



IJM

INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION
IMPACT REPORT

January – December 2025



Dear Friends,

In 1997, we were told it would be impossible to bring even one child to safety from commercial sex trafficking. Today, that “impossible” dream of freedom has become a reality: in collaboration with governments and partners, we have brought freedom to nearly half a million people from slavery and violence. We are so grateful for your church’s partnership in prayer and generosity, helping ensure lasting protection for children, women, and men across the world. A huge thank you.

I am delighted to present our annual impact report, highlighting the significant strides we have made in 2025. The hope-inspiring stories of survivor leaders Kuppammal and Luz María (page 5), alongside new programme launches and media milestones, reflect a year that moved us ever closer to our goal of protecting 300 million people by 2030.

To reach this bold target, we are focused on using data and meaningful measurements to help guide our progress. That’s why this report highlights the landmark baseline studies IJM released last year in Kenya and Uganda. These studies reveal the dark reality of the violence we are working to confront in these two countries. They also equip IJM and our partners with objective insights that shape our programming and activities, paving a path to justice.

We hope and pray these stories encourage your church and remind you of the powerful impact we are creating together.

As ever, if anything here prompts further questions or a desire to delve deeper, do reach out and I would be more than happy to continue the conversation.

Until all are free,

Ben McMechan
Northern Ireland Manager, IJM UK
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The impact you've made possible:

490,000+

children, women, and men free



IJM

110,000+

people brought to safety from slavery and violence **directly through operations** by IJM, local authorities, and partners.



380,000

people estimated to be free from labour trafficking in Tamil Nadu, India, **thanks to IJM's programme with the state government** to strengthen justice systems and deter criminals.

As we work to strengthen justice systems across 46 geographies over the next five years, we believe completed projects will see similar results as in Tamil Nadu.



What you've helped make possible in 2025:



12,224

people brought to safety from violence and slavery by police alongside IJM and partners



1,259

traffickers and perpetrators of violence convicted in local courts



382

survivors supported to reach a place of sustainable recovery through trauma-informed aftercare



44,946

justice system officials, community leaders and partners trained to recognise and respond to violence

*This is live data that may change as programme offices provide updates. **If you'd value a further conversation about IJM's measurement data, we'd be delighted to unpack these numbers with you over a coffee or a call.**

SPOTLIGHT: UGANDA AND KENYA

Turning Statistics into Safety

To measure the success of IJM's work with authorities, protect people, and build strong, effective justice systems, we need to know how prevalent the problem is that we are facing.

In August 2025, **IJM UGANDA** released a **national baseline report revealing the prevalence of violence against women and children in the country**. The statistics are sobering and call for urgent action from government, law enforcement, and civil society:

- **Nearly 6 in 10 children**, predominantly girls, have experienced sexual abuse.
- **Over 50% of women** who have ever had a partner have faced **intimate partner violence**.
- **Over 70%** of incidences of physical and sexual violence against women **go unreported**.

In the words of IJM Uganda's Country Director, Wamaitha Kimani, *"These are not just numbers... These are women and children for whom their community and home do not provide the safety to dream and thrive."*

Just a month later, **IJM KENYA** also released a **national baseline report revealing the prevalence of police abuse of power across the country**. The statistics show the shocking scale of this issue and the critical need to respond:

- **Over 43%** of citizens have experienced police abuse of power.
- **Nearly 70%** of people have witnessed police misconduct first-hand.
- **More than 6 out of 10** of those who have recently experienced police abuse **did not report their experience**.

These results reveal challenging justice landscapes across both countries. But they also identify clear pathways for reform and invaluable opportunities to engage changemakers.

Immediately following the release of both reports, the studies received news coverage from major national outlets, sparking meaningful, nationwide dialogue among government officials, law enforcement, and the general public.

These milestone reports not only amplify IJM's message, but position IJM Kenya and IJM Uganda to be at the heart of national conversations on violence and justice – laying a **strong foundation for future advocacy, partnerships, and systemic change**.



STORIES AND NEWS

Our impact around the world



KUPPAMMAL'S STORY: SURVIVOR LEADER THRIVING AS AN ENTREPRENEUR



Two decades ago, **KUPPAMMAL** was **one of 27 people brought to safety from a rice mill** by the local government, supported by IJM, in India.

For 10 years, Kuppammal and her husband had been forced to work for the rice mill owner's profit in appalling conditions, which tragically led to the loss of their one-year-old daughter and the serious injury of another of their daughters.

Today, after receiving care and support from IJM to rebuild their lives, Kuppammal is a powerful spokesperson, survivor network leader, and successful business owner working alongside one of her daughters. With government support, she runs **Varnam 2, a beautiful block-printing textile business**. The business employs fellow survivors of forced labour, providing economic empowerment that helps restore dignity and reduces the risk of revictimisation.

Above all, Kuppammal is a contented mother who has educated her three children and fulfilled her heart's desire of organising grand wedding ceremonies for her two daughters – **dreams inaccessible during life in bondage**.

Kuppammal shares, *"I aspire to venture into many more livelihood opportunities, unite more people... so that like us many more families can benefit."*





LUZ MARÍA'S STORY: FIRST SURVIVOR GROUP FOR WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES LAUNCHED IN PERU

For the first time in Peru, women with disabilities are leading a dedicated group for survivors of violence – led by **LUZ MARÍA**.

When she was a teenager, a taxi driver attempted to sexually assault Luz María while helping her into his car. She did not tell anyone because she felt ashamed, afraid, and did not fully understand what had happened. That silence weighed on her for years.

Until one day, in 2023, Luz María decided to join IJM-supported survivor network **Libres para Servir (Free to Serve)** and found the community she had long wished for.

Inspired and energised, Luz María then helped establish the first Lima Chapter for Women with Disabilities, serving as its president. This group is the first of its kind in the country, created to confront the unique risks and barriers faced by women with disabilities.

The group already gathers more than 25 women, offering safe spaces for each to share their experiences and learn about the resources available to support them. The group also engages in advocacy, including meetings with government ministries, public awareness campaigns, and proposals to address the needs of women with disabilities.

“My dream is that all women with disabilities in Peru feel protected and valued,” shares Luz María.



LOOKING BACK

Milestones in 2025



BBC DOCUMENTARY, 'HUNTING THE ONLINE SEX PREDATORS'

Released in February, celebrity presenter James Blake exposed the reality of online sexual abuse and exploitation of children in BBC Three's 'Hunting the Online Sex Predators'. A follow-up to the successful 'Hunting the Catfish Crime Gang', the documentary took Blake to the Philippines where he met survivor leader **CASSIE*** and IJM's team who are working tirelessly to combat this crime.

IJM POLAND LAUNCHES

In June, IJM officially registered its programme in Poland, a source, destination, and transit country for human trafficking in Europe. As part of IJM's European Anti-Trafficking Programme – already operational in Romania and Bulgaria – and with support from local leaders, we are in the process of hiring a core casework team, after which we will begin receiving case referrals.

YOUNG ADVOCATES TAKE ACTION IN NORTHERN IRELAND

In November, a group of young advocates delivered a letter signed by over 600 young people to Northern Ireland Justice Minister Naomi Long at Stormont, calling for urgent action to stop livestreamed child sexual abuse. This youth-led action is part of IJM UK's Tech that Protects campaign, calling for the use of AI-powered safeguards to prevent online child exploitation. As Justice Minister Long said, "*The responsibility to keep our children safe online is one we all share.*"



LONDON CAR WASH OWNER CONVICTED OF MODERN SLAVERY

In November, a London car wash owner was sentenced to eight years and six months in prison after being found guilty under the UK Modern Slavery Act. The trafficker exploited eight Romanian nationals – including a 15-year-old boy – in appalling conditions. After four months of exploitation, one person bravely managed to contact the Metropolitan Police. The survivors were connected with IJM for ongoing care and support before, during, and after their return to Romania.



IJM'S FIRST OPERATION WITH POLICE IN BANGLADESH

In December, Bangladesh Police led an expert operation to bring six girls and six women to safety from commercial sexual exploitation in Dhaka. This is the first operation supported by IJM Bangladesh since our programme launched in September. It's also a major national milestone, believed to be the first time in 10 years that Bangladesh Police have brought children to safety from commercial sexual exploitation.

LOOKING AHEAD

2026 and beyond

February marked the start of IJM UK's **PRAY FOR JUSTICE TOUR**, in partnership with **24-7 Prayer**. This year, there are nearly 40 churches around the UK and Ireland hosting gatherings, and we are thrilled to say that the Tour is also going global for the first time! Churches across the USA, Canada, the Netherlands, and the Philippines are hosting Pray for Justice gatherings, praying for an end to the online sexual exploitation of children.



IJM UK's **TECH THAT PROTECTS CAMPAIGN** is gaining momentum in 2026. Every child should be safe and protected from online sexual abuse. IJM UK held a **drop-in event in Parliament for MPs** to learn more about the problem – urging the UK Government to legislate to require device manufacturers and operating system services to incorporate safeguards which disrupt child sexual abuse material, including livestreaming, into the operating systems of devices sold in the UK – putting a stop to the abuse before it starts. Find out more: IJMUK.org/TechThatProtects

Want to take on the adventure of a lifetime in 2026? **CLIMB KILIMANJARO WITH IJM** from 12th–21st October, and summit Uhuru ('Freedom') Peak on Anti-Slavery Day.

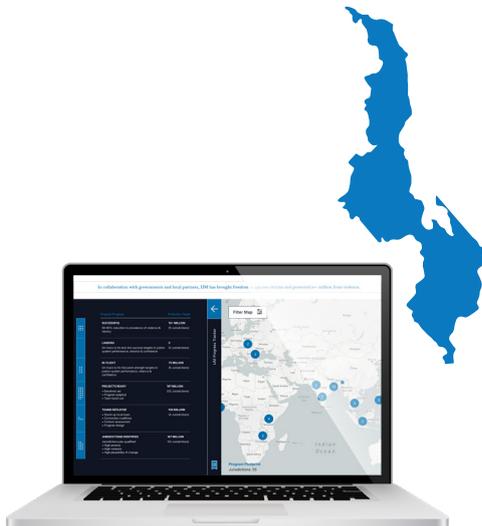
You will also get the chance to see first-hand the impact of IJM's work in Kenya. Find out more and reserve your place: IJMUK.org/Kilimanjaro



IJM is planning to **LAUNCH IN MALAWI THIS YEAR**, working alongside local authorities to **address the country's high prevalence of violence against women and children**. With Year 1 focusing on the administrative start-up, as well as early project interventions, we look forward to sharing more updates as this programme progresses.

Over the next year, 24 programmes, including Malawi, are expected to move to the next stage on our Progress Tracker (*please do reach out if you do not have a personal login!*).

These programmes represent 225 million people who will move closer to protection in 2026. We are so grateful for the way you are fuelling this progress and for the stories of transformation we will be able to share in the coming years because of your support.





THANK YOU

With investment from generous partners like you, freedom from exploitation and abuse is and will become a reality for millions of people across the world. Thank you so much for the part you are playing on this road to justice.



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* *Pseudonym*. To protect IJM clients, we have obscured some images and included photos that do not depict actual victims where appropriate. Consent gathered for all images.

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