

GWI United Nation Representative Advocacy Report Vienna 2021

GWI advocacy goals

1. 100% of United Nations Member States commit to policy, legislation, budget and infrastructure to facilitate transition of girls from primary to secondary school and ensure gender parity and gender equality throughout secondary education by 2030.
2. By 2030 100% of United Nations low income Member States have increased access to tertiary education for girls and women by 50%.
3. 100% of United Nations Member States commit to and implement policies for continuing education to empower women throughout the life course, within the formal and informal economies.
4. Influence the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4.
5. All 17 SDGs will include girls' education targets.

Attendance and report by:

Elisabeth Francis, GWI United Nations Representative Vienna



Subject of meeting:

The 14th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (postponed from 2020) took place in Kyoto 7-12 March 2021. The Congress, which has taken place every five years since 1955, represents the world's largest gathering of governments, international and regional organisations, civil society and academic experts focusing on crime prevention and criminal justice. It is a unique forum to exchange experience in research, law and policy development among countries, organisations and experts. Its conclusions - as per the Kyoto Declaration, adopted at the Congress by all member states - guide UN crime-related policies and actions for the next five-year period.

The Kyoto Congress was in hybrid format, with a limited in-person component and the majority of participants joining virtually. Of 5,600 participants, 4,200 were registered for online participation. This included representatives from 152 UN Member States, 37 intergovernmental organisations, 114 non-governmental organisations, 600 individual experts and a number of UN entities and institutes. Elisabeth Francis represented GWI (virtually, from Vienna).

The Congress opening featured statements from Princess Takamado, Japan Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, Justice Minister Yoko Kamikawa as well as from the President of the UN General Assembly, the UN Secretary-General, and the Executive Director of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Many Ministers of Justice made statements at the Congress. It is noteworthy that the Congress was convened by two women - the Minister of Justice of Japan, Yoko Kamikawa as President of the Congress and the UNODC Executive Director Ghada Waly.

The UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, highlighted the importance of the Congress to tackling crime challenges arising in the global pandemic. UNODC Executive Director Ghada Waly also spoke on this theme. "We are in a race against time, as organised crime has spared no efforts in taking advantage of the crisis, from selling falsified vaccines, to exploiting those who have lost their livelihoods, and diverting stimulus funds."

The Congress adopted 'the **Kyoto Declaration**', whereby UN members agreed concrete actions to address crime prevention, criminal justice, rule of law and international cooperation. Commitments will be taken forward at the 30th Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Vienna in May.

The formal proceedings included four principal agenda items - reports were prepared on all these:

- i) Comprehensive strategies for crime prevention towards social and economic development.
- ii) Integrated approaches to challenges facing the criminal justice system.
- iii) Multidimensional approaches by Governments to promoting the rule of law by, inter alia, providing access to justice for all; building effective, accountable, impartial and inclusive institutions; and considering social, educational and other relevant measures, including fostering a culture of lawfulness while respecting cultural identities, in line with the Doha Declaration.
- iv) International cooperation and technical assistance to prevent and address all forms of crime: (a) Terrorism in all its forms and manifestations; (b) New and emerging forms of crime.

Four official workshops with experts were conducted on

- Evidence-based crime prevention: statistics, indicators and evaluation in support of successful practices.
- Education and youth engagement as key to making societies resilient to crime.
- Reducing reoffending: identifying risks and developing solutions.
- Current crime trends, recent developments and emerging solutions, in particular new technologies as means for and tools against crime.

Each workshop produced a report including recommendations.

In addition, dozens of special events and 130 ancillary meetings arranged by civil society were hosted on the hybrid Event Platform. A dozen ancillary meetings specifically addressed women's issues, including hate crime, trafficking and domestic violence - and many others included gender perspectives, economic disproportions, vulnerabilities in their analyses. Summaries and recordings are on the Congress website.

International Women's Day was marked by a special event on women's empowerment and the advancement of justice.

Refers to SDG no #:

All - as many speakers noted, public safety and the rule of law are key for social and economic development. Effective crime prevention is vital for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. All the SDG's are at risk, if action is not taken on the rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice.

