

# GWJ United Nation Representative Advocacy Report Vienna 2022

## GWJ 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.

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## Meeting attended: (place, date, time, name of meeting)



### Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) 31st Session Vienna, 16-20 May 2022

Elisabeth Francis, GWJ UN Representative, Vienna

## Subject of meeting:

The 31st Session of the CCPCJ took place 16-20 May 2022 in Vienna both virtually and in person. 130 countries were represented as were 55 NGOs. More than 80 side events were held. Elisabeth Francis represented GWJ.

As the main policymaking body of the United Nations addressing crime prevention and criminal justice issues, CCPCJ plays a critical role in advancing collective efforts against national and transnational crime, while strengthening fair and effective criminal justice institutions.

The Thematic Discussion of this Session was on 'strengthening the use of digital evidence in criminal justice and countering cybercrime, including the abuse and exploitation of minors in illegal activities with the use of the Internet'. Much time was also spent on reviewing the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration and taking forward the global agenda on human trafficking, corruption and environmental crime.

4 resolutions were recommended for approval.

- Reducing reoffending through rehabilitation and reintegration.
- Strengthening the international legal framework for international cooperation to prevent and combat illicit trafficking in wildlife.
- Strengthening national and international efforts, including with the private sector, to protect children from sexual exploitation and abuse.
- Follow-up to the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.



*Opening of the 31st Session - Chair - Ambassador Hikihara, Japan; Ecosoc President, Collen Vixen Kelapile; Executive Director UN Women, Sima Sami Bahous, UNODC Executive Director, Ghada Waly*

The UNODC Executive Director, **Ghada Waly**, urged Governments to use the Session to reaffirm commitment to preventing and combatting different forms of crime and promoting international cooperation. “During times of instability,” she said, “the most vulnerable are the most in need of assistance, as criminal networks take advantage of people left without income and without social protection and who are desperate for safety and opportunity.”

For the first time, the Executive Director of UN Women, **Sima Sami Bahous**, was a keynote speaker. She noted the links between women’s well-being and crime prevention, saying “we cannot combat crime without a justice system that is trusted by women and that works for women...I reiterate UN Women’s strong commitment to continue working with the UNODC in supporting the joint efforts of the CSW and the CCPCJ for the benefit of women, girls, and societies everywhere so that we leave no one behind.”

As regards gender-related issues, many countries emphasised the importance of addressing gender-based violence and femicide, noting that there had been an increase in such crimes during the pandemic. The increased vulnerability of women in conflict situations e.g. Ukraine, was also emphasised. Gender-based cybercrime was much discussed. Concern was expressed about the growth of bias crimes more broadly, and the need to track bias in the operations of criminal justice systems. The need to increase diversity in the composition of law enforcement agencies was also mentioned. For instance, the authorities that deal with crimes such as human trafficking, including immigration services, law enforcement and the justice sector remain heavily dominated by men.

Most statements by delegates started by addressing the war in Ukraine and its consequences for crime issues. A Special Event was held on 16/5 reporting on initiatives launched since the adoption of the Kyoto Declaration.

The In-session Draft Reports, and draft resolutions, from the 31st Session are available under this link:

[https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CCPCJ/session/31\\_Session\\_2022/in-session-draft-reports.html](https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CCPCJ/session/31_Session_2022/in-session-draft-reports.html)

**Refers to SDG no #: (please reference)**

All with particular reference to 1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 12, 13, 16 and 17

**Relevant treaties/conventions/resolutions:**

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



*GWI Rep Elisabeth Francis at CCPCJ: NGO meeting with UNODC Executive Director Ghada Waly*

**Intervention by GWI rep: (what you did)**

In addition to in-person attendance at various of the Plenary Sessions, the Special Event on implementation of the Kyoto Declaration, and the Committee of the Whole workshop, I attended eight virtual side events, with a focus on women's issues, corruption, environmental crime and gender based violence - see my separate report for detail. I also attended in person the Informal Civil Society Dialogue with UNODC Executive Director and submitted a written question in the name of GWI.

