

What  
is the  
way to  
justice?



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**WHAT IS THE WAY TO JUSTICE?**



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Hey,  
I'm over here!



Come closer!



Closer.



A little bit  
closer...





DO YOU EVER FEEL SO  
SMALL, POWERLESS,  
ANGRY, AND  
HOPELESS?





When I think about  
all of the injustices  
happening in our  
community,

it makes me feel like a  
downward spiral.



CORRUPTION



DRUGS



SEXUAL VIOLENCE



BAD LOANS



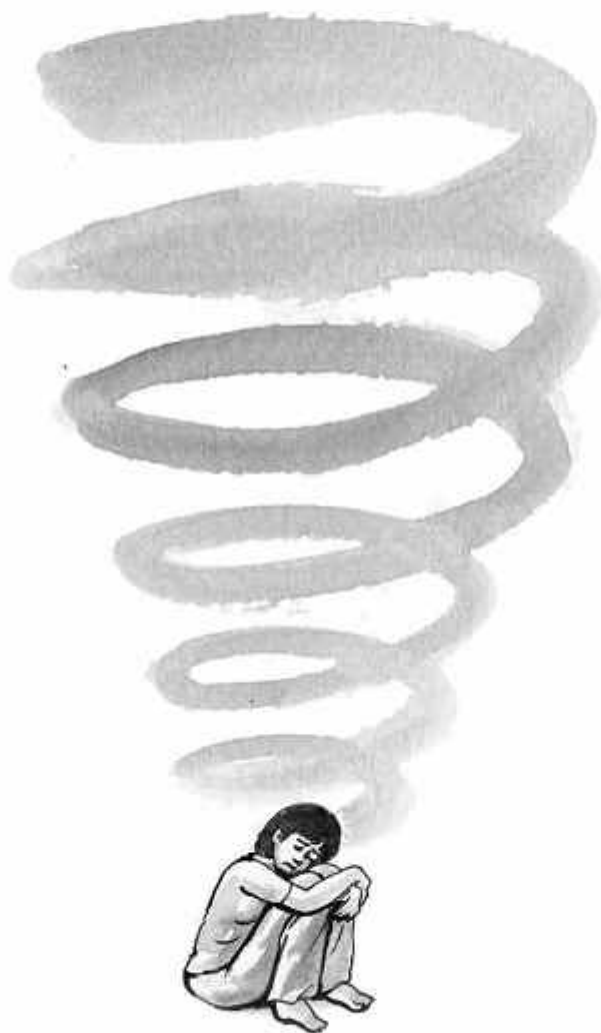
TRAFFICKING



LAND  
CONFISCATION



And if I think about it too long...



**I DON'T KNOW  
WHAT TO DO!**



And then I remember  
what my mother used  
to tell me...






She said,  
When the world is  
very dark...