Relevant treaties/conventions/resolutions:

Many, including the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; the UN Convention against Corruption; the international instruments to prevent and combat terrorism, etc

What GWI [resolution\(s\)](#) does your attendance relate to? (i.e. Tolerance of Minority Groups (5), FGM (6), Human Trafficking (7), Child Marriage (8), etc.)

All

Intervention by GWI rep:

Virtual attendance at a 6 day Congress held 8 time zones away was a challenge - but it was a pleasure to be able to access so much through the excellent Event Platform. I attended various Ancillary Meetings including:

- *Inspire. Change. Together. Innovative teaching on the Rule of Law to empower the next generation* (UNODC).
- *Integrating Gender Perspectives into Education; why it matters for education on the rule of law.* (UNODC)
- *Inclusive implementation of UNTOC Review Mechanism: The role of UNODC in enabling Civil Society, the Private Sector and Academics in supporting Member States* (UNODC)
- *Addressing underreporting of violence against Women through evidence-based approaches* (Tilburg University)
- *Social Justice, Crime Prevention, and the Repair of Social Institutions: The Role of Faith-Based Organisations* (International Association for the Advancement of Innovative Approaches to Global Challenges; and 8 more)
- *The Global Illicit Economy: trajectories of organised crime* (The Global Initiative Against Transnational Organised Crime)
- *The silent killer: falsified medical products* (UNODC)
- Meeting of the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Please see the Appendix for summaries and links to the recordings

Personal observations:

A. The **global pandemic** has led to a significant increase in crime and much exacerbated the violence, crime and criminal justice problems that women face globally. Issues include human trafficking; people smuggling; corruption; environmental / wildlife crime; organised crime; drug violence / trafficking / abuse; gang violence; Gender Based Violence; counterfeit goods (particularly now vaccines / Personal Protective Equipment); the exploitation of those who have lost their jobs; corruption, diversion and theft of some of the huge financial resources allocated to economic stimulus; cybercrime; setbacks to the rule of law. We are only at the beginning of comprehending the very harmful impact of the pandemic on these crime challenges, let alone taking effective actions.

B. In this regard, the **Kyoto Declaration** is very important - it covers concrete actions that UN Member States commit to in addressing crime prevention, criminal justice, rule of law and international cooperation. There was considerable disappointment in NGO circles at the role of civil society as covered in the Declaration, reflecting pushback by certain more authoritarian governments, but the Declaration is still impressive. Just as the previous Doha Declaration had many consequences in terms of

the rule of law and the importance of education and gender considerations, we can also expect much from the Kyoto Declaration.

In regard to GWI's advocacy objectives, it is noteworthy that the Kyoto Declaration:

- 1) calls for the **mainstreaming of a gender perspective** in both Crime Prevention (items 27 and 28 - these cover both gender-related and domestic violence) and Criminal Justice (items 43 and 44 - these cover, inter alia, gender equality, the advancement of women in law enforcement, a renewed pledge to full implementation of the Beijing Declaration, gender responsive measures in regard to protection of women and girl victims).
- 2) commits UN Members to additional **education** measures (item 59) - 'Provide access to quality education and promote awareness-raising activities regarding law and policies, including public law-related education for all, to equip the public with the values, skills and knowledge necessary to foster among the general public a culture of lawfulness, cognisant of cultural diversity, based on respect for the rule of law.'

There is also much on corruption, human trafficking, environmental crime, drugs and other areas of crime / justice that are important to us. The Kyoto Declaration (13 pages; 97 items - see link below) is definitely worth a read. It will provide all of us with the means in the future of following up / advocating with UN member state governments, regional authorities, and with the UN itself as to progress on all these items.

C. **Violence against women and girls** was discussed in various sessions - there is widespread recognition that this is a problem that has been worsened in the context of the pandemic. There was discussion of the need to reduce barriers to the reporting of sexual offences and domestic violence so as to reduce the gap between the number of reported and unreported incidents of such offences, as well as the need to support victims of violence and provide access to relevant services. The need to address online child abuse - a growing threat - was highlighted.

