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for the Sudan, and international justice mechanisms.

The Emergency Response Rooms – Sudan's legitimate voice

A central element of the project is our advocacy on behalf of the Emergency Response Rooms (ERRs) — neighbourhood-based mutual aid networks that grew out of the resistance committees behind Sudan's 2019 revolution. With roughly 26,000 volunteers, the ERRs run community kitchens, hospitals and clinics, water distribution, evacuations, and support for survivors of sexual violence, having reached more than 11.5 million people. In large parts of Sudan they are the only functioning governance and protection structures, and their legitimacy is rooted in popular consent and demonstrated service rather than military force. Their work has been recognised internationally: they were nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize by the Peace Research Institute Oslo in 2024 and 2025, honoured with the EU's human rights prize in 2025, and awarded the 2025 Right Livelihood Award. Just Access argues that the ERRs are the most credible living embodiment of Sudanese popular sovereignty and the legitimate representatives of the Sudanese people, and that they should be recognised and protected — given a seat in peace processes and treated by humanitarian actors as direct partners, without their access to communities being held hostage to the consent of the military authorities.

The legal arguments we are advancing:

Beyond documenting violations, the Sudan Project develops innovative legal arguments designed to strengthen protection for victims and widen the avenues for accountability. Four in particular stand out:

1. Sudanese tribal communities as “indigenous peoples.” Just Access argues that the tribal communities targeted in this conflict (both non-Arab groups such as the Fur and the Nuba and Arab pastoralist groups such as the Baggara) meet the criteria recognised in international law for indigenous and tribal peoples: cultural distinctiveness, self-identification, customary governance, dependence on ancestral land, and a history of marginalisation. Drawing on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), ILO Conventions Nos. 107 and 169, the African Charter, and the jurisprudence of the African and Inter-American human rights systems, this framing brings their persecution within the heightened protections owed to indigenous peoples and sharpens the evidence of group-targeting relevant to genocide. To our knowledge, this argument has not previously been applied across the full range of Sudanese communities affected by the war.

2. “Older age” as a functional, not chronological, category.

We argue that the protection owed to older persons should turn on dependency and function rather than a birth-date threshold. In Sudan, the collapse of healthcare, caregiving networks, and humanitarian access has produced frailty and dependency, exposing older and dependent people to abandonment, detention, and death. Treating dependency as a socially produced condition clarifies the State’s responsibility and the heightened protection these individuals are owed.

3. The weaponisation of displacement.

We argue that displacement in this war is not an incidental by-product of fighting but a deliberate instrument of territorial and demographic control, produced through the bombardment of civilian areas, ethnic and tribal profiling, the secondary occupation of abandoned homes, the destruction of livelihoods, and administrative exclusion, and sustained as refugees are pushed across borders into neighbouring States. This has decisive consequences for reconstruction, since frameworks that ignore such intent risk entrenching the very dispossession they claim to remedy.

4. The “foreign faces” profiling practice.

“Foreign faces” (also rendered “strange faces”) is a term used by Sudanese civil society for a practice of ethnic and geographic profiling by which the SAF and aligned forces detain people from Darfur and Kordofan (and those with darker skin or non-Arabic dialects) on suspicion of RSF affiliation. While no enacted law bears this name, the

underlying practice is extensively documented: OHCHR's detention and human rights reporting has confirmed ethnic and geographic profiling; the UN Fact-Finding Mission has documented arbitrary detention and ethnic targeting; and Human Rights Watch has confirmed targeting based on identity and origin, with formal charges typically brought under Penal Code articles 50 and 51, both punishable by death. Just Access documents this practice and presses for its recognition as unlawful discrimination.

Our submissions

During the reporting period, the project's findings were presented to international mechanisms through a substantial body of formal submissions and confidential communications — six of which have now been published, with a further sixteen submitted to or shared with mandate-holders and available on request, subject to confidentiality safeguards. The published submissions are:

- Corporate Governance, Business and Human Rights – Working Group on Business and Human Rights (UN General Assembly, 81st session);
- International humanitarian law challenges for internally displaced persons – Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons;
- Violence against mothers – Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls (Human Rights Council, 62nd session);
- The rights of Indigenous Peoples in conflict and post-conflict situations – Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- The human rights of women and children in conflict and post-conflict situations – UN High Commissioner for Human Rights;
- The right to development and the rights of minority communities in Sudan – Special Rapporteur on the right to development.