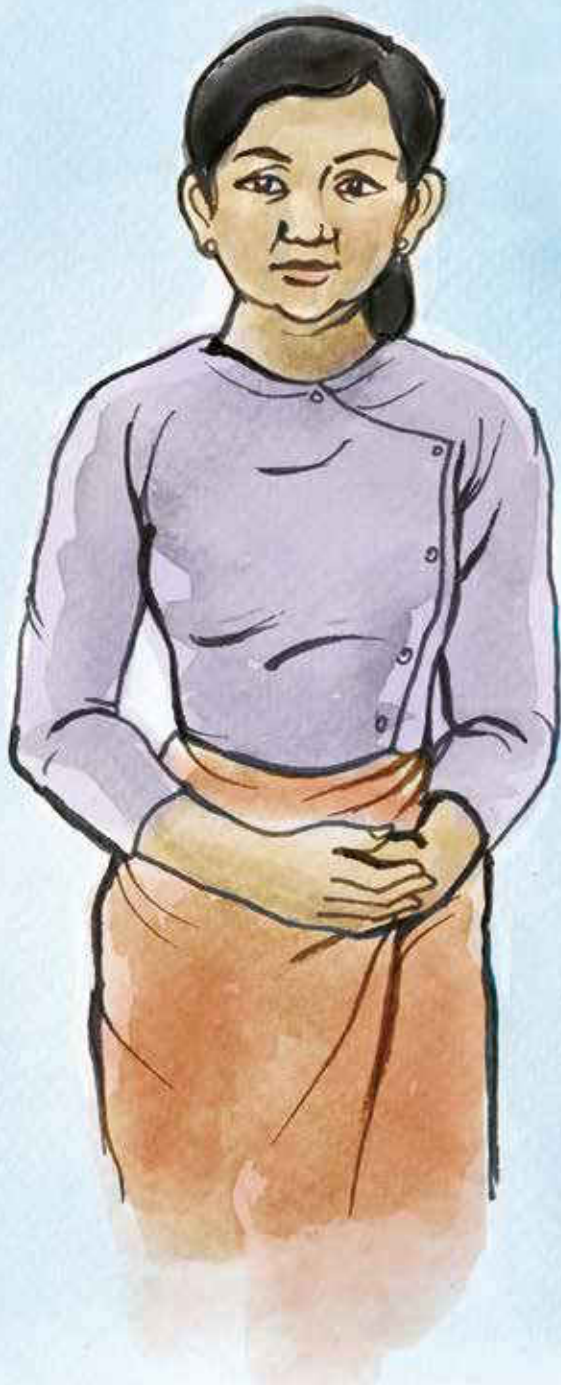
A black and white illustration of a woman with short hair, looking down with a somber expression. She is surrounded by numerous empty speech bubbles of various sizes, floating around her head and shoulders. The background features a silhouette of a mountain range under a cloudy sky. The overall mood is one of isolation and emotional weight.

...and the news around  
you makes your heart feel  
heavy...



# LOOK FOR THE HELPERS.

You will always find good people who are helping.







I decided to make it my *MISSION* to look for the helpers in my community. I told myself that when I find a helper, I'm going to ask them:

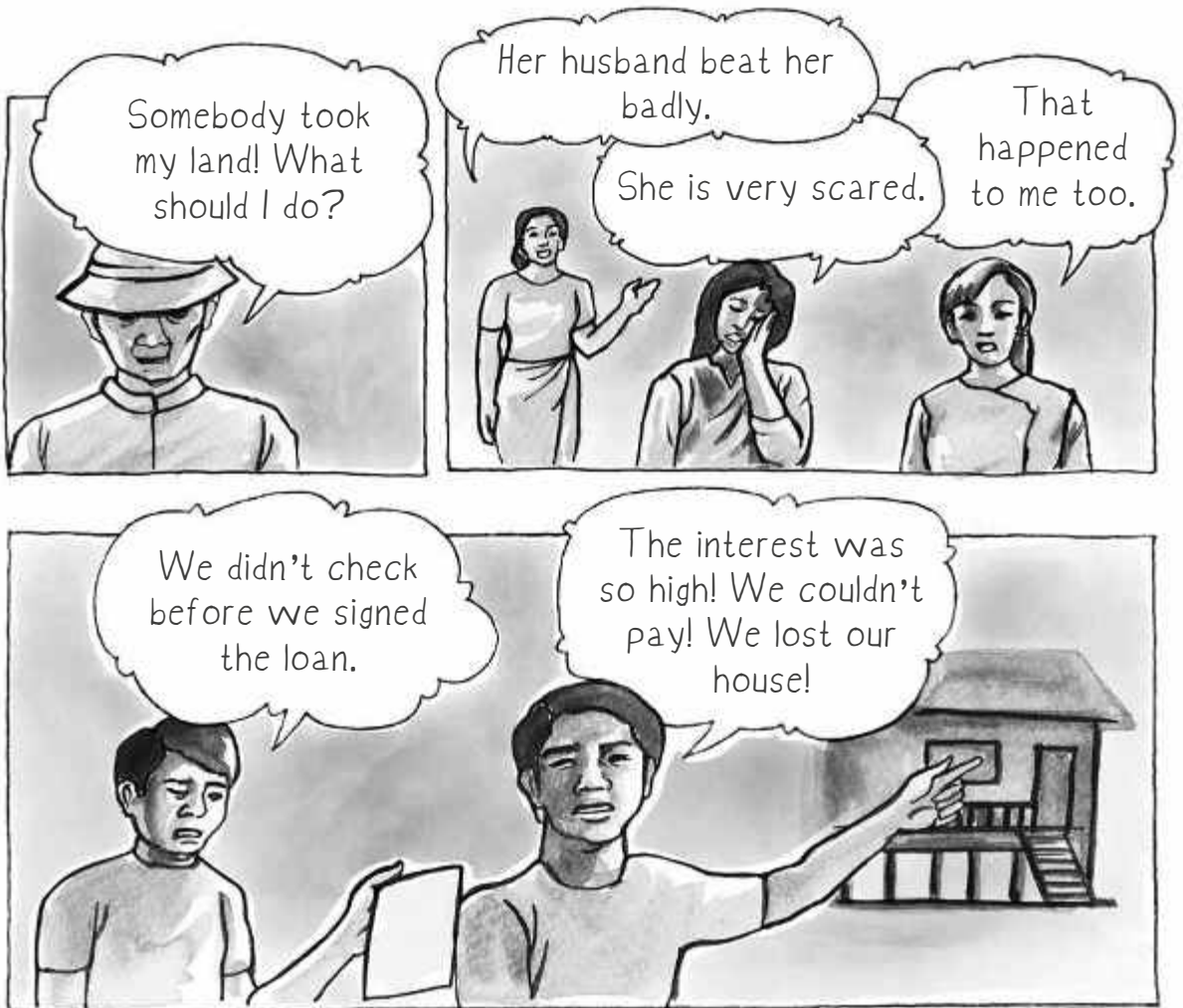
## WHAT IS THE WAY TO JUSTICE?



So I started to look...



As much as I tried, at first I could only see the problems:



Everywhere I looked,  
there were so many  
problems.



So many stories.  
So many people  
suffering.

I noticed that some of these people came to our house to talk with my father. I looked closer... is my father a helper?



I noticed that my father didn't say much. Mostly he listened. He asked questions.



*After the people left, I asked my father:*

## WHAT IS THE WAY TO JUSTICE?

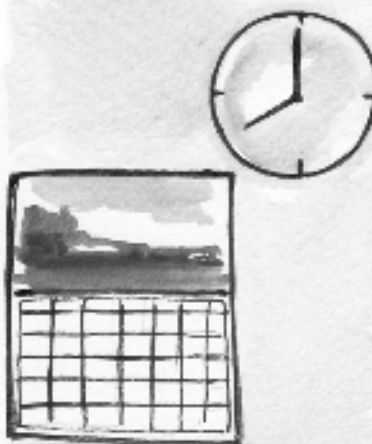


This is what he told me:

My girl, justice doesn't  
happen just like that.



Justice takes time.



Justice is the collection of  
small, personal acts of bravery.





Whenever you see an injustice, it is important to report it to the authorities. Justice is the responsibility of the authorities to treat everyone with fairness and equality.



Justice is one person having the courage to speak up and claim her rights and responsibilities.



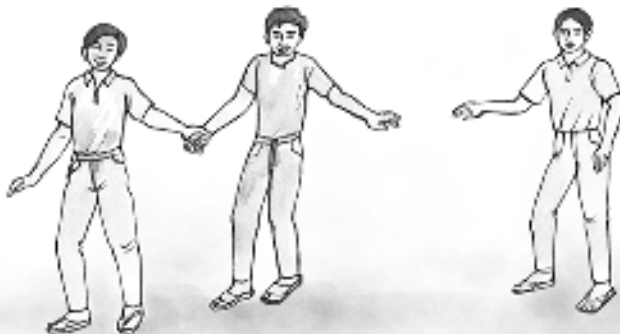
It is one person who says:

This is wrong!

I have a right!



One person and then another and another.



THIS IS HOW WE PAVE  
THE ROAD TO JUSTICE.



My father continued:

Some people think that justice is a big event that happens once and then it is done.



But real justice is a system.

It's community.



That is me and you and all of us.

It's government.



And government is the community!

And it's laws.



Everyone needs to do their part and work together if we want to have justice in our community.

I thought about what my father said.  
I still had so many questions:

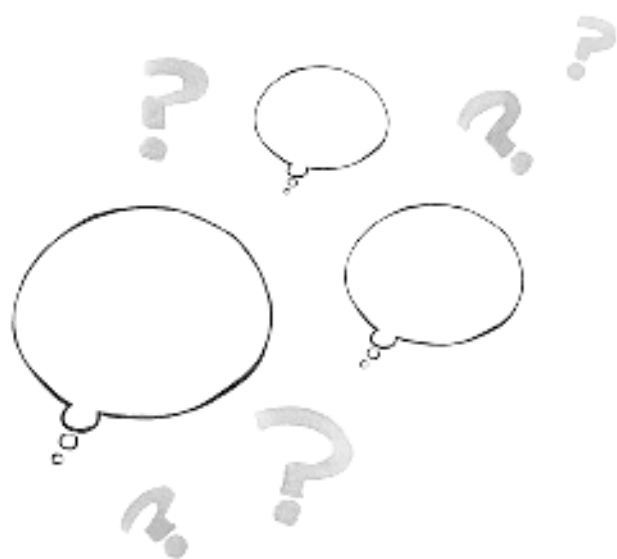
Can we really  
change our  
community for  
the better?

If justice is a  
system, then  
how do I  
contribute?

Where can  
I report an  
injustice?

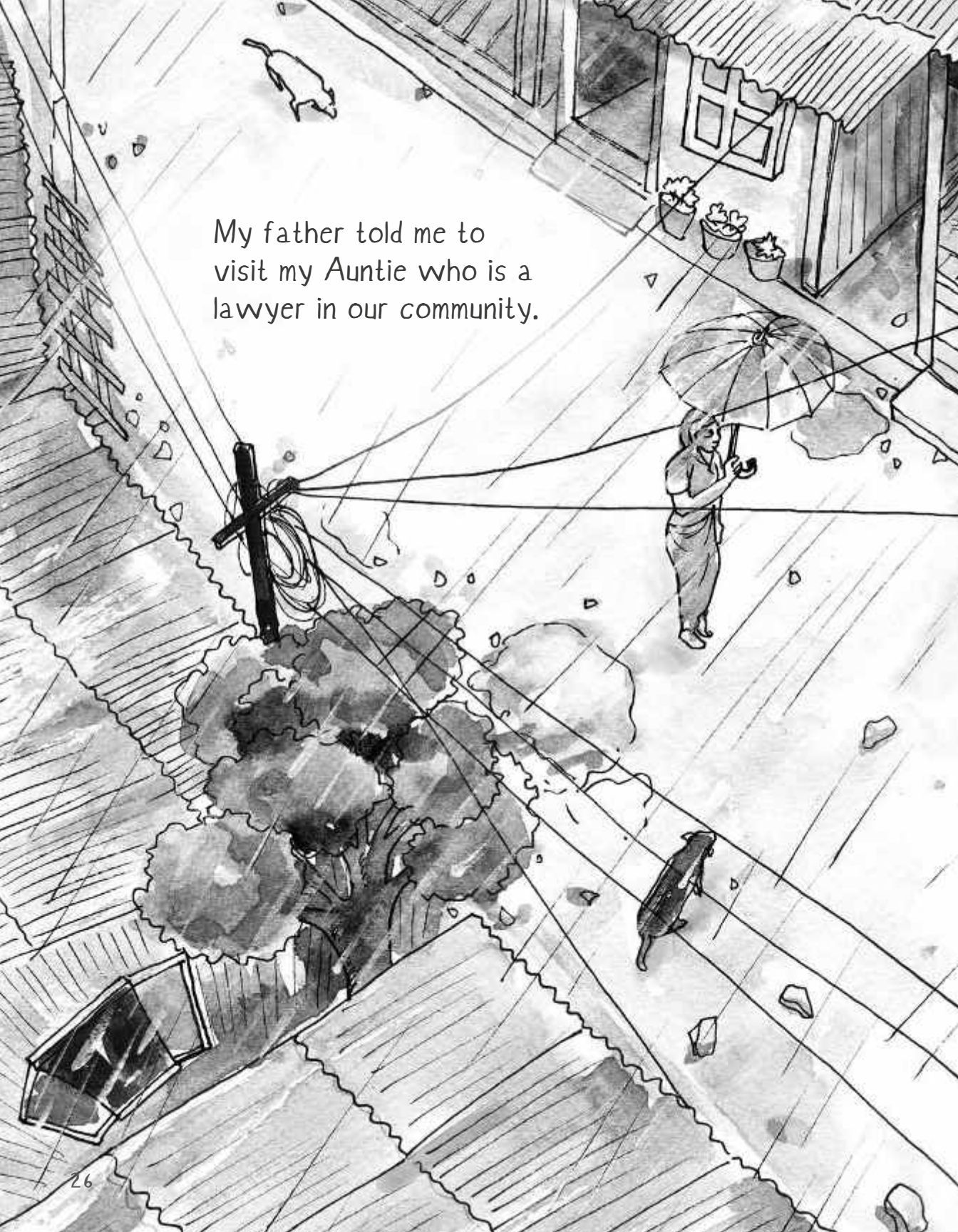
How do we  
respond to  
injustices?

And even if I  
report, will the  
case be handled  
well?

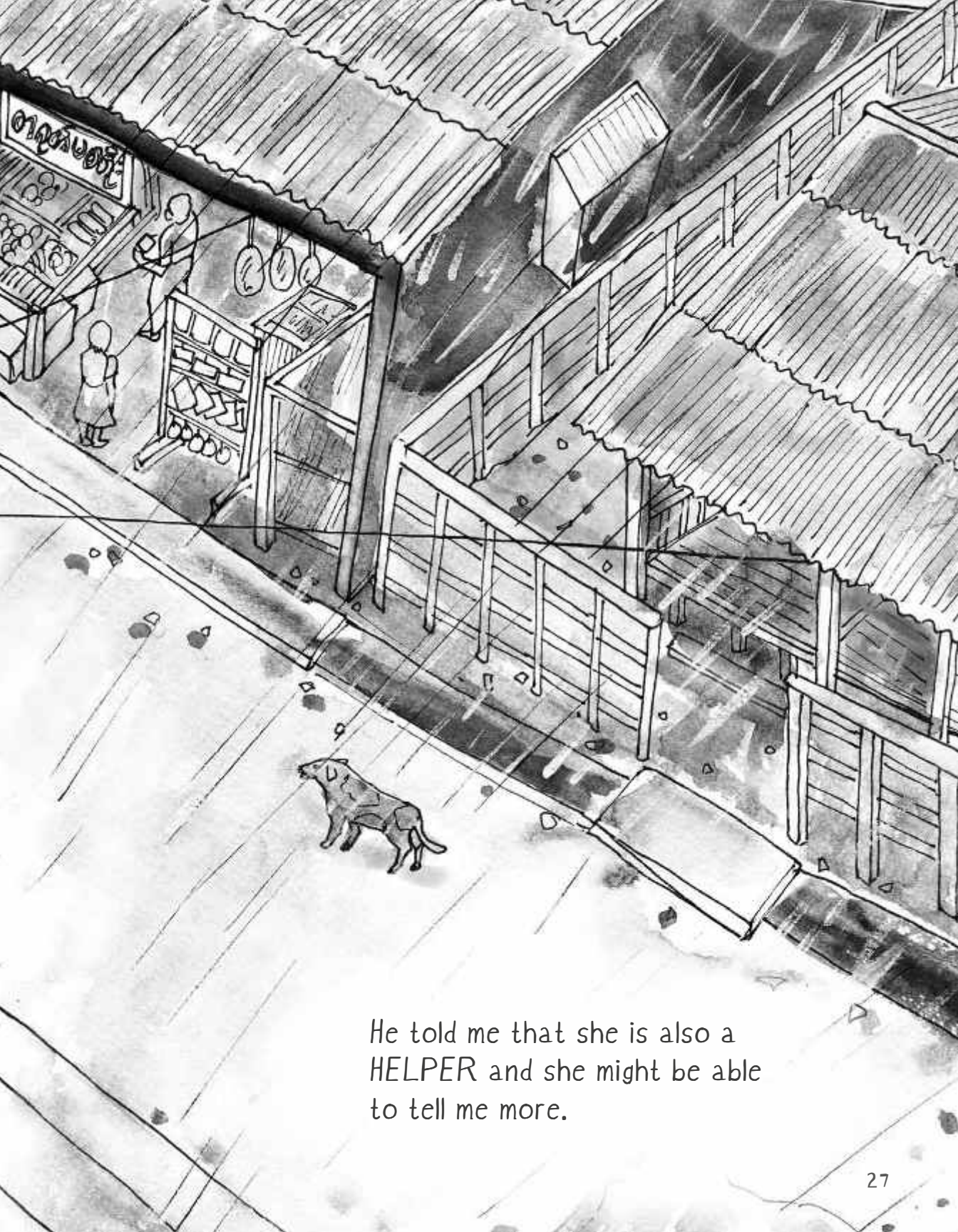




My father told me to  
visit my Auntie who is a  
lawyer in our community.





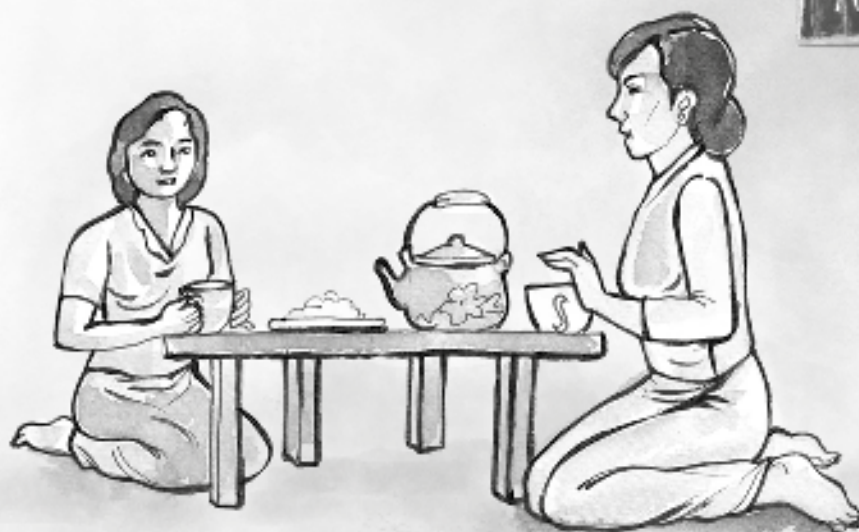


He told me that she is also a  
**HELPER** and she might be able  
to tell me more.





I told her yes and she told me to sit down while she made us some hot tea.




We sipped our tea as the monsoon  
rain fell heavy from the sky and  
I asked my Auntie to tell me:

## WHAT IS THE WAY TO JUSTICE?







Outside the rain sounded  
like an orchestra.

Water played on  
everything it touched.

Inside a small bucket sat on the floor catching drops of water that fell from my Auntie's ceiling.



My Auntie sat up straight and took a long sip of her tea. I felt excited to learn about justice from a lawyer in our community.



