

GWU United Nation Representative Advocacy Report Vienna 2022



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

**Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) 31st Session
Vienna, 16-20/05/2022**

Submitted by Elisabeth Francis, GWU United Nations Representative, Vienna

SIDE EVENTS

This report covers some of the side events that I was able to attend at CCPCJ 31. I can provide more links and materials to any GWU member particularly interested in any of the subjects discussed.

A MULTIFACETED APPROACH TO TURNING THE KYOTO DECLARATION INTO ACTION ON THE GROUND Organised by the Chair of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in co-operation with Japan.

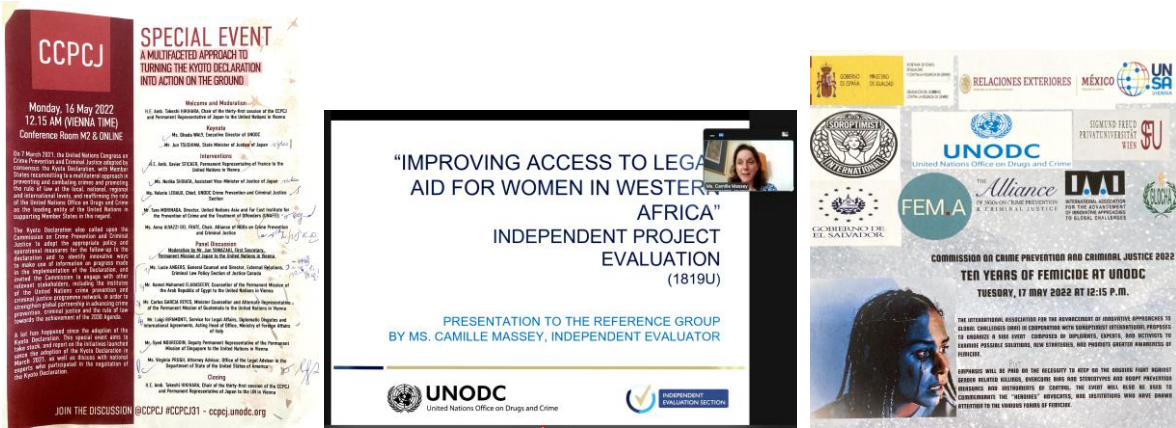
On the opening day, the Chair of the Commission, Ambassador **Takeshi Hikihara**, of Japan held a **special event** on the status of global implementation of the Kyoto Declaration. The event took stock of and reported on initiatives launched since the adoption of the Kyoto Declaration. Speakers included **Ghada Waly**, Executive Director of the UNODC; Ms **Jun Tsushima**, State Minister of Justice of Japan; Amb. **Xavier Sticker** of France; **Valérie Lebaux**, Chief of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Section of UNODC; and **Anna Alvazzi del Frate**, Chair of the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. The panel discussion featured national experts from Canada, Egypt, Guatemala, the United States, Italy and Singapore who had participated in the negotiation of the Declaration and who spoke very openly about their practical experiences.

LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND – ENSURING ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR WOMEN Organised by UN Women with the support of Sierra Leone, Sweden, and the UNODC Justice Section

The event brought together speakers from Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), UNODC and the

Women Development Organization. They discussed approaches to enhance gender-sensitive legal aid ‘as a pathway towards gender equality and women s empowerment’. Presentations focused on key initiatives by the government and civil society in Liberia and Sierra Leone, the impact of pro-bono service delivery in Nigeria, as well as regional perspectives on women s development. They presented examples and attempts to ensure equal access to justice for women and girls in contact with the law as alleged offenders or victims. Lessons learned from the joint regional project by UN Women and UNODC entitled ‘Improving Access to Legal Aid for Women in Western Africa’ were discussed.

Materials from this side event could be of special interest to NFAs in Western Africa.



TEN YEARS OF THE ANTI-FEMICIDE CAMPAIGN AT UNODC Organised by the International Association for the Advancement of Innovative Approaches to Global Challenges with the support of El Salvador, Mexico, Spain, and the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Soroptimist International and the UNODC Justice Section

This was an important side event which will be of interest to all GWI members particularly interested in the campaign against Gender Based Violence (GBV). Amongst the many speakers: the moderator, Ambassador **Esther Monterrubio Villar**, of Spain, emphasised the importance of coordinating efforts against femicide. Elisa Nieto Maestro of the Ministry of Equality of Spain discussed the laws in Spain against GBV. **Dubravka Šimonović**, former Special Rapporteur on violence against women, discussed General Assembly (GA) resolutions against gender-based killing and her initiative to establish Femicide Watch Observatories. **Rashida Manjoo**, also a former Special Rapporteur on violence against women, discussed the efforts of activists in Latin America and UNODC. **Claudia Baroni** of UNODC provided an overview of the Office s major achievements since the adoption of GA resolution 68/191 in 2013. She highlighted the need for countries to strengthen their criminal justice capacities to prevent GBV. **Linda Witong**, former Prosecutor and representative of Soroptimist International presented the different strategies serial killers use to prey on women and the forensic developments that allow the perpetrators to be brought to justice. **Rita Banerji**, an author and gender activist, spoke of the increasing rate of femicide in India. **Claire Laurent** of CARE-Austria underlined the need to address the discriminatory social norms which enable femicide. Anna **Alvazzi del Frate**, Chair of the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, argued that GBV should be considered a form of torture and that to prevent femicide, focus should be placed on prohibiting all forms of GBV.

