

Justice for Women

Strategy meeting, Tuesday, 10 December 2019 // New York

In March 2019, the Justice for Women Report was launched by the **High-level Group on Justice for Women** as a contribution to the work of the Pathfinders' **Task Force on Justice**.

The report was developed by the **High-level Group on Justice for Women** which was co-convened by Phumzile Nguka-Mlambo, Executive Director, **UN Women**, Irene Khan, Director-General, **International Development Law Organization (IDLO)** and Sandie Okoro, Senior Vice President and Group General Counsel, **World Bank Group**.

The Report charts a course for accelerated implementation of SDGs 16 and 5 with five **promising approaches to increase justice for women** around the world and three key strategies to make progress.



Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies hosted a **Justice for Women Strategy** meeting on December 10, 2019, with a core group of SDG16+ partners. Representatives of the co-conveners, **UN Women**, **IDLO** and the **World Bank** as well as **Canada's Ministry of Justice**, **the Georgetown Institute for Women Peace and Security**, **Global Citizen**, **UNDP**, and **The Elders** met to discuss interventions, future plans and identify opportunities for 2020.

We cannot increase justice for all, if we do not increase Justice for Women. The work on Justice for Women is aligned with the three priorities that were set out in the shared strategy on Justice for All for 2020-2023:

- Accelerate National Action
- Build a global and regional alliance to support national action
- Mobilize for justice for all

Accelerating National Action

Canada

- Canada is developing a national civil justice indicator and is working on a comprehensive Canadian **survey of legal needs**. Data will be gender-disaggregated.
- In 2016, the Government of Canada established a pilot funding program to provide **legal aid to address intimate partner violence**.
- Canada has developed **Justice Development Goals** to align actors in the justice sector to achieve common policy goals and better justice outcomes for people.

IDLO

- IDLO is working on research and policy advocacy on **women's effective representation and participation as justice professionals**. In 2020, it will launch two country studies – Kenya and Tunisia – on this theme.
- IDLO is working to support the **elimination of discriminatory laws** in Kenya, Sierra Leone and Philippines, as part of its Gender Strategy 2019 -2020 and in support of the Equality in Law for Women and Girls: A Multi-Stakeholder Strategy for Accelerated Action.
- IDLO is launching an issue paper on **women and customary and informal justice (CIJ)** to provide policy and programmatic guidance on engagement with these systems for the promotion and protection of women's human rights.
- IDLO works on justice for women in several countries, including: **Afghanistan, Honduras, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Somalia, Tunisia, and Uganda**.
- IDLO's work on accelerating national action on justice for women is informed by its Gender Strategy 2019-2020: Achieving Gender Equality and Justice for Women through the Rule of Law. The Strategy builds on the findings of the Justice for Women report and has four focus areas/outcomes: (a) women and girls have increased are empowered to seek justice and claims their rights; (b) institutions have an improved capacity to respond to women and girls' justice needs; (c) legal and policy frameworks on gender equality are strengthened; and (d) justice for women and rule of law issues are championed in global policy processes.

UNDP

- UNDP has co-led on the development of a **civil justice indicator** and its inclusion in the SDG monitoring framework. The proposal that the data be disaggregated by sex. The proposal has been submitted to the Statistical Commission by the IAEG. If adopted in April 2020, UNDP, UNODC and the OECD will be co-custodians and support implementation.
- UNDP is also working on **indicators on women's participation and decision making**.
- UNDP has country programs working on Justice for Women in countries such as **Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, Jordan, Libya, and Pakistan**, for example.
- The Rule of Law and Human Rights 2030 Agenda **Accelerator Initiative launched by UNDP** will accelerate action at the national level to ensure justice for all in 10 countries. Examples include :

- In **Jordan**, on the request of the Ministry of Justice, a Small Claims Initiative has been launched to improve the performance of the justice system with a particular focus on women detained for debt.
- In **Timor Leste**, the Access to Justice Centres established by UNDP with the Public Defender's Office have been effective in reaching rural and remote populations to increase legal awareness, provide mediation for civil disputes, and **support women's legal aid**.