D. The workshop - an official Congress event - on "*Education and Youth Engagement as key to making Societies resilient to Crime*" contained a good discussion on **education and the rule of law**. Panelists presented examples from Qatar, Kazakhstan, and India and from the One African Child Foundation for Creative Learning. In the discussion, some excellent points were made: the need for schools to be open to innovative teaching methods as to the rule of law; the benefits of collaborating with NGOs to help reach local communities and engage them in education and crime prevention; the importance of involving law enforcement and criminal justice officials, as well as civil society; the role that extracurricular activities can play in helping to educate youth on the rule of law; the contribution that civil society can make in providing training to teachers and youth on rule of law issues; and the importance of teacher-training and capacity-building programmes generally in strengthening education on the rule of law.

There is now widespread recognition (as confirmed in the Kyoto Declaration) of the important role of **education** in crime prevention and establishment of the rule of law, and, increasingly, there are good examples of what can be done, the practical issues that will be faced, and how they can be overcome.

How this serves GWI members:

Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice, the Rule of Law are crucial to tolerant and peaceful societies and to all women's issues. It can be well argued that as health and economic issues consequent on the pandemic are dealt with, these issues will become the frontline in the campaign to achieve a better world through the SDGs.

Next steps:

NFA's may be interested to review the Congress materials to see who spoke on behalf of their countries, what projects were presented, who can be local contact points for follow-ups.

The 30th Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) in Vienna in May will be the next forum where UN member states will translate the actions inherent in the Kyoto Declaration into commitments.

Key links:

- 1) the 'Kyoto Declaration on advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development'

<https://undocs.org/en/A/CONF.234/L.6>

- 2) Congress Special Events

<https://undocs.org/en/A/CONF.234/L.7>

- 3) Congress Documents

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/crimecongress/documents.html>

Of great interest also is the UN briefing paper on the impact of the pandemic on Global Crime - 'Developments regarding crime prevention and criminal justice as a result of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic'

<https://undocs.org/A/CONF.234/15>

APPENDIX - Ancillary Meetings

Session Name: *Inspire. Change. Together. Innovative teaching on the rule of law to empower the next generation.* (UNODC)

The UNODC's Education for Justice (E4J) initiative seeks to prevent crime and promote a culture of lawfulness through education activities designed for primary, secondary and tertiary levels. These activities help educators teach the next generation to better understand and address problems that can undermine the rule of law and encourage students to engage actively in their communities and future professions in this regard. E4J has developed, together with its partners including UNESCO and hundred of academics, teaching material for educators teaching at the primary, secondary and tertiary level. At the tertiary level, more than 115 university teaching modules have been developed to assist academics teaching on some of today's most crucial threats. The meeting discussed progress on the E4J Initiative, highlighting projects in Jordan, Qatar and India and lessons learned.

Link to Recording: <https://s3.amazonaws.com/us.inevent.files.general/0/0/fEZ84vfzix7FRApm011K02rfsrt0144dBTWD01Dq8fivJo.mp4>

Session Name: *Integrating gender perspectives into education: Why it matters for education on the rule of law* (UNODC)

This ancillary meeting highlighted the key role of education in preventing discrimination and violence related to gender, and how education can strengthen crime prevention worldwide. Panellists discussed the importance of addressing gender stereotypes early in the educational journey of children and youth and how this can have positive results in the way the next generation, both boys and girls, perceive their respective roles within their societies. They discussed why gender matters and what educators can do, by providing examples on how gender stereotypes can be addressed in practice and outlining what might happen if we do not empower the next generation to become gender champions. The event showcased the close link between education on the rule of law and gender equality.