Here is the link to the recording of this side event, as well as presentation slides, and, to the special publication on Femicide.

<https://coalitionfbo.org/2022/05/16/10-years-of-combatting-femicide/>

CRIMINALIZING ECOCIDE – A NEW DETERRENT TO CRIMES THAT AFFECT THE ENVIRONMENT

Organised by Socialist International Women with the support of the Climate Counsel, Criminologists Without Borders, Earth League International, Global Witness, the Stop Ecocide Foundation and Stop Ecocide International

This event was attended by 350 participants, a very large number which showed the great interest at this CCPCJ Session in new initiatives to combat crimes that affect the environment. It was chaired by **Professor Justice Antonio Benjamin** of Brazil, the President of the Global Judicial Institute on the Environment. Speakers included **Jojo Mehta**, Chair of the Stop Ecocide Foundation; **Andrea Crosta**, ED of Earth League International; **Seema Joshi**, Director of Campaigns at Global Witness; and **Richard Rogers**, Partner at Global Diligence and ED of the Climate Counsel. The event ‘explored the criminalization of ecocide at the international level as a practical means to protect key ecosystems, prosecute organised crime, support environmental defenders, provide a guardrail for key decision makers in industry and government, support the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements, and catalyse strategic positive change in policymaking and industry.’ Mr. Crosta talked about the **convergence**, i.e. the overlap with human smuggling, arms trafficking, drugs trafficking, illegal fishing, money laundering, - criminal groups overlap and reinforce each other, having multiple relations with corrupt governments and officials.

<https://www.stopecocide.earth/calendar>



THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND WOMEN IN BUILDING UP A HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED SECURITY ARCHITECTURE IN COUNTRIES OF CRISIS AND TRANSITION

Organized by Women without Borders

The event was moderated by **Dr. Edit Schläffer**, Founder and Chair of Women without Borders, and featured three speakers representing countries in crisis, **Dr. Orzala Nemat** of Afghanistan; **Mariia Ionova** of Ukraine; and **Dr. Nadia Al-Sakkaf** of Yemen, who has been sentenced to death, if she returns to her country. Each presented an overview of the situation in their home country, provided examples of the resistance and resilience of women and women's organisations, and made strong calls for action to the international community. A panel discussion followed on how war has shaped activism and women's movements on the ground, and what has to be done internationally to ‘ensure that countries that have been in crisis for extended periods of time are not forgotten and pushed to the wayside in the face of new conflicts around the world.’ Only 51% of countries worldwide have a NAP to implement UNSC Res. 1325, only 35% have a budget attached to it.

THE POWER OF THE PEN: INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM AND ANTI-CORRUPTION Organized by the International Anti-Corruption Academy

This event highlighted practical approaches for ensuring freedom of expression of the media while securing the safety of journalists, as well as expanding the understanding of fair and ethical journalism. The speakers discussed the challenges and risks of covering corruption cases and how to deliver accurate information to the public. They also shared their experiences in international investigations, including major leaks, and addressed the issues of financing investigative journalism. The event was moderated by **Yoojin Choi**, Head of the Training and Capacity Development Department of the International Anti-Corruption Academy. Investigative journalists, who contributed to the event, included **Tania L. Montalvo**, Deputy Editorial Director at Media Group Editorial Animal Mexico; **David Pegg**, Investigations Correspondent at The Guardian; and **Nikolay Staykov**, Investigative Journalist and Anti-Corruption Activist at the Anti-Corruption Fund. Women journalists are under particular threat of online abuse and violence.



GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AS TORTURE INFLICTED BY NON-STATE ACTORS Organised by Finland with the support of Honduras, and the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

This event aimed 'to recommend a declaration that addressed torture by non-State actors as a model strategy to promote global awareness to end non-State torture crimes against women and girls and to reconsider describing domestic violence as torture in order to explain both the purpose of the abuse and its full pattern'. The event was moderated by **Aarne Kinnunen** of the Ministry of Justice of Finland. Speakers included activists **Linda MacDonald** and **Jeanne Sarson** both GWI members; **Rashida Manjoo**, former Special Rapporteur on violence against women; **Manfred Nowak**, a former Special Rapporteur on torture; **Julissa Villanueva**, Undersecretary of Security of Honduras; **Lutz Oette**, Co-director of the Centre for Human Rights Law; and **Eduardo Vettere**, Executive Secretary at various previous UN Crime Congresses. They reported on existing domestic laws and international regulations. Gaps were identified in existing international instruments and the need for them to more explicitly address GBV was stressed.

https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CCPCJ/CCPCJ_Sessions/CCPCJ_31/NGO_papers/ECN152022_NGO6_V2202641.pdf

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2021/01/handbook-gender-responsive-police-services>

Elisabeth Francis,
GWI UN Representative Vienna