UN Women

- **UN Women** is working on women's access to justice in countries such as **Ethiopia, Lebanon, Nigeria, Uganda** and has projects on transitional justice in **Tunisia, Mali, and South Sudan**.
- **Six catalytic Action Coalitions** were recently announced with the objective to develop a set of concrete, ambitious, and transformative actions to achieve progress towards gender equality. These coalitions will be created as outcomes of Beijing+25 with a five-year plan for new transformational action. UN Women will serve as the secretariat and each coalition will be co-chaired by two states (one from the global north and one from the global south); two private sector actors; and two civil society organizations. The themes of the coalitions are:
 - Gender-Based Violence
 - Economic justice and rights
 - Bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)
 - Feminist action for climate justice
 - Technology and innovation for gender equality
 - Feminist movements and leadership

Strategic priorities for 2020:

- Ensure better linkages between justice actors and those working on women's most common justice problems, including **sectoral ministers, specialized NGO's etc..**
- Strengthen the buy-in from **Ministers of Finance** for the importance on justice for women, in order to increase stronger domestic investment.
- Connect the people and organizations working on **violence against women** and those working on legal empowerment and access to justice.
- Working with **law societies, law deans and bar associations** to get their support for the implementation of SDG 16.
- Increase availability and use of **gender-disaggregated data** on women's justice problems and how they can be resolved and prevented.
- Increase mobilization around the **six catalytic Action Coalitions** and ensure that that justice for women remains a focus for each identified theme.

International and Regional Support to National Action

Data on Women's Justice problems

- Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security recently published the **Women, Peace and Security Index**. The index ranks 167 countries on women's equality and reveals trends in women's well-being across 11 indicators, and offers subnational data for China, India and Nigeria. It is available here: <https://giwps.georgetown.edu/the-index/>
- **The World Bank** is collaborating with HiiL on legal needs surveys and develop ways to better use disaggregating data to make the case for investing in justice for women.
- World Bank also supports governments in their efforts to **collect data and evidence** on justice for women but this work is not systematic.
- Three major **data platforms** are available with disaggregated justice data:
 - UN Women: <https://data.unwomen.org>
 - HiiL's justice dashboard: <https://justice-dashboard.com/>
 - World Justice Project's Global insights on access to justice data portal: <http://data.worldjusticeproject.org/accesstojustice/>
- UN Women's **Making Every Woman and Girl Count Initiative** supports countries to improve the production, accessibility and use of gender statistics.

Evidence on what works to increase justice for women

- A number of research projects are ongoing to bring together evidence on what works to increase justice for all, including by HiiL, the World Bank, IDLO and World Justice Project.
- Evidence on **what works to combat gender-based violence** is being collected by the International Center on Research for Women (ICRW) and George Washington University.
- Evidence on **what works to empower women economically** is being collected by UN Foundation.
- Country research on barriers and **pathways to promote women's participation in the justice sector** in Kenya and Tunisia will be published by IDLO.
- IDLO is working on building knowledge on women and **customary and informal systems of justice**. An issue paper will be published in March 2020 that focuses on challenges, entry points, engagement modalities, and policy directions on engaging with customary and informal systems for the promotion and protection of women's human rights.

Investing in Justice for Women

- Making the case for **investing in justice for women** has been highlighted in the Justice for Women report. IDLO will be highlighting this in national policy events in selected countries of operations.
- Research on the **business case for investing in justice** was presented by OECD, in collaboration with the World Justice Project. The research report can be found at the following link: <https://www.oecd.org/gov/building-a-business-case-for-access-to-justice.pdf>

- OECD DAC is **tracking bilateral financing across different sectors**, including the justice sector.
- Hiil's 16.3 Pulse Report focusing on **innovative financing for justice** will be launched at the Innovating Justice Forum in February 2020.
- A report on the **social return on investment in justice services provided by civil society actors** is being prepared by the Canadian Forum on Civil Justice.
- The Elders stressed the importance of **funding women's movements and the need for greater grassroots support**.
- The World Bank's **Fragility, Conflict and Violence (FCV) strategy** includes justice and the rule of law as one of its six areas of special emphasis for engagement by the World Bank. While this may provide an opening to accelerate national action on justice for women, the work of the World Bank is dependent upon governments requesting assistance, and in the past justice sector assistance has been a lower priority. This may remain a challenge.
- **Potential sources of funding** for justice for women may include the **Peacebuilding Fund** (PBF) given their support for rule of law initiatives.

Mobilizing for Justice for Women

These are the major campaigning initiatives for justice for women in 2020:

