

GWI United Nations Representative Advocacy Report Vienna 2023

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.

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



Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) 32nd Session Vienna, 22-26/05/2023

Subject of meeting:

The 32nd Session of the CCPCJ took place 22-26/5 in Vienna. 132 member states participated, 75 made statements. 1800 participants - 69 NGOs. 107 side-events were held. Elisabeth Francis represented GWI.

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.

At the 32nd Session, GWI:

- 1) Submitted a **written statement** – ‘Enhancing the functioning of the criminal justice system to ensure access to justice and to realize a safe and secure society.’
- 2) Co-sponsored a **side-event** – ‘Ending Harmful Practices: Preventing Violence and Ensuring Access to Justice – Good Practices’, where I spoke as a panelist.

The Thematic Discussion was on ‘**Enhancing the functioning of the criminal justice system to ensure access to justice and to realize a safe and secure society**’. Other points of focus included reviewing the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration; approving initial steps for the 15th Crime Congress in 2025; and taking forward the global agenda on cybercrime, human trafficking, corruption, and environmental crime.

6 resolutions were adopted for approval by ECOSOC:

- Taking action against trafficking in persons in business operations, public procurement and supply chains for goods and services.
- Reducing reoffending through rehabilitation and reintegration
- 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
- Enhancing the contributions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Achieving equal access to justice for all through – and in – criminal justice systems.
- Technical assistance provided by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime related to counter-terrorism.

Keynote speakers at the High-Level Opening included:

- Csaba Körösi, President of the UN General Assembly;
- Lachezara Stoeva, President of ECOSOC;
- Ghada Waly, Executive Director of UNODC;
- Mary Mugwanja, Ambassador of Kenya, CCPCJ Chair;



Screenshots – the High-Level Opening, the Plenary, the Programme

Mr Körösi said, “Equal access to justice for all is at the core of effective and inclusive justice systems. CCPCJ plays a critical role in the implementation of the SDGs, and, ultimately, in building a world which is not only liveable, but also freer and fairer.”

Ms Waly said that at this point the indicators of prospects to achieve SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions are not encouraging and urged renewed commitment. She said, “Justice remains out of reach to many... more so for women, the vulnerable, and the marginalized. Corruption and economic crimes are depriving countries of billions of dollars. The number of forcibly displaced people across the world surpassed 100 million for the first time last year, fleeing conflict and strife. So many of them are left at great risk of exploitation, and with little hope of criminal justice.”

The UNODC published an excellent guide for the Thematic Discussion, which addresses the challenges in providing access to justice for all.

<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/V23/018/28/PDF/V2301828.pdf?OpenElement>

Documentation for the 32nd Session is available under this link:

https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CCPCJ/session/32_Session_2023/documentation.html



Screenshots – UNODC presentations

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.

Intervention by GWI rep: (what you did)

Please see my separate report on the **side event** on ‘Ending