



**NO PEACE
WITHOUT
JUSTICE**

**No Peace Without Justice Non C'è Pace Senza Giustizia
ETS**

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Organisation in Special Consultative Status with the United Nations ECOSOC since 2022

NPWJ Strategy 2024-2026

OUR PURPOSE

Our Vision

A world in which everyone's human rights and freedoms, democracy and peace, are guaranteed by universal rule of law, rooted in accountability for violations and redress for victims.

Our Mission

- To strengthen national, regional and international systems, mechanisms and standards that promote and protect human rights and deliver justice and redress for victims.
- To promote international justice and accountability, including the International Criminal Court, to combat impunity for war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and ecocide, also by holding States to their obligations to investigate and prosecute crimes under international law.
- To support human rights defenders, communities and local actors struggling to defend and promote human rights, democracy and the rule of law.
- To fight all forms of discrimination and sexual and gender-based violence, including Female Genital and Sexual Mutilation and early and forced marriage.

Our values

- We believe that silence in the face of human rights violations equals complicity: we encourage States and institutional actors to use their positions and to cooperate with civil society to denounce human rights violations and take action with a view to ending them across the world.
- We seek to amplify local voices, not replace them: we support the empowerment of victims and survivors as active agents for change for themselves, their communities and the world.
- We challenge assumptions and push boundaries to help break discriminatory and harmful power dynamics and effect sustainable cultural, political and social change.
- We do not accept that massive war crimes and atrocities are an unavoidable consequence of conflict, nor that they “just happen”: they are the result of deliberate policy decisions by individuals at the highest levels, who can and should be held personally accountable by States and by the international community.
- We do not accept that universal human rights have no space in the private sphere, such as the relationship between parent and child or between spouses or partners: FGM and marital rape are examples of violations of these universal rights, which the State is responsible to prevent.
- We do not accept impunity for environmental and human devastation and consider that ecocide should be recognised at national and international levels in order to hold perpetrators to account and ensure the preservation and restoration of ecosystems and the respect of human rights of local and indigenous peoples.



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- We do not accept that poverty, illiteracy and underdevelopment can be separated from civil and political rights or that social justice can be achieved without individual freedom: political freedoms and civil liberties give voice to the poor, the oppressed and the disadvantaged and empower them to drive permanent change.

Our strengths

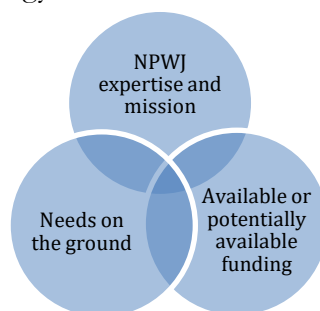
We engage: NPWJ engages institutional and non-institutional local actors in substantive and strategic partnerships: We work with these actors because they are partners on common priorities and shared values, not because they “implement” things for us or because we implement things for them.

We cherish practical knowledge: NPWJ has recognised in-house expertise on a range of human rights issues and access to a large network of world-renowned experts to complement in-house resources where needed.

We listen: NPWJ learns from local actors: We work with them to adjust priorities as needed and bring the needs and constraints on the ground to the attention of relevant actors outside the country, also with a view to informing their policy priorities.

We empower: NPWJ empowers victims and survivors of human rights violations, supports vulnerable and under-represented groups (such as women, children and minorities) and empowers them as actors for change, including by bringing their experiences and built-up expertise and capacity to other situations in need.

We act according to our convictions: NPWJ sets its own agenda, based on our political priorities, our specific expertise and on the basis of needs as assessed on the ground. We do not undertake activities outside our scope of political interest or beyond our expertise or that of our partners just because funds are available. Policy objectives and operational priorities are set independently of easily available resources; where we have the necessary expertise and there is a need for action, our objectives and priorities drive our fundraising strategy:



Context

The world is witnessing increased and sustained challenges to the international order, which enhance and fuel brazen violations of international norms, massive increase of forced displacement of populations, growing social inequalities and unprecedented levels of conflict over food and energy, further complicated by the impending climate crisis. The ongoing geopolitical repositioning and regrouping, fuelled by the rise of authoritarianism and polarisation of the international affairs, lead to a multifaceted and multidimensional crisis in which the promotion and protection of human rights, the rule of law and democratic values are threatened are left behind on the altar of realpolitik and geopolitical calculations. The direction of world affairs is becoming more divided and volatile, marked by rapidly increasing rivalry, confrontation, and mistrust across the board in strategic, diplomatic, economic, and political realms, and



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with intense conflict in several areas of the world marked by impunity and an ever-increasing cycle of violence and violations.

In July 2022, NPWJ obtained the recognition of the Consultative Status to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). NPWJ's application had been blocked for many years due to constant opposition from countries such as Russia, China, Cuba and others, that did not want an "uncomfortable" voice, strongly committed to the protection of human rights, democracy and the rule of law, like ours being active and heard at the United Nations. This is an important recognition for No Peace Without Justice, which for the past thirty years has been strongly involved in the activities of the ICC, the UN Human Rights Council and in the implementation of major projects funded by UN agencies in critical areas and countries. Thanks to this status, we will further strengthen our commitment to the protection of human rights, the promotion of the rule of law and the fight against impunity.

Our goals

Fighting impunity in all its forms

NPWJ, a founding member of the CICC, seeks to combat impunity for massive atrocities, war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide by ensuring broad support for accountability as a systematic response to those crimes, starting from the International Criminal Court, also as a means to facilitate accountability at the domestic level. NPWJ also seeks to foster the implementation of more coherent and effective policies and operational guidelines on the role of children in transitional justice and the impact of transitional justice on children.

Priorities of action include:

- Reducing the expectation of impunity, thereby removing the perception of "reward for violence", on the part of parties to conflict, potential perpetrators, victims and affected populations through engagement, advocacy and information-sharing.
- Increasing the impact, effectiveness, transparency and accountability of transitional justice mechanisms through policy-development, advocacy and technical support, including advocacy for cooperation and harmonisation between different mechanisms seized with the same situation.
- Providing support and technical assistance to civil society seeking to document violations for accountability purposes, to boost their ability to undertake that work effectively, efficiently and safely.

Empowering women and children

NPWJ works with governments, legislators and other institutional actors, women's rights activists as well as community and religious leaders to target violence against women that is primarily being addressed as a cultural, rather than a human rights' issue, including female genital and sexual mutilation, forced and early marriage, marital rape and other violations that are consequences of the subordinate status of women and girls.

Priorities of action include:

- Developing specific and effective legislative measures and innovative approaches to support those working to turn the tide of social norms, and to support actual and potential victims resisting societal expectations to be silent and acquiesce to violations against them.



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- Advocacy and engagement with institutions to promote the rights of the child, including a focus on their participation in decisions and in mechanisms that affect their lives and on the recruitment, release and reintegration of children in armed forces and groups.
- Engaging women, girls, as well as boys and men, individually and in community settings, in situations of armed conflict, displacement and return, to understand the variety of power dynamics that lead to discrimination and the subjugation of women and girls “for their own good”, and to identify actionable policies to empower women and girls in acting as agents both for their own protection and for change in others.

Supporting human rights and environmental defenders

NPWJ seeks to support human rights and environmental defenders in their invaluable work to protect and promote rights throughout the world, working with individual human rights and environmental defenders and promoting a global environment that is supportive of and favourable to their work.

Priorities of action include:

- Supporting the capacity of human rights and environmental defenders to monitor, report and document past and ongoing violations and abuses.
- Analysing the legal and policy framework for measures that can be taken to protect human rights and environmental defenders providing information to accountability processes and developing an advocacy platform for their support and protection at national, regional and international levels.
- Providing support to individual human rights and environmental defenders on tools and techniques to promote and protect their real world and online safety and security.

Supporting democratic transition, the rule of law and respect of human rights

NPWJ continues to address situations where democratic values, fundamental and universal human rights and the rule of law are restricted by political and social dynamics imposed by authoritarian and closed regimes, or when complex transitional processes designed to respond to populations’ demands for change and liberty are at stake, by promoting and supporting democratic values, liberal institutions and open government. We do so through the development of effective and durable consultation mechanisms that recognise non-governmental actors, NGOs and civil society as a legitimate and necessary counterpart for dialogue with State institutions on issues of democratic reform, human rights, the rule of law, justice, reconciliation and accountability.

Priorities of action include:

- Enhancing civil society’s capacity to act as a positive and constructive force and to interact effectively with governments and monitor the implementation of their political commitments and legal obligations.
- Undertaking specific consultations between government and non-governmental actors in order to facilitate the establishment of a lasting system, practice or habit of consultation between State structures and non-governmental actors for all decision-making processes on democratic reform and human rights issues.
- Promoting a human rights approach within legislative bodies and national authorities and supporting their efforts to fulfil international obligations under human rights treaties and to regional and international human rights mechanisms.



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- Facilitating the work of local actors at the United Nations level by ensuring that civil society and democracy advocates voice be directly heard by policy and decision makers.

Fighting environmental devastation and promoting a healthy environment

The current climate and ecological crises are outcomes of many years of destructive human activities that have been conducted without due regard to their impact on the natural environment and in some cases as a means of causing harm, whether to humans or to the environment itself. The perpetuation of harmful practices to the environment entails several risks to various species, including human beings, and creates challenges for the future of the planet as a whole. Updating international law to the current historical challenges by expanding its content and creating new legal tools to address climate and ecological emergencies is vital for preserving our planet's natural equilibrium, ensuring human and non-human well-being, and saving thousands of species from extinction.

Priorities of action include:

- Seeking accountability, raising awareness and effecting behavioural change in respect of deforestation, fires and other environmental and human rights violations taking place in Amazonia and elsewhere.
- Supporting and reinforcing legislations and policies at national, regional and international level aimed at environmental protection and promoting the right to a healthy environment.
- Promoting the recognition of Ecocide as a universal “ecocentric” crime, in order to extend international criminal liability to crimes against the environment, even where there is no immediately apparent harm to humans, so as to create an obligation on the part of the competent jurisdiction either to investigate and prosecute violations, or to extradite to another jurisdiction able and willing to do so.

Strengthening NPWJ's organisational structure and capacity

For the past several years, civil society organisations and civic political activism have been targeted with the aim to restrict the public discourse on issues relating to the respect of human rights, the rule of law and democratic values. NPWJ has become a direct victim of this trend. Since December 2022, NPWJ and its Secretary General have been object of a violent and defamatory campaign that has caused enormous harm to NPWJ's honour and reputation, operational and financial capacity and fundraising effectiveness. Confronted with these daunting challenges, NPWJ's staff is demonstrating enormous resilience and strength, continuing whenever possible to operate according to the mandate and objectives of the organisation. In 2023, NPWJ adopted a new Statute of the organisation, to comply with the Italian third sector law, which changed our governance structure and strengthened its resilience. At the same time, NPWJ undertook a review of our policies and procedures, with a view to strengthening our professionalism and working methodologies.

Priorities of action include:

- Strengthening our organisational structure to ensure it is dynamic, effective, efficient and flexible, to enable us to respond quickly to urgent needs and to enhance our effectiveness and impact.
- Streamlining internal processes and communication to ensure compliance with the new organisational structure and further enhance transparency and openness.
- Implementing a review system to enable us to keep our policies and procedures up to date on a rolling basis and to develop and implement new policies and procedures in response to new developments in non-profit management.



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- Identifying new opportunities for support and visibility to our work, for example through considering a Strategic Council, Patrons or other similar possibilities.
- Reviewing and improving our communication tools and strategy and developing new ways of sharing information about our priority issues and our work.

Diversifying and strengthening NPWJ's funding base

NPWJ is funded by a variety of donors and in general we seek to have multiple donors for each initiative. NPWJ accepts funds from individuals, private foundations, companies, governments and international institutions, including funds that are earmarked for specific objectives, as long as these reflect NPWJ policy priorities according to a strict due diligence review of every funding source. NPWJ has been as affected as other organisations by a general reduction in funding available for human rights work. We are committed to reviewing our fundraising strategy, diversifying and strengthening our funding base, seeking more opportunities for obtaining the strategic funding that would allow us to respond quickly to urgent needs and exploring new ways of fundraising, for example through strategic partnerships with businesses seeking to make a positive human rights contribution.