- The sixty-fourth session on the **Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)** will be organized in from 9-20 March in New York. This event may provide an opportunity to organize a side-event focusing on national action to increase justice for women.
- IDLO will be organizing **three side events at CSW** on the following themes: a) justice for women, moving from commitments to action; b) women and customary and informal justice; and c) effective participation of women in justice delivery.
- Canada will co-host the **WPS Focal Points Network** with Uruguay in 2020 as part of the **20th anniversary of resolution 1325**. There will be six areas of focus including a) promoting women human rights defenders; b) supporting participation in peace negotiations; c) increase women in uniformed services; d) financing women and peace and security; e) gender and conflict analysis; and f) women's economic participation post-conflict.
- The **Generation Equality Forum**, a civil society-led global gathering convened by UN Women and co-hosted by the Governments of Mexico and France, taking place in Mexico City from 7-8 May, and in Paris from 7-10 July 2020, will launch the following six catalytic **Action Coalitions**.
- An **intergenerational justice event** is also being proposed by the Elders in support of **young female justice defenders** during the Generation Equality Forum in Paris.
- The **14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice** will take place in Tokyo from 20-27 April. A side event is currently being organized by UNODC and Pathfinders on access to justice for all and another on legal aid.
- **International Legal Aid Conference** will take place in Brazil in 2020 and is being organized by UNDP, UNODC, ILF and OSJI.
- A meeting on **justice for women and its critical role to address violence against women** is currently being proposed by the Elders in the latter half of 2020. This event will bring together actors from the gender-based violence and justice communities.
- IDLO is organizing an expert group on **GBV and justice programming** in The Hague, which will inform the development of a paper on lessons, models and good practices in this area.
- Global Citizen will launch a **year-long campaign on accelerating action on the Sustainable Development Goals** that culminates in 2020. They commissioned research to determine what it would cost to achieve the SDGs in 59 of the least developed countries and the gap was estimated at \$350 billion. They will host concerts in **five cities** – New York, Lagos, Mexico, Paris and Berlin – to seek concrete and tangible commitments on three pillars: a) human capital; b) gender equality and c) environment and sustainability. They will target the private sector and philanthropists, convening CEOs across industries.
- The **AWID Forum** will take place in Taipei from 11-14 January 2021. The forum offers a space for discussion and exchange amongst feminist grassroots organizations.

- The World Bank will organize the following events in Washington, DC in 2020:
 - **Land and Poverty Conference** from 16-20 March will focus on the theme of Institutions for Equity and Resilience. One of the twelve themes of the conference will be on land tenure security and gender, youth, indigenous peoples.
 - **Fragility Forum 2020** will take place from 2-4 March. One of the five themes will be on the **inclusion of women in development approaches** in FCV settings with a focus on devising feedback mechanisms, giving voice and strengthening local capacity in the time of crisis, and working with communities most affected by fragility, conflict and violence. A side event will also be organized by the g7+, in collaboration with Pathfinders, on **Investing in Justice for All to Prevent Violence and Conflict**.
 - **Law, Justice and Development Week** will take place in November 2020.
- An event on **women's political participation in post-conflict reconstruction** will be organized in 2020 by the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security in collaboration with the United Arab Emirates Mission to the United Nations.
- The events app managed by Pathfinders provides an **overview of all SDG16+ events taking place in 2020**. The app can be found at the following link: <https://guidebook.com/g/sdg16plusfestivalguide/>

Collaborations and initiatives in 2020

In addition to the above, other areas for potential collaboration and key initiatives/priorities for 2020 include:

- A multi-year project looking closely at the **evidence on what works to increase justice for women**. (Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security in collaboration with partners)
- A blog linking justice for women to **progress on the 12 areas of critical concern of the Beijing Platform for Action**, including analysis of justice in the Beijing +25 national reports. (Pathfinders)
- Potential collaboration on **events** include:
 - A side-event at CSW focusing on **national action** to increase justice for women. (IDLO; The Elders and Pathfinders)
 - Strategic retreats on **justice for women and its critical role to address violence against women** and an **intergenerational event in support of young female justice defenders**. (The Elders and Pathfinders)
 - **Generation Equality Forum** in Paris in which the six **Action Coalitions** will be launched. (The Elders and Pathfinders)
- Increase mobilization around the six **Action Coalitions** and ensure justice remains a focus of each coalition. (UN Women)
- **SDG16 Conference in Rome** which will focus on transformative governance (IDLO).
- Strengthen the links between the **Global Citizens concert** in Nigeria with broader efforts by justice partners in West Africa to accelerate action at the sub-regional level, including the Mano River Union and the Sahel. (Global Citizen and Pathfinders)
- Increase collaboration with **law societies, law deans and bar associations** to ensure buy-in on SDG16+. (World Bank and Canada Ministry of Justice)
- Strengthen collaboration between **national statistics offices and UN agencies** to increase the availability and use of gender-disaggregated data. (UNDP)
- Launch a challenge to **create more gender-disaggregated data** and link the data to existing major data platforms. (World Bank; Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security and Pathfinders)
- Promote **increased financing** for justice for women and identify additional sources of funding, including the Peacebuilding Fund. (World Bank and Pathfinders)
- Increase engagement with the **private sector** to accelerate action on justice for women at the national level. (Global Citizen)
- Ensure that the **outcomes of the Justice for Women Strategy Meeting** are linked to the Justice for All Strategy. (Pathfinders)