

Option 3: Peace and Justice

Living in fear of your life is no life at all.

Each year, almost 200,000 people are killed in war, and another 200,000 are killed in crime or armed violence. Oxfam has a growing reputation for our ability to reach out to people caught in conflict, and for our tireless campaigning to reduce the availability and use of small arms and landmines.

Already, through the work of Oxfam and other dedicated organisations, we've brought about the banning of landmines, and we've extended this through a new treaty to ban cluster bombs. Our next target is securing a United Nations treaty that will severely limit the international trade in small arms, which kill a third of a million people each year.

The right to equality between women and men underpins all of our work. The denial of women's fundamental human rights is a major cause of poverty worldwide, and women are especially vulnerable during conflict. They risk violence and oppression from within their own homes, along with rape as a weapon of war.

Promoting equality is never about separating women out for privileged treatment. In Oxfam's experience, securing peace and freeing people from violence and oppression means working with men and women together. When peace is secured, life can begin again.

Here are some examples of the groundbreaking work that Oxfam100 Club support will make possible.



Violence against women injures or kills one in three women across the world



Campaigning to stop gun violence in PNG

Bringing peace to the Highlands of Papua New Guinea

In the Gumine district of the PNG Highlands, around two-thirds of all women are beaten by their husbands. Domestic violence is a terrible reality in a place where tribal conflict and crime is all too common.

In 2007 Oxfam joined forces with a local organisation called Community Development Agency (CDA). We are now working at the village level to create stronger families and more cohesive communities – and thereby to reduce violence and conflict.

CDA trains community members to act as mediators in resolving local disputes and to act as role models for others. CDA has also established 18 clan-based organisations, through which families receive training in self reliance, coffee and livestock production, and time and money management. This training, along with community workshops, has brought about a reduction in violence against women and decreased criminal activities in the district.



Facing the truth – giving women the opportunity to speak out about violence is a vital first step towards lasting change

\$2050 can run four Community Empowerment Trainings to change attitudes and reduce violence

Creating women of courage in Fiji

Across Fiji, women face discrimination and inequality. Women are underrepresented in political leadership, so their voices and needs are often unheard. And in community life, traditional decision-making processes are also dominated by men.

This inequality means that domestic violence and sexual abuse occur often in Fiji. In recent years domestic violence cases have made local newspaper headlines almost on a daily basis.

Oxfam is currently working with the Fiji Women's Rights Movement to make women aware of their right to safety and freedom from abuse. Our Young Women in Leadership programme focuses on women between the ages of 14 and 25, and aims to train each of them to be able to inform and influence their peers on issues like reproductive rights and building self-confidence, as well as how to deal with discrimination and abuse.



The Young Women in Leadership programme is supporting young girls and women to speak up on issues that concern them

\$17,000 here can help develop and run a leadership programme for young women in Fiji, giving them the courage to speak against discrimination and abuse.

Securing women's legal rights in Indonesia

Since 2001, Oxfam has worked in partnership with the Association of Indonesian Women for Justice (APIK) in West Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia. Women in this region have low levels of education. Polygamy, abandonment of wives and children, trafficking for sex and physical violence against women are all too common.

With support from Oxfam, APIK provides direct legal aid to female victims of violence and discrimination. This includes a 24-hour women's hotline and a network of self-help groups. The association has already won a number of high-profile legal cases to secure protection and support for divorced women. It is not only life-changing for individual women, but is a vital lesson for whole communities that violence against women is not acceptable. And even more than shaping community attitudes towards women, APIK's outstanding work for women's rights is also helping to transform the way women are viewed under the law.

Now is a crucial time to support this movement and capitalise on these advances.

\$7000 here can provide legal assistance for 10 people to fight their cases in a court of appeal.



APIK staff advocate for victims of violence and discrimination (pictured with Oxfam NZ's Michael Riach)

Vani's fight for justice

In East Lombok, Indonesia, underage marriage and elopement are common. Many people consider it lucky for a girl to marry early because she lessens her family's economic burden.

Today this practice has been completely abused by criminals who capture young women and girls for the sex trade, rape and trophy brides. Cases have been reported of girls as young as 12 being snatched from markets, school yards, beaches and playgrounds. The consequences for these kidnapped girls have been disastrous...

Vani*, a sixteen year old schoolgirl, was playing with her friends when she was approached by a man named Mr. Santosa. He asked her for a date, and she refused. But after he asked her uncle, Vani agreed to a ride around the town on his motorbike.

Santosa never took Vani home. Instead, he held her captive for two weeks, repeatedly raping her.

When he finally released her, he claimed the "elopement" was by mutual consent – and with the support of his village behind him, he declared war on Vani's family and village if they dared to challenge him. Under immense pressure, the police turned a blind eye.

Vani's horrified parents sought help from Oxfam's partners, the APIK Network. APIK paralegal worker, Ibu Triati, lobbied the police until they finally took Santosa into custody.

APIK's continued demands for justice eventually resulted in Santosa being sent to prison. And Vani's case is now held up as an example for the whole of Lombok. APIK also continue to work to lobby regional governments to better implement laws protecting men and women from trafficking and gender-based violence. They also focus on raising public awareness and gaining support from traditional leaders.

Both community attitudes to violence – and the law – are changing but APIK has much more work to do.

It is estimated that during 2009-10 approximately 5000 women and children from Lombok and Sumbawa were caught up in various types of human trafficking, including slave labour and sexual exploitation.

Will you take the lead and fight for their freedom?

* name has been changed



Vani sought justice with the help of paralegal Ibu Triati, from Oxfam's partner APIK in Indonesia.

For further details and financial information call Lettie Bright on 09 355 7410.