Her voice was almost a whisper when she finally spoke.

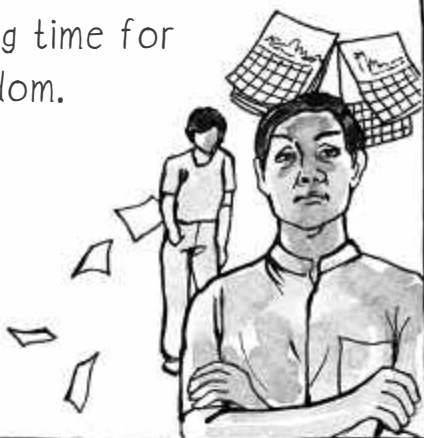
I leaned in closer.



This is what she told me:



You know, our people waited a long time for freedom.



And now it is right here. It is ours.



But freedom without responsibility is chaos.





Freedom with responsibility,  
ah, now that is our real power.





I thought about what  
my Auntie said.

**FREEDOM WITH  
RESPONSIBILITY  
IS OUR REAL POWER.**

But how do I become  
responsible?  
I asked my Auntie.

She smiled.



You have to see  
yourself as a  
contributor of  
justice, she said.



When you can see yourself  
as an active participant in  
justice, then you can see  
how to change your actions.



When I left my Auntie's house, the rain had stopped  
and I was starting to feel more hopeful...



On the way back home I practiced looking at  
the world with my new mindset.

## I AM A CONTRIBUTOR OF JUSTICE.





I passed by many friends and community members.  
I started to think that maybe being a contributor  
of justice starts with speaking up about justice?

I decided to stop and ask each person:  
**WHAT IS THE WAY TO JUSTICE?**

Shopkeeper, Aung Naing Soe,  
was sweeping his shop as  
he told me:

Learning your  
rights helps you  
understand how to  
claim your rights!





Teacher Yin Yin was carrying flowers  
from the market to the monastery.  
I walked with her for a little while as  
she told me:

It's good to speak up about  
justice. When you see  
something wrong, report it  
to a community leader or  
helper who you trust.



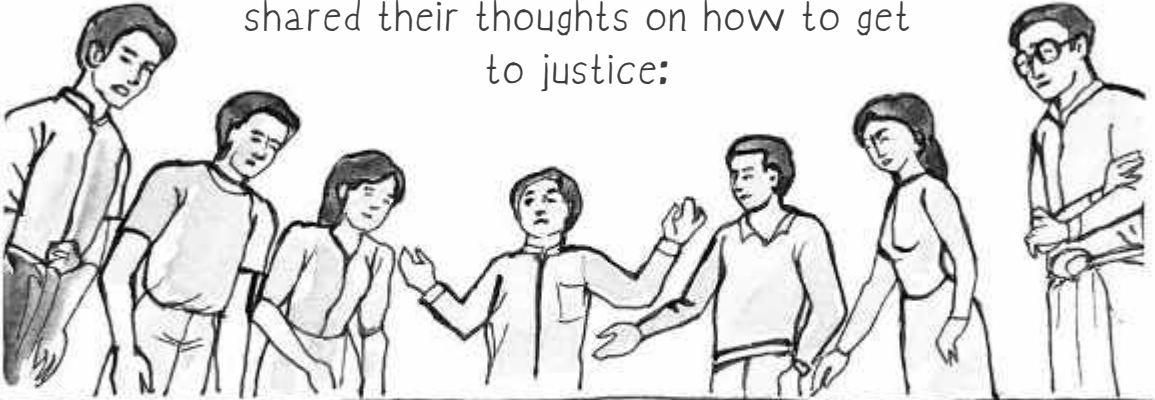
I saw my friends from school, Wint Hte and Htet Yin Tun, on the way to watch the soccer game at the stadium. They told me:

We have lots of community organizations supporting justice.

It's fun to participate in community events and learn together.



Other community members that I met  
shared their thoughts on how to get  
to justice:



Don't pay bribes.



We have to have  
empathy for the victim...  
how do they feel?



Do research before you  
make a decision.

Talk to at least 3 people!

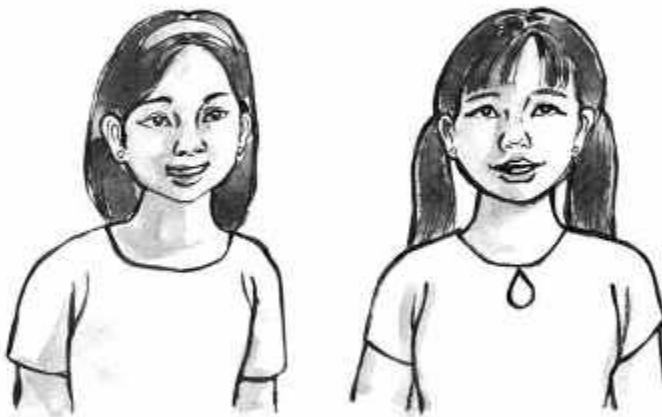




I got home just in time for dinner and as we ate I told my family what I had learned about justice today.




My sisters, Gyi Gyi and Sisi, were really excited to learn about justice!



And guess what? They also want to be contributors!

As I got into bed,  
I looked out the window  
at the full moon.





I could hear the owl  
and birds playing in  
the trees.

And the crickets  
and the frogs singing  
in the cool night.



I started to understand that justice really is connected to everything.

A black and white illustration of a woman's face, looking slightly down with a thoughtful expression. Her face is the central focus, surrounded by a network of white circles connected by thin lines. Each circle contains a different icon related to justice or law: a gavel, a pair of scales, a group of people, a handshake, a building (courthouse), a book, and a person standing. The background is a light gray with a subtle grid pattern.[illegible]



Hey, you know what?



I think we need your help too!

WILL YOU HELP US  
PAVE THE WAY TO  
JUSTICE?



# HOW TO GET STARTED

**This book was written to inspire small community action.  
And that starts with YOU!**

HERE ARE 6 WAYS THAT  
YOU CAN START TO TAKE ACTION  
IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

**#1 LEARN. KNOW. SHARE.**

**#2 TAKE INITIATIVE.**



It's important that each person learns her/his rights and responsibilities so that everyone understands how to participate in justice and how to claim their rights. You can learn about your rights by attending community activities on justice and by sharing knowledge with others.



Actively engage in understanding the laws and commit to taking personal responsibility for yourself, others and your community. If you see something wrong, speak up and report it to your justice service partners or government authority. Practice learning from whatever position you are in.



### #3 FIND THE HELPERS.



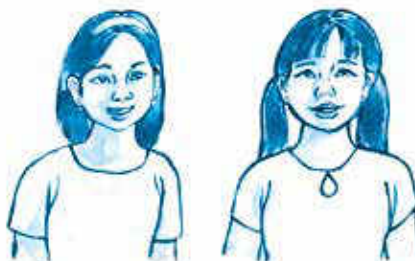
How do we identify people in our community that we can trust? It is important to know who is working in your community for justice, especially service providers and CSOs. Find and get to know the helpers in your community.

### #4 MAKE A PLAN.



If something happens to you, what is your plan or strategy? First, decide who is in your “circle of trust”. A circle of trust is made up of people — a teacher, friend, adult — in your community that you trust and can talk to if something happens. Having a plan helps us think ahead and be prepared.

### #5 INVITE OTHERS.



If we want to make justice work in our community, we need to invite everyone to participate. Talk about justice issues with your friends and family. Invite others to support you when you have problems in your community and discuss with service providers to find opportunities/solutions.

### #6 DO YOUR RESEARCH (AT LEAST 3 SOURCES).



Before you make a decision, do your research. Don’t just ask one person. Find at least 3 different sources so that you can make a more informed decision. Understand what your choices are and what the consequences of each choice might be.

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