The further submissions and confidential communications cover a wide thematic range, including the weaponisation of internal displacement and reconstruction; the arbitrary deprivation of life and the autonomy and dignity of older persons; violence against older women; minority rights and missing persons; the sexual and reproductive health and rights of indigenous and tribal women; the demarcation and titling of indigenous lands; online war propaganda and the protection of human rights defenders; and the impact of unilateral coercive measures on the right to food. Among the most significant are a submission to the UN Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for the Sudan concerning alleged SAF

violations in and around El Fasher and attacks on the independence of the judiciary and the legal profession, and an Article 15 communication to the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court concerning the conduct and responsibility of a senior SAF officer.

Why This Case Matters

Just Access engaged in the Sudan Project on the conviction that accountability cannot be selective: a peace that holds requires that both parties answer for their conduct, not only one. The SAF's violations remain comparatively under-documented and under-investigated despite extensive evidence, and those who fled SAF violence are too often excluded from the international conversation. By raising the legal and reputational cost of the SAF's conduct, the project aims to build pressure toward an inclusive political settlement, while ensuring that the testimony of victims is placed on the record. Just as importantly, the innovative legal arguments developed through the project have the potential to strengthen the interpretation of international law well beyond Sudan.

The Need for Strategic Intervention

The scale of the crisis, and the gap in accountability efforts directed at the SAF, underscore the need for focused, rights-based intervention. In large parts of the country the ordinary structures of the State have collapsed, leaving the Emergency Response Rooms as the only functioning governance and protection mechanisms for millions of people; yet these networks are excluded from the very processes that will determine Sudan's future. At the same time, the victims of SAF violations have had few avenues through which to seek recognition or redress. Through systematic documentation and a coordinated programme of submissions, Just Access seeks to close this gap, to support the work of international investigative and justice mechanisms, and to ensure that the legitimate representatives of the Sudanese people are heard.

Evaluated Potential Impact

The Sudan Project has been evaluated to carry significant jurisprudential, accountability, and protective potential. If accepted, the legal arguments advanced in our submissions could establish important precedents, extending the heightened protections owed to indigenous and tribal peoples to the communities targeted in Sudan, reframing the protection of older and dependent persons, and recognising the deliberate weaponisation of displacement as a distinct wrong with consequences for reconstruction. The Article 15 communication to the Office of

the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, together with our submissions to the UN Fact-Finding Mission, could contribute directly to individual criminal accountability for senior SAF figures. And our advocacy for the Emergency Response Rooms could help secure recognition and protection for the structures on which millions of Sudanese now depend. Taken together, the project positions Just Access as a distinctive voice on accountability for all parties to the Sudan conflict.

Next Steps

The Sudan Project is ongoing, with new submissions filed and developments recorded on a continuing basis. In the coming year, Just Access will continue to document SAF violations, file further submissions and confidential communications, and pursue the Article 15 process before the International Criminal Court. We will deepen our engagement with African regional mechanisms — building on our participation, on 7 May 2026, in the inaugural meeting of the implementation committee of the ACHPR–AU Study on Prisons and Conditions of Detention in Africa, to which we were invited following the selection of our submission on detention conditions in Sudan. We will also continue to offer pro bono legal assistance to survivors of the SAF and of the wider conflict, helping them to document what happened and to bring their cases before international mechanisms, and to press for the recognition and protection of the Emergency Response Rooms in any peace process.

5) *VERLASSENE KINDERZIMMER* – PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN ON MENTAL HEALTH AS A HUMAN RIGHT

During the reporting period, Just Access participated in the **Verlassene Kinderzimmer** initiative through public awareness installations in Heidelberg. The organisation created symbolic displays of stuffed animals holding messages related to human rights, children's rights, mental health, and parental alienation. These installations were placed near the Just Access office and at a central playground, aiming to raise awareness and encourage reflection on the emotional realities faced by affected children and families.

The initiative sought to make children's experiences visible in a peaceful, accessible, and child-centred manner, while connecting the issue to broader human rights and child protection concerns. It reinforced the importance of **recognising the links between children's rights, psychological well-being, and access to justice.**

6) DIGITAL SECURITY: DiGi-SAFE JA

During the reporting period, Just Access successfully completed the **DiGi-Safe JA** project, concluding it as planned at the end of 2025. Funded through a **€20,000 grant** awarded by the **German Foundation for Engagement and Volunteering (DSEE)** under the **100xDigital** programme, the project was designed to strengthen the organisation's digital resilience in response to the increasing cybersecurity risks faced by human rights organisations.

