



## [The Friends of Butoke Charity](#)

Registered Charity no. 1140094

### **Report on the Justice Project 2020-2021**

#### The original proposal

We set out our original proposal as follows in June 2020:

*Butoke wishes to extend its involvement in the protection of the rights of the vulnerable by:*

- 1. Providing legal assistance to around 30 victims over a 12-month period. These would be mainly victims of rape...*
- 2. Providing medical assistance to victims over a 12-month period...*
- 3. Utilising its existing network in local communities to gather information about the mistreatment of the vulnerable and to raise awareness by education of the rights of the vulnerable and the importance of respecting them...*

The budget for all of these activities was in total \$8400.

#### Funds raised and the decision on how to spend them

In the event, we raised £2250, which at the £:\$ exchange rate last summer, was about \$2750. We are very grateful to the donors who made specific gifts. We rounded up the amount given to just over \$3000 out of general funds.

#### How the money was spent

Dr Jean, who runs Butoke in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, thought we should prioritise items 1 and 2 above and we agreed to that. Further, as the work began, it became clear that some rape victims had other immediate needs beyond medical treatment and legal assistance: food, soap, clothes, and help with relocating.

From September 2020 until March 2021 Butoke helped ten rape victims, who are named Girls A to J in this report (none of them were adults, they were all aged between 12 and 17). Money was spent on them as set out in the table below, depending on their respective needs.

	Lawyers	Medical Treatment	Food	Clothes	Soap & medicines	Transport (relocation)	Total
Girl A [aged 12]	\$150	\$75	\$240	\$120	\$25	\$40	\$650
Girl B [aged 15]	\$150						\$150
Girl C [aged 16]	\$150						\$150
Girl D [aged 17]	\$150						\$150
Girl E [aged 12]	\$150	\$100	\$50	\$80	\$20	\$30	\$430
Girl F [aged 15]	\$150	\$110	\$65	\$50	\$20	\$35	\$430
Girl G [aged 15]	\$150	\$110	\$50	\$50	\$20	\$35	\$415
Girl H [aged 15]	\$100	\$110	\$30				\$240
Girl I [aged 15]	\$100	\$110	\$30				\$240
Girl J [aged 15]	\$100	\$110	\$30			\$55	\$295
<b>TOTALS</b>	\$1350	\$725	\$495	\$300	\$85	\$195	\$3160

## How the girls were helped by the Justice Project

### Generally

**Legal assistance:** Before an alleged perpetrator is committed for trial there is a hearing before a judge. It is necessary for the victim to be legally represented at that hearing; otherwise the case is unlikely to proceed. It therefore appears that, but for Butoke's involvement, none of the men who carried out the attacks would have faced a criminal trial.

Dr Jean negotiated a discount with a local law firm, which has provided the required representation for between \$100 and \$150 a case.

**Medical assistance:** Most of the victims that Butoke has helped over the last year have needed medical treatment – such as scans – that Butoke cannot provide for free.

**Other help:** The victims have invariably been poor and so, having arrived at Butoke's door, have needed other assistance: food, medicines, clothes. Butoke has also paid for some of them to re-locate to avoid the wrath of the perpetrator's family.

**The wider effect:** The number of girls that Butoke has been able to help over the last year has been small. However, the fact that Butoke has helped each of the girls to pursue rape

charges against their attacker has not only provided some hope of justice to those girls, but also communicated to the wider community that rape is not always a crime without consequences.

### News about individual girls helped by the Justice Project

It is often difficult for Dr Jean to follow up when the victims have left the immediate care of Butoke – they may well not live nearby or, indeed, may have been relocated by Butoke to avoid the perpetrator’s family. However, Dr Jean was able to provide the following information.

#### **Girl A**

Girl A was raped by her step-father. He has been tried, found guilty, and imprisoned. Her step-father’s family threatened her and her mother so Butoke helped Girl A and her mother return to her mother’s village where her mother’s family can protect her.

Dr Jean says she is not studying, having not had the opportunity to go to primary school. Butoke has given her a very small amount of money to help her make money trading household goods in the village where she now lives. Butoke has encouraged her to undertake some vocational training, and has said that it will assist with any costs involved.

#### **Girl G**



Girl G is studying at secondary school. She lives with her sister in a different area and has been accepted by the new community where she lives. The man who attacked her has been sentenced to seven years in prison. Dr Jean says “if we had not helped her, she would have been forced into an early marriage, and her physical development would not have been able to deal with pregnancy”.

## **Girl F**



Girl F is studying at secondary school. She lives with Dr Jean and his wife and children. The man who attacked her has been sent to prison.

We asked Dr Jean why she was living with his family. He said that he had suggested this because her parents had both died and the family members she was living with were being threatened by the family of the man who attacked her.

## **What next?**

Dr Jean is keen to continue the Justice Project. It provides material assistance and a hope of justice to the victims which it assists. The Charity will write again soon with details of our future plans for the Justice Project.

***Many, many thanks to those who helped fund the Justice Project 2020 to 2021. You made a difference to the lives of the ten girls that Butoke helped.***

23 June 2021