GWI supported and endorsed two written statements made to the CCPCJ:

- Addressing The Impacts of Conflict and Trafficking Upon Women and Girls
- Strengthening the international legal framework and international cooperation in the context of crimes that affect the environment

[https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CCPCJ/CCPCJ\\_Sessions/CCPCJ\\_31/NGO\\_papers/ECN152022\\_NGO3\\_V2202639.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CCPCJ/CCPCJ_Sessions/CCPCJ_31/NGO_papers/ECN152022_NGO3_V2202639.pdf)

[https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CCPCJ/CCPCJ\\_Sessions/CCPCJ\\_31/NGO\\_papers/ECN152022\\_NGO5\\_V2202671.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CCPCJ/CCPCJ_Sessions/CCPCJ_31/NGO_papers/ECN152022_NGO5_V2202671.pdf)

**Personal observations :**

- The UNODC Executive Director's Session with NGOs was excellent - women's issues, including education, are 'very close to her heart'. She clearly articulated how NGOs can help UN Agencies achieve progress on the SDGs. She was also transparent about the issues created for the UN Agencies by the increasing trend of countries 'earmarking' their funding contributions - which is good for the earmarked projects / regions, but doesn't leave much capacity for anything else. It is important for NGOs to help strengthen multilateralism. In

discussing gender issues Ms. Waly said 'Women are too often left out of criminal justice responses, and as a result, women victims may not receive the support they need.'

- Much work is being done globally on Cybercrime, including the process toward a potential International Convention. The work is very complex and detailed. The good news is that significant resources are being dedicated to it; the bad news is that, because of the complexity, the need to harmonise around regional and individual country initiatives and the role of the very large Tech companies, progress is relatively slow. For those interested in Cybercrime, the guide prepared by UNODC for the Thematic Discussion is excellent. <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/V22/012/55/PDF/V2201255.pdf?OpenElement>
- The global momentum to combat Environmental Crime continues, following on from the Expert Discussions held in Vienna in February - see my separate report. The importance of international cooperation in dealing with the issue was continuously stressed.
- UNODC's Report on World Crime Trends and Emerging Issues is well worth reading. Progress does seem to be being made on reducing violence, but there has been disappointingly little progress since the early 2000s on promoting the rule of law. The data on human trafficking - which disproportionately affects women and girls - continues depressing. In recent years, of every 10 trafficking victims detected worldwide, roughly five were adult women, two were girls, two were men and one was a boy. Women and girls are trafficked mainly for the purpose of sexual exploitation, while men and boys mostly for forced labour. Other purposes of trafficking include to commit criminal activity, for begging and for forced marriages. Furthermore, the sharp rise in unemployment rates brought about by the pandemic is likely to trigger an increase in trafficking with women and girls at risk. <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/V22/012/03/PDF/V2201203.pdf?OpenElement>
- Progress on corruption continues slow. Every day, millions of people in all regions of the world are asked to pay bribes to access essential public services such as health care, education, water, electricity and the judiciary. UNODC tracks progress on corruption by monitoring the share of the population who paid, or were asked to pay, bribes. In some regions, one in four people who have contact with public officials are asked to pay a bribe!

**Next steps:(what needs to be done, who can we contact? Who did you network with?)**

We will continue to follow up on CCPCJ issues of interest and relevance to GWI at various upcoming meetings.

The thematic discussion for next year's CCPCJ is likely to be 'enhancing the functioning of the criminal justice system to ensure access to justice and to realise a safe and secure society.' This will include safeguarding victims' rights and protecting witnesses and reporting persons, improving prison conditions, reducing reoffending through rehabilitation and reintegration, mainstreaming a gender perspective into criminal justice systems, addressing the vulnerabilities of children and youth in contact with the criminal justice system, and improving criminal investigation processes. Any members with a particular interest in this should feel free to contact me!

**Did you take any photographs? If yes, please include captions:** Included

Elisabeth Francis, GWI UN Representative, Vienna