

women's  worldwide

ANNUAL

REPORT

2024

Cover photo: Rosa Hernández, human rights defender who sued the State of the Dominican Republic after her daughter, Rosaura Almonte, also known as 'Esperancita', died due to medical negligence under the country's total abortion ban. / Photo Credit: Lisette Arévalo

WORDS FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear friends, partners, and allies,

As we reflect on the past year, I'm filled with immense pride and gratitude for the strides we've made together in advancing the rights of women, girls, and gender-diverse people. In 2024, we've worked in 17 countries across Latin America and the Caribbean, East Africa, and Europe, giving legal accompaniment to clients and partners on issues of sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender-based violence, climate and environmental justice, and racial justice. We've seen key milestones in several cases and programs where we've advanced our clients' and partners' visions of justice.

While transforming and strengthening who we are as an institution, we've guided our work by our commitment to intersectional feminism and by recognizing that the fight for justice and gender equality is inextricably linked to the struggles against racism, colonialism, ableism, and other forms of oppression.



Our team employed legal strategies to challenge discriminatory laws and practices in collaboration with our partners and clients, focusing on the experiences that have too often been excluded. We recognize that when one person questions oppression, they open the door for other women, girls, and gender-diverse individuals to do the same.

We're proud to have achieved important legal and advocacy victories, such as securing reparations and protecting abortion rights in several countries. In Kenya, in partnership with KARE, we equipped rural health workers with legal tools to respond to gender-based violence. Through paralegal training and knowledge exchange workshops, these frontline workers are making the law more accessible and actionable on their terms.

In Europe, we represented a child survivor for the first time, applying tailored safeguards to protect her well-being and ensure her voice was central throughout the legal process. In Colombia, we contributed to the recognition of reproductive violence as a distinct harm from sexual violence in a groundbreaking decision by Colombia's Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP). These efforts represent just a glimpse of a broader range of significant achievements throughout the year which we're excited to present.

As we look ahead, our Strategic Plan for 2025–2028 reaffirms our dedication to continuing to build a feminist present and future grounded in justice, rights, and collective power. One of the cornerstones of our approach is the belief that legal systems can and should be tools for social transformation. We remain firmly committed to our mission of using law as a driver of social change, promoting lasting transformations through its democratization.

We know that this journey has required resilience, solidarity, and an unwavering commitment to our feminist principles. Together, we will continue to challenge injustice and advocate for a world where everyone can live with dignity and equality.

Because no one should fight for justice alone, we thank you for standing with survivors, clients, partners, and with us while we do this vital work.

In solidarity,

— Jovana Ríos Cisneros

OUR IMPACT AT A GLANCE

In 2024, we advanced our efforts to make the law more democratic, inclusive, and community-centered. We work with people from diverse backgrounds, each bringing their own experiences, needs, and demands for justice.

It's their stories that inspire our actions, and the numbers that help us measure, quantify, and organize our impact. Both are essential to understanding our journey towards justice, in plural. These are some of our highlights.

17

Countries where
we work

100%

Clients and partners
reported being satisfied
or very satisfied with
working with us

55 million+

Women and children are
set to benefit from legal
and policy changes
driven by our work

14

Strategic litigation
cases

12

Legal actions
challenging systemic
injustices

73%

Of strategic litigation
cases moved closer to
plural visions of justice

OUR PROGRESS IN 2024

Goal 1: Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)

Advanced Progressive Jurisprudence on Reproductive Rights

Convened judges from across Africa in South Africa at a regional forum to promote collaboration, share best practices, and strengthen progressive judicial approaches to abortion.

Challenged Digital Censorship in Spain

Litigated alongside Women on Web to restore online access to abortion information, resisting digital censorship as a growing practice, and defend access to information as a fundamental part of reproductive freedom.

Contributed to the Implementation of Abortion Rights in Colombia

Worked with the Causa Justa Movement to uphold the C-055 ruling that decriminalized abortion and defended essential Ministry of Health regulations to ensure access up to 24 weeks, while blocking attempts at regression.

Fought for Reproductive Justice in the Dominican Republic

Continued legal efforts with Rosa Hernández, mother of Rosaura, also known as ‘Esperancita’, who died after being denied life-saving care under the country’s total abortion ban. Along with our partner CIPAF, we took her case to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to expose the fatal consequences of fully criminalizing abortion in the country.

Held Chile Accountable for Contraceptive Failures

Filed a civil lawsuit with Miles Chile on behalf of hundreds of women who faced unwanted pregnancies caused by defective state-distributed contraceptives. We proposed prevention measures and demanded state accountability. This case and all the work that has been done have contributed to the proposal to decriminalize abortion up to 14 weeks, which is currently being debated in Congress.

Launched ‘Connecting Rights’ to Strengthen Digital Feminist Activism

Developed Connecting Rights, a microsite created to provide advocates across Latin America, East Africa, and Europe with practical tools to defend sexual and reproductive rights in the digital sphere.

Protected Human Rights Defenders

Advocated for sexual and reproductive health providers facing criminalization. For instance, we provided legal support for activist Vanessa Rosales, unjustly criminalized in Venezuela for defending abortion rights, and helped her secure backing from the Urgent Action Fund, reinforcing global solidarity with reproductive justice defenders.

Pursued Justice for Unsafe Abortion Deaths in Uganda

Pushed forward a critical case, led by CEHURD and HRAPF, demanding state accountability for deaths resulting from unsafe abortions. The case advanced to a second hearing in 2024, following judicial changes, marking a significant step toward reducing preventable maternal and infant deaths and advocating for clear standards for access to safe abortion services.

Goal 1: Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)

Safeguarded Post-Abortion Care in Kenya

Defended the High Court's decision upholding the right to post-abortion care and protecting doctor-patient confidentiality after a provider was prosecuted for assisting a girl survivor of sexual violence. The ruling, currently under appeal, affirms the constitutional right to abortion and urges Parliament to adopt a legal framework aligned with the Constitution.

Secured Reparations in Spain

Established a national precedent for abortion rights when Spanish authorities recognized the violation of our client Antonia's rights and granted her reparations. This decision creates an important precedent for women in the country, as it recognizes their right to receive clear and timely information about their pregnancies to make free and informed choices, such as having an abortion.

Strengthened Grassroots SRHR in Kenya

Partnered with the Kenya Alliance for Rural Empowerment (KARE) by training 60 community health personnel who assisted over 4,000 women and girls access justice and healthcare.

Supported Abortion Decriminalization in Ecuador

Backed the Justa Libertad movement by providing strategic legal support for the constitutional case to decriminalize abortion, including legal mentoring and an amicus brief. Simultaneously, we litigated to secure abortion services for migrant women. This work strengthened a rights-based, intersectional approach that connects reproductive justice with migrant rights, emphasizing the disproportionate barriers migrant women face in cases of rape.

Won a Historic Ruling in Kenya

Successfully supported Josephine in a groundbreaking case where the court recognized that the obstetric violence she endured constituted a violation of her constitutional rights. The court acknowledged this mistreatment and ordered monetary reparations, establishing that obstetric violence is a human rights violation and setting legal standards to ensure dignified childbirth and prevent obstetric violence for all women in the country.



Feminist demonstration in Granada, Spain. / Photo Credit: SOPA images

Goal 2: Tackling Gender-Based Violence

Helped Shape a Pan-African Convention on Gender-Based Violence

Contributed to the “Gender Is My Agenda Campaign” alliance and provided input during a convening in Accra, Ghana. We highlighted our project on school-related gender-based violence and offered recommendations in the drafting of the now-adopted African Convention Against Gender-Based Violence.

Promoted Survivor-Centered Justice at Kenya’s Supreme Court

Recognized as amicus in a constitutional challenge to minimum mandatory sentencing for gender-based violence. Our legal analysis emphasized the State’s duty to hold perpetrators accountable and to uphold justice centered on the rights and needs of survivors.

Protected Cross-Border Survivors

Represented Marisol and her daughter Aurora, survivors of gender-based violence, through legal strategies and asylum claims in Belgium, with Progress Lawyers Network. This marked our first case supporting a child survivor, where we implemented trauma-informed, rights-based safeguards and ensured her voice was central throughout the legal process. These efforts aim to protect children from being forced to live with their abusers in Europe.

Pursued Justice for Luz in the Dominican Republic

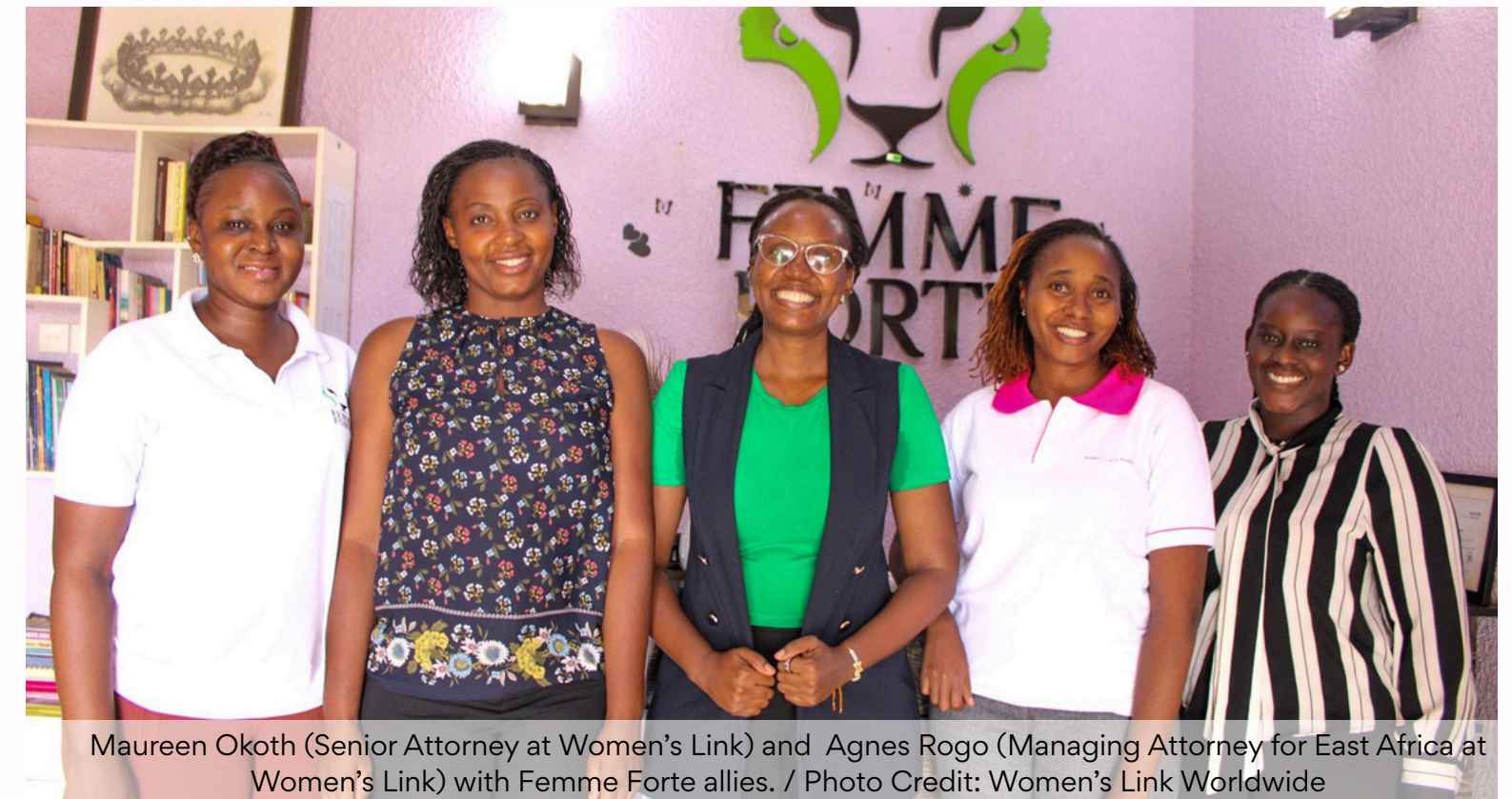
Supported Luz, a teenage girl with a disability who was forced to carry a high-risk pregnancy after surviving sexual violence, putting her health and life at risk. With CIMUDIS and feminist allies, we secured urgent protective measures and are pursuing justice before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. This case could establish important precedents for the reproductive rights of girls and women with disabilities across the region.

Set a Historic Precedent in Colombia’s Peace Process

Worked alongside our client, Helena, to secure the first-ever recognition by the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP) of reproductive violence as distinct from sexual violence. Based on our evidence and survivor testimony, the court charged six former FARC commanders, setting a powerful precedent for transitional justice.

Shared essential legal resources in Kenya

Equipped rural health workers with legal tools to respond to gender-based violence in partnership with KARE. Through paralegal training and knowledge exchange workshops, these frontline workers are making the law more accessible and actionable on their own terms.



Maureen Okoth (Senior Attorney at Women’s Link) and Agnes Rogo (Managing Attorney for East Africa at Women’s Link) with Femme Forte allies. / Photo Credit: Women’s Link Worldwide

Goal 3: Climate and Environmental Justice

Accompanied the Lenca and Tolupán Indigenous Peoples in Their Pursuit of Climate Justice

Submitted a participatory amicus brief to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights alongside the Lenca and Tolupán Indigenous peoples, and the organizations COPINH and MADJ. These Honduran communities called for State accountability in addressing the climate crisis and its unequal impact on Indigenous women. We supported the creation of legal arguments grounded in lived experiences and oral tradition, including a Spanish-language video brief.

Later on, we joined two of their women leaders at the Inter-American Court's public hearing in Manaus, Brazil, to reinforce community-led advocacy on climate and human rights. Their powerful intervention paved the way for decolonial and anti-racist climate justice.

Framed Climate Justice Through Intersectionality

Integrated gender, racial, and reproductive justice into our legal arguments, emphasizing the compounded harm Indigenous women face from extractivism, racism, and patriarchal violence.

Supported Community-Led Climate Action in Río Blanco

Partnered with COPINH in Lenca territory to help restore community cohesion and strengthen resilience to climate change. The project shaped our participatory, decolonial approach to climate justice.

Goal 4: Racial Justice

Strengthened Cross-Regional Learning on Reproductive Justice

Continued active engagement in Uganda's Coalition to Stop Maternal Mortality Due to Unsafe Abortion (CSMMUA) network, facilitating knowledge exchange between Latin American and African feminist movements, which included drawing from the experience of Causa Justa in Colombia.

Advanced Anti-Racist Approaches to Abortion Rights in Colombia

Worked alongside Indigenous women in Colombia to examine the significance of abortion access after the 2022 C-055 ruling through a community-led horizontal process rooted in ancestral knowledge. This collective effort has challenged hegemonic legal frameworks and helped shape decolonial and anti-racist strategies that position abortion as a right grounded in territorial, cultural, and political autonomy.



Estefanny Molina (Managing Attorney for Latin America and the Caribbean at Women's Link) with indigenous and Afro-descendant leaders "Guardians of the Earth". / Photo Credit: Cayla Nimmo/Earth Rights International.

STORIES FROM OUR MOVEMENT



Rosa Hernández

Dominican Republic

Rosa Hernández is a Dominican public-school teacher and human rights defender. She is a cheerful, positive, dreamy woman who likes to sing, dance, and hug her loved ones. The strength of her gaze, the power of her voice, and her potent laughter fill any space. With her mother's help, she raised her daughter, Rosaura Almonte Hernández, also known as 'Esperancita'. With strength, love, wisdom, and care, Rosa raised her to be an intelligent, brave, and kind young woman. But, in 2012, the Dominican Republic's total abortion ban took her away.

In July of that year, Rosa took her 16-year-old daughter to a public hospital where Rosaura was diagnosed with acute leukemia and urgently needed chemotherapy. But Rosaura was also pregnant, and under Dominican law, abortion is strictly prohibited, even when a woman's life is at risk. As a result, the medical staff refused to start the treatment she needed. Rosaura's condition worsened day by day, and on August 17, 2012, she died due to medical negligence.

Despite the heartbreak and going through the unspeakable, Rosa decided to demand justice. In 2013, with the support of Women's Link Worldwide, she initiated two legal proceedings in her country: a criminal complaint to investigate the medical staff's actions and a civil liability suit against the State. She is demanding truth, accountability, and structural reforms to prevent this from happening to other women and girls.

Since then, her fight for justice has been relentless, and we've stood by her side every step of the way.

"Sometimes I lose hope seeing the lack of justice in my country. But I can't give up. Not just for my daughter, but for the girls, teenagers, and women who might go through what I have gone through. I must keep fighting for justice," Rosa said.

In 2017, we brought her case before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), in collaboration with our partner CIPAF. Three years later, the commission accepted the case for review, and the process is ongoing. This has been possible thanks to Rosa's strength and determination, as over the years she has become a recognized human rights defender in her country. Her case is emblematic, as it highlights the fatal consequences and dangers of the country's total abortion ban.

"Without Women's Link, I wouldn't have been able to continue this fight. Working with the lawyers has made a real difference. I feel supported. I know many families would want someone from Women's Link on their side," Rosa shared.

Rosa has stood firmly to demand justice no matter the distance, the obstacles, or the state's denials. She won't step down, and Women's Link will be by her side at every stage.

STORIES FROM OUR MOVEMENT



Antonia

Spain

In 2014, during a routine checkup at a public hospital in Murcia, Spain, Antonia was told her fetus likely had a fatal malformation. She was 20 weeks pregnant and sent home without further explanation. Concerned, she sought a second opinion at a private clinic and even traveled to Madrid to find answers. The tests confirmed the diagnosis, but the public hospital in Murcia refused to see her before her scheduled appointment, one month later.

Faced with the diagnosis, Antonia decided to terminate the pregnancy but had to wait another week for a clinical committee to approve her request. Even after approval, no public hospital in Murcia would perform the procedure. She had to travel again to Madrid, over 500 kilometers away, to access her legal right to abortion.

After recovering from what she endured, Antonia decided to fight so that no other woman should go through what she did as a poor woman from a rural area. In 2015, Women's Link joined her in her pursuit of justice. Two years later, we filed a legal case against the Murcia health department for violating Antonia's right to information and for discriminating against her, which denied her dignified care, causing her severe physical and psychological harm.

In 2023, after nine years, Spain's Constitutional Court ruled in her favor, recognizing that the Murcian Health Service had violated her fundamental rights, including her legal right to abortion and her right to physical and moral integrity. This decision sets a powerful precedent: all women must be guaranteed clear and timely information to make free and informed decisions about their pregnancies, abortion being one of them.

Despite the long wait, Antonia never gave up. Her perseverance, strength, and sense of justice carried through. She truly believed that justice would come, and it did.

"When you called me to give me the news, I felt immense joy and a sense that justice had finally been done," Antonia said. "These nine years have been tough, and this ruling matters because it acknowledges the harm I suffered. I thank the entire Women's Link team—this victory belongs to all of us."

In 2024, we made progress in the legal battle to enforce the Constitutional Court ruling and ensure that Antonia is compensated by the Murcia Health Service, marking a step in her ongoing journey for reparations and recognition.

STORIES FROM OUR MOVEMENT



Terri and Faith

Kenya

Terri has always wanted to give back to his community. After graduating from high school and waiting to attend university, he signed up as a Community Health Provider at the local chief's camp. A few months later, he discovered the Kenya Alliance for Rural Empowerment (KARE), a Women's Link partner that provides community-based education and interventions to ensure access to quality healthcare and legal aid in Western Kenya. "We ensure the community has access to better services and girls can find justice."

Based at a hospital in Kakamega County, Terri makes house calls, providing essential medical care and information to the community. It's here that he met Faith, a teenage girl who became pregnant after being sexually assaulted in November 2023. Faith's story is not uncommon in Kenya, where many adolescent girls suffer from gender-based violence and don't receive adequate care.

Since Faith's pregnancy began to show, she struggled to obtain the healthcare she needed. Upon arriving at the public health facility to request access for an abortion, the health facility refused to give her any information and support. As a result, Faith had to make a decision that no child should face alone: she sought an unsafe abortion. An unqualified individual performed the procedure in unsanitary conditions, and she subsequently suffered from infection and post-abortion complications.

When Terri heard about Faith, he rushed to her aid immediately and took her to a secondary care facility. With his help and accompaniment, Faith could receive the required post-abortion care.

"The training I received from KARE and Women's Link informed me of the circumstances in which post-abortion care is legal in Kenya and made me aware of the services available for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. I explained this to the nurses and clinical officers and told them that they had to assist Faith," Terri recalls.

After this, he provided counsel to help Faith reconcile with her estranged parents and shared information about reproductive health and rights.

"You should see Faith now. She's happy, in school, and keen to complete her high school studies," Terri shared proudly.

This is what transformative care looks like: a powerful blend of medical support, legal guidance, and deep community trust. This quiet yet radical act changes lives, especially in places where reproductive health and rights are still denied or criminalized.

STORIES FROM OUR MOVEMENT



**Martha, Angela and the
Lenca and Tolupán
Indigenous People**

Honduras

“The increase in heat has been significant. The sky has become cloudy and dark,” said Martha Miranda, leader of the Lenca People.

Over the past decade, the Lenca and Tolupán Indigenous Peoples, especially women, have faced severe impacts from climate change. Droughts and floods have damaged their livelihoods, including corn, bean, sorghum, and coffee cultivation, leading to reduced production, food insecurity, and poverty. Many Indigenous leaders have been assassinated for defending their land and rights.

In this context, Lenca and Tolupán women have spoken out about how the climate crisis affects their physical and emotional well-being. Each day at dawn, they walk to the nearest river to fetch water for cooking and caring for their families.

“We, Indigenous women, are the most affected. We’ve been displaced from our territories. Our safety is stripped away daily. We face sexual violence from businessmen who want to intimidate us and take our land and dignity,” said Ángela Murillo, leader of the Tolupán People.

Women’s Link collaborated with the organizations COPINH and MADJ, to present an oral amicus brief to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), urging the court to recognize the distinct impacts of the climate crisis on their communities and clarify the State’s responsibilities. They also requested a public hearing in an Indigenous community and visits to affected villages. During this joint, participatory, and innovative process, we decided to go beyond traditional legal mechanisms. To honor the oral tradition of indigenous peoples, we accompanied the document with a documentary video in which, with their voices and testimonies, the indigenous communities asked the court to be heard.

“As a young Indigenous woman who knows the history of my Lenca people, I feel a deep responsibility to future generations,” said Martha.

In July 2024, Ángela Murillo and Martha Miranda spoke at the IACHR’s public hearing on climate emergency and human rights in Manaus, Brazil, delivering their message with strength and determination.

“Living without fear is also climate justice for us. We don't want to keep losing our comrades defending the land,” said Ángela.

OUR CLIENTS' DEFINITIONS OF JUSTICE

"Justice, in this case, means recognizing and repairing the harm caused to the victims and their communities. It means being able to find the truth, to receive an apology, and, above all, dignify our stories."

—Helena, survivor of reproductive violence in Colombia.

"Justice would be achieved if the sexual violence against my child is investigated so we don't have to go through something like that again."

—Flor, Luz's mother, a sexual violence survivor in the Dominican Republic.

"[Justice is] Aurora being able to play freely in a park, without always being on alert, for us to live in peace, and for no other child to go through what Aurora went through."

—Marisol and Aurora, survivors of gender-based violence in Spain.

"Seeing the case come to an end after many years showed me that justice is possible and I am heard."

—Josephine, an obstetric violence survivor in Kenya.

FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

Our funding allows us to fulfill our mission of advancing the rights of women, girls, and gender-diverse people through legal action. It enables us to meet with our clients in person, accompany survivors, appear in court, develop communication tools and assets, meet with potential donors, and have the systems and infrastructure necessary to pursue multiple visions of justice, in plural. With sustained financial support, we can continue developing resilient feminist leadership, expand access to justice in historically excluded communities, and ensure that legal systems become more inclusive, democratic, and grounded in lived experiences.

INCOME	2023	2024
FOUNDATIONS	\$6,837,380	\$1,131,036
INDIVIDUALS AND CORPORATIONS	\$40,164	\$23,173
INTEREST AND OTHER INCOME	\$49,437	\$194,193
TOTAL INCOME	\$6,926,981	\$1,348,402

We're proud to have received a \$4M gift from Mackenzie Scott in 2023. Our financials reflect our decision to first undertake a strategic planning process in 2024 to determine the best way to allocate the investment.

OPERATING EXPENSES	2023	2024
SALARIES AND WAGES	\$1,523,142	\$1,433,412
CONTRACT SERVICES	\$533,332	\$731,336
TRAVEL AND MEETINGS	\$190,662	\$291,712
FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT	\$8,477	\$8,140
GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE	\$92,634	\$118,610
OTHER EXPENSES		\$22,431
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$2,348,247	\$2,605,641

ABOUT US

Women's Link Worldwide is an intersectional feminist nonprofit organization that advances women's rights through legal action.

We're legal experts, strategists, and activists dedicated to advancing justice for women, girls, and gender-diverse people. Using legal strategies, we tackle barriers, challenge discrimination, and expand access to human rights in Latin America and the Caribbean, East Africa, and Europe.

We're Global South-led, anti-racist, anti-ableist, anticolonial, and ecofeminist. We use strategic litigation and take on legal cases that have the potential to drive lasting change. We work with communities to bring about justice in ways most relevant to their reality.

We also join broader national, regional, and global networks and movements to advocate for change in legislation on sexual and reproductive health and rights, violence against women and girls, climate and environmental justice, and racial justice.

We're a fully remote global team located across eight countries in the regions where we work.



Feminist demonstration in Bogotá, Colombia./ Photo Credit: Victoria Holguín

Looking Ahead

We're moving forward with clarity and purpose, drawing on the insights of our team, our board, our clients, partners, and donors. Together, we've set a bold direction that strengthens our commitment to justice for women, girls, and gender-diverse people around the world. As outlined in our [2025-2028 Strategic Plan](#), our work will focus on four key areas: reproductive justice, access to justice and freedom from gender-based violence, climate and environmental justice, and racial justice. These priorities reflect our conviction that meaningful progress must be intersectional, systemic, and grounded in the experiences of those most directly affected.

In the year ahead, we'll continue supporting our clients and partners in ongoing and new legal cases. Drawing from our experience in Chile, we'll demand accountability and guarantees of non-repetition for the distribution of defective contraceptives to hundreds of women in Uganda. We'll defend access to safe abortion by partnering with accompaniment groups across the Global South, offering tailored legal support and risk assessment tools. Our long-standing work to protect survivors of gender-based violence will deepen, with victories like those of our clients in Belgium, who now have the right to live far from their abuser. We'll also press for climate justice alongside Indigenous communities in Honduras and Colombia by making sure that gender, racial, and reproductive justice are central to climate solutions. Across regions, our work will expand as we confront injustice, build solidarity, and strengthen movements.

Acknowledgements

Our mission relies on the generous support of our donors. We're truly thankful to all those who have chosen to stand with us to secure more rights for more women. Your support strengthens our voice, sustains our efforts, and makes lasting change possible.

- Anonymous
- AMC Networks International - Southern Europe
- Channel Foundation
- Digital Freedom Fund
- Foundation for a Just Society
- Oak Foundation
- New Venture Fund
- Open Society Foundations
- Packard Foundation
- Rise Up
- Wellspring Philanthropic Fund

We're thankful to our individual donors, whose personal commitment and generosity fuel our mission and make our work possible.

We're also deeply grateful to our board members, past and present, for their support, strategic guidance and oversight.

- Indira Goris
- Mónica Kuljich
- Eunice Leyva García
- Carole Osero-Ageng'o
- Joan Roca
- Patricia Sellers



Manifestación feminista en Bogotá, Colombia. / Crédito de la foto: Victoria Holguín

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Feminist demonstration in Bogotá, Colombia. / Photo Credit: Victoria Holguín