WJI improves the lives of indigenous Guatemalan women and girls through education, access to legal services and gender-based violence prevention.

www.womens-justice.org

99% of women’s rights education participants can now name 2 places to seek help for violence.

4% of women seeking legal aid before WJI.

43% of women seeking legal aid after participation in WJI programs.

98% of girls who participated in WJI’s program remained unmarried.

42% increase in legal cases attended by WJI between 2016 and 2017.

WJI envisions a Guatemala in which women:

• Are active leaders in their communities;
• Have access to legal services;
• Have knowledge of and can assert their rights;
• Are free from gender-based violence.
OUR STORY

2011:
1 program
1 community
14 direct beneficiaries
2 staff members

2017:
4 programs
24 communities
+4,400 direct beneficiaries
11 staff members
29 community advocates

MAGDALENA’S CASE

WJI’s Legal Services team visits partner communities each month so that the most vulnerable women and girls who often cannot leave their homes, can receive legal support and counseling. WJI had the opportunity to help 41-year-old mother of six, Magdalena, and her family gain their legal identity.

Magdalena’s children were never legally registered with the government because she gave birth at home and did not have the resources to register her kids in the 60 day period following. Without a legal identity, none of the six children were enrolled in school, could read or write, or receive medical attention when they were ill.

Her daughter, Mirna, participated in WJI’s Women’s Rights Education Program and was referred to our Legal Services team to begin the legal registration process. With WJI’s support, Magdalena and all of her children have gained their legal identities and can participate in civil society.

"I help other women see that they can get out of a violent situation, and they feel more comfortable with me knowing what I have been through. There are so many women who suffer from violence in our community but we can break the cycle of violence. It is so important that women participate in WJI’s program so that they can learn their rights.”

- IRMA,
WJI COMMUNITY ADVOCATE