

# BRISA DE ANGULO

## CHAMPION FOR JUSTICE



Twenty years ago, Brisa De Angulo was raped and tortured by an extended family member. She was living in Bolivia, which has had the highest rates of sexual violence against women and girls in all of Latin America and the Caribbean. When she broke the silence, local authorities ostracized and blamed her for the events. But Brisa refused to allow the Bolivian Government to deny justice in her case or in the cases of other girls who have experienced this violence. She was determined to create a safe place where girls would be heard: a place that would affirm that “being a girl doesn’t give anyone the right to hurt you.”

As a teenager, Brisa founded A Breeze of Hope, which at the time was the only center in Bolivia that offered support to survivors of childhood sexual violence. A Breeze of Hope is now an advanced center providing healing and legal support to child survivors and their families.

Brisa continued to push her case through the Bolivian legal system despite a constant barrage of threats and intimidation. Her house was set on fire twice. She was bounced from court to court for years, and her case was referred to a court for livestock. Ultimately, Bolivia had to rewrite its sexual violence laws.

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GWI was proud to stand with Brisa and A Breeze of Hope throughout that time. But after three trials and numerous appeals, Bolivia failed in delivering Brisa's right to justice.

In 2022, Brisa's case was heard by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. On January 19, 2023, the court found that the Government of Bolivia is responsible for the violation of Brisa's due process and human rights. The court's ruling is legally binding in Bolivia and can also be used as precedent in legal arguments in similar cases across Latin America and the Caribbean. This ruling could increase the chances that sex crimes across the hemisphere, a vast majority of which go unpunished, will be prosecuted.

**We continue to stand in solidarity with Brisa who is a Champion for Justice, es una Defensora de la Justicia.**



Above: Brisa De Angulo alongside her mother leads a demonstration against VAWG. Photo: Courtesy of A Breeze of Hope.

Front left: Brisa De Angulo, her husband Parker, and their children. Photo: Flavia De Campos Dutra.

Front right: Brisa De Angulo. Photo: Courtesy of A Breeze of Hope.

GWI is committed to partnering with all who endeavor to end gender-based violence. Starting in our tenth anniversary year, we are shining a light on the struggles and successes of individuals and organizations that inspire us.

We celebrate their achievements as **Champions for Justice**, and we redouble our efforts to resist inequity, demonstrate solidarity with women human rights defenders, and defend the rights of women and girls everywhere.

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