The project culminated in the successful completion of a comprehensive **IT Security Audit** and **Data Protection Audit**. Conducted by external experts, these assessments resulted in detailed reports evaluating the organisation's digital infrastructure, cybersecurity practices, and data protection framework, together with extensive recommendations for strengthening organisational security and improving operational efficiency.

Following the completion of the project activities, Just Access successfully submitted the final project report to DSEE, formally closing the project in June 2026. The audits and expert recommendations have provided the organisation with a clear roadmap for the continued development of its digital infrastructure and information security systems.

Building directly on these deliverables, Just Access developed a comprehensive **Security Protocol**, bringing together organisational policies, procedures, and practical guidance for secure information management, digital communications, and data handling. The protocol establishes a unified framework for information security across the organisation and provides a foundation for strengthening compliance with recognised cybersecurity and data protection standards.

As the next phase of implementation, Just Access is preparing a series of internal training sessions for both staff and volunteers to ensure the effective adoption of the new Security Protocol and related practices throughout the organisation. These capacity-building activities will take place beyond the reporting period and will further strengthen the organisation's ability to protect sensitive information, safeguard the individuals and communities with whom it works, and maintain resilient and secure operations in an increasingly complex digital environment.

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VIII. FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

Throughout the reporting period, Just Access continued to strengthen its fundraising efforts while navigating a period of significant organisational transition.

- The organisation successfully concluded the externally funded **DiGi-Safe JA** project, supported by the **German Foundation for Engagement and Volunteering (DSEE)** through the **100xDigital** programme. Following the successful completion of all project activities, Just Access submitted the final narrative and financial reports to the funder, formally closing the project in June 2026.
- During the reporting period, Just Access also submitted a funding application to the **KlimaLab** programme to support the further development of its work on climate justice and human rights. Although the application was ultimately unsuccessful, the proposal built on the organisation's growing expertise in the climate and human rights nexus and will serve as a strong foundation for future funding opportunities in this area.

IX. REVENUE, EXPENSES AND PERSONNEL

IX.1. REVENUE

In its sixth year of operation, Just Access continued to rely on the generous support of its donors and supporters to sustain and expand its work. During the reporting period, the organisation generated **€208,204.16** in total revenue, representing a significant increase compared to the previous year. This included **€188,204.16** in donations and **€20,000** in grant funding, reflecting both the continued confidence of our supporters and our growing success in securing institutional funding.

This increased income enabled Just Access not only to maintain its existing programmes, but also to strengthen its organisational capacity, invest in digital infrastructure, expand its international advocacy and strategic litigation work, and continue providing high-quality educational and research initiatives. We remain deeply grateful to every individual donor, foundation, and partner whose trust and generosity make our work possible. Their continued support enables us to pursue our mission of advancing access to justice, accountability, and human rights worldwide.

IX.2. EXPENSES

During the reporting period, Just Access recorded total expenditures of **€172,223.01**, while maintaining its strong commitment to responsible financial management and efficient use of resources. As in previous years, the largest share of expenditure was invested directly in our people—including salaries, professional fees, and associated employment costs—reflecting our belief that the organisation’s greatest asset is its dedicated team.

Operational expenses, including office rent, utilities, software licences, office infrastructure, travel, and communications, were carefully managed to support programme delivery while keeping overheads proportionate. Professional accounting services and other administrative costs ensured continued compliance with statutory requirements and sound financial governance.

The organisation closed the financial year with a healthy surplus, further strengthening its financial sustainability and providing a solid foundation for future growth and strategic investment. This prudent financial stewardship ensures that the overwhelming majority of resources continue to be directed towards activities that advance Just Access’s mission while

maintaining the organisational resilience needed to respond to emerging opportunities and challenges. Please find the detailed Financial Report for 2025 and the budget for 2026 below:

Just Access Financial Report 2025 / Budget 2026

	Account	2025	2026
Total income from the non-profit sector		208.204,16	174.000,00
Donations/Grants	3220	188.204,16	174.000,00
Membership fees	3221	0,00	0,00
grants	3222	20.000,00	0,00
miscellaneous	2000	0,00	0,00
Total expenditures for the non-profit sector		172.165,32	173.940,00
Wages / Salaries / Fees	2551	77.222,37	75.000,00
Fees	2554	13.700,00	12.000,00
payroll taxes	2555	51.474,48	52.000,00
Employers' Liability Insurance Association	2558	331,98	340,00
Travel expenses	2563	2.280,31	6.000,00
Software licenses	2650	1.987,55	3.000,00
Advertising/Public Relations	2655	228,74	300,00
Office expenses	2701-07	4.230,01	5.000,00
Rent / Electricity / Cleaning	2661-3	16.780,65	18.000,00
Tax consulting fees	2894	3.591,78	1.800,00
miscellaneous	2900	337,45	500,00
Surplus/loss in the non-profit sector		36.038,84	60,00

Total income from asset management		0,00	0,00
Interest charges	2100	0,00	0,00
Other capital gains	2200	0,00	0,00
Rental and lease income	2300	0,00	0,00
Dividends	2400	0,00	0,00
Total expenses for asset management		57,69	60,00
Bank fees	4712	57,69	60,00
miscellaneous	4700	0,00	0,00
Surplus/Loss Asset Management		-57,69	-60,00

Total revenue from non-profit activities		0,00	0,00
Entrance fees/participation fees	3000	0,00	0,00
Other	3200	0,00	0,00
Total expenses for non-profit activities		0,00	0,00
Hall or venue rental	3400	0,00	0,00
Tour costs (travel expenses, meals)	3600	0,00	0,00
Advertising expenditure	3800	0,00	0,00
Refund of erroneous transactions	3900	0,00	0,00
Surplus / Loss of non-profit operations		0,00	0,00

Total revenue from commercial business operations		0,00	0,00
Proceeds from consumption	4000	0,00	0,00
Sale of goods	4100	0,00	0,00
Advertising revenue	4200	0,00	0,00
Other	4300	0,00	0,00
Total expenses for commercial business operations		0,00	0,00
Purchase of goods	4500	0,00	0,00
Fees	4600	0,00	0,00
Rent	4700	0,00	0,00
Other (VAT)	4800	0,00	0,00
Surplus/loss of commercial business operations		0,00	0,00

Total surplus / loss		35.981,15	0,00
Club assets as of December 31st of the year (cash on hand and bank balances)		43.567,78	

Figures 1, 2 & 3 below provide an overview of Just Access's financial performance during Year Six.

Figure 1: Revenue Sources 2025-2026

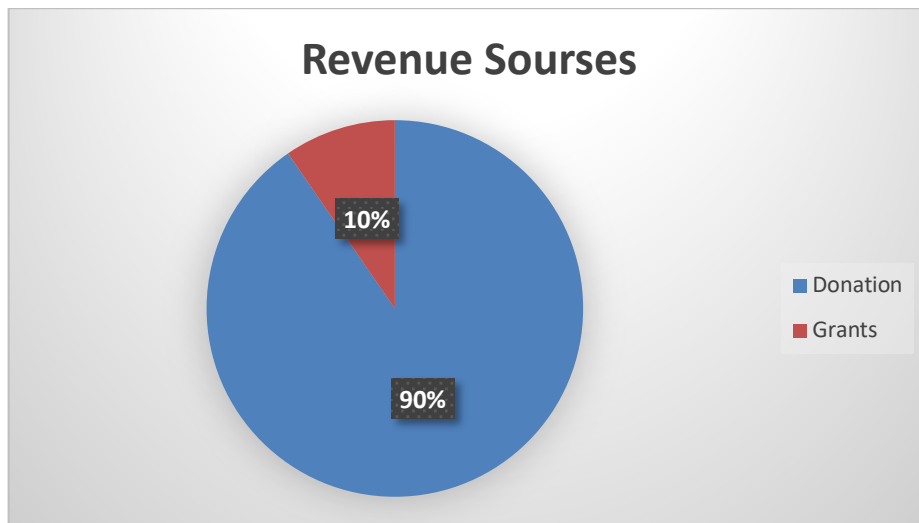


Figure 2: Revenue and Expenses 2025-2026

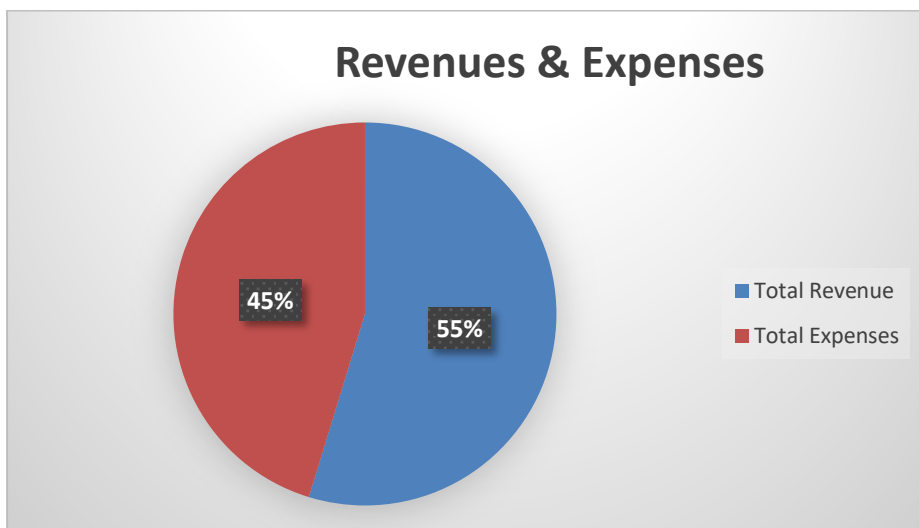
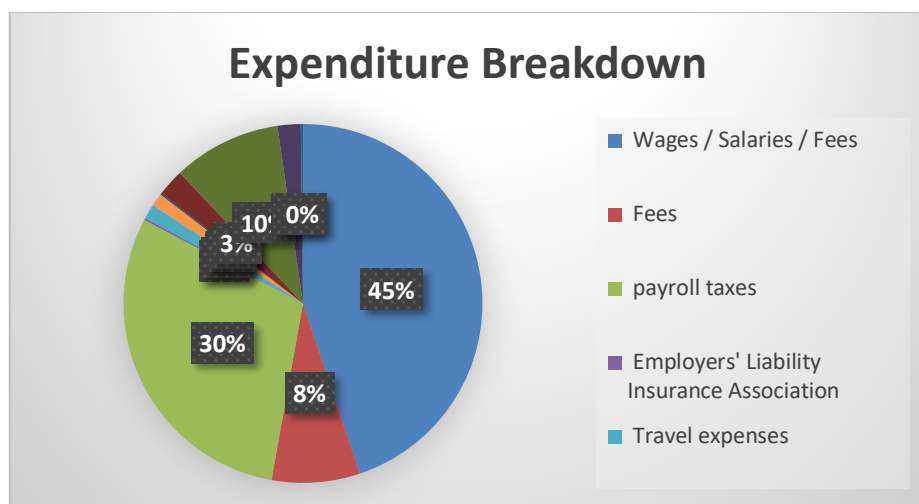


Figure 3: Expenditure Breakdown 2025-2026



IX.3. PERSONNEL

By the end of the reporting period, Just Access has a dedicated core team of six staff members and an exceptional network of 30 volunteers. Their expertise, commitment, and resilience enabled the organisation to continue delivering its mission during a year of significant organisational transition.

This transition was particularly marked by substantial changes in senior and core operational roles, including the departure of the Director, the Strategic Litigation Team, and the Head of Administration and Finance. These departures resulted in a 50%t reduction in internal capacity and required rapid adaptation across the organisation. In response, volunteers stepped into expanded and, in some cases, critical operational roles across legal research, strategy, advocacy, and operational support, ensuring continuity of work and stability during a challenging period.

Notably, this period also demonstrated the strength of Just Access's internal talent pipeline: two volunteers who took on increased responsibilities subsequently transitioned into formal staff positions. This reflects the organisation's commitment to nurturing talent internally and building sustainable pathways for long-term engagement.

The Just Access team brings together professionals, researchers, lawyers, technologists, designers, communications specialists, and students from around the world, united by a shared commitment to advancing human rights and access to justice. This diversity of expertise enables the organisation to respond to complex legal and policy challenges with interdisciplinary perspectives while maintaining a strong culture of collaboration and mutual support. Together, staff, volunteers, Board members, and interns remain the organisation's most valuable asset, enabling an impact that far exceeds the resources of a small civil society organisation. Please see Figure 4 below for a visual illustration of our team composition.

Figure 4: Just Access Team Composition 2025-2026