Link to Recording: <https://s3.amazonaws.com/us.inevent.files.general/0/0/rgDKWY-POLXZSvxRd022w23301GnTK6Xi7NoKvpqMHsUO4.mp4>

Session Name: *Inclusive implementation of UNTOC Review Mechanism: The role of UNODC in enabling Civil Society, the Private Sector and Academics in supporting Member States* (UNODC)

In the context of a review of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), this session covered the need for civil society and the private sector, as well as other areas, to engage in preventing crime in order to protect themselves. Through various global programmes on money laundering, counter-terrorism and organized crime, UNODC and its partners at international and regional levels support the establishment and activities of various regional structures in prosecution, law enforcement, financial intelligence and asset recovery. In particular UNODC and the World Bank cooperate through the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative, a joint programme working with developing countries and financial centres to prevent the laundering of the proceeds of corruption and to facilitate the return of stolen assets. UNODC carries out research and data collection in several areas connected to organized crime including firearms, drugs and other illicit markets, wildlife crime and trafficking in persons.

Link to Recording: <https://s3.amazonaws.com/us.inevent.files.general/0/0/PILZRoz00KM7J87ih-MQusmKhKe4M7c1L02iu00RB501dxPg.mp4>

Session Name: *Addressing Underreporting of Violence against Women through evidence-based approaches (Tilburg University)*

Sexual Violence is grossly underreported all over the world. For instance, it is estimated that in India only 1.2% of rape cases are registered; in the USA 80% of sexual assaults go unreported. Lack of political will, rape myths, stereotypes, secondary victimization, delay in justice, challenges of the criminal justice system are some of the factors leading to this underreporting. And once reported, achieving justice in rape cases - prosecution / conviction - is a significant challenge. This ancillary meeting addressed the phenomenon of unreported violence against women and discussed various evidence-based approaches. The panellists discussed the challenges of measuring violence against women. More specifically, the following topics were covered : 1) Why rape is underreported worldwide: rape myths and delays in justice, 2) the role of NGOs and Crisis Intervention Centers in providing assistance and measuring sexual violence against women, 3) the challenges faced by victims in accessing criminal justice systems and 4) the need for National Victimization Surveys.

Link to Recording: <https://s3.amazonaws.com/us.inevent.files.general/0/0/y76NU8jWYJ2YzOpWGLcYUMNOseMb009u3OifSqMDPSEs.mp4>

Session Name: *The Global Illicit Economy: trajectories of organized crime (The Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime)*

The Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime presented "The Global Illicit Economy: trajectories of organized crime" report, which discusses both trends within organized crime and the broader geopolitical trends which affect how organised crime groups operate, for example, how new forms of technology are dramatically reshaping illegal markets, or how the impacts of climate change may affect illicit activity. Specific chapters in the Report address Sustainable Cities and Communities; Climate Action; Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; Reduced Inequalities; and Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions. Speakers addressed the increase in organized crime in recent years and the changes occurring as technology advances. The top five types of organized crime were covered: human exploitation, environmental crime, drugs, cyber crimes, and illicit goods. There was an interesting discussion covering the future of combating organized crime, including the areas that need improvement now and what can be done further down the line.

Session Name: *The silent killer: falsified medical products (UNODC)*

This Ancillary Meeting addressed the major public health problem caused by organized crime, in particular falsified medical products. Falsified medical products endanger health, prolong illness, kill, promote antimicrobial resistance and the spread of drug-resistant infections, undermine public confidence in the health care profession and health systems, create distrust about the effectiveness of medical products, waste resources, cut into the limited budgets of families and health systems and provide income for criminal networks. Panellists (including from Interpol) presented examples of combating organized crime groups in the manufacture, production, trafficking, and distribution of falsified medical products in Asian and global illicit medical product markets. The global Covid-19 pandemic has provided huge opportunities for organized crime groups. The smuggling and trafficking of falsified Covid-10 vaccine generates enormous profits for their criminal enterprises.

Link to Recording: <https://s3.amazonaws.com/us.inevent.files.general/0/0/2dxTQFq01HjoNAhM900UebPrfx025GFqmIShyIsNZMQI8g.mp4>

Session Name: *Meeting of the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice)*

On the last day of the Congress, this meeting gave NGO participants an overview of what happened at the Congress and an initial discussion on the way forward. There was discussion as to how civil society can meaningfully engage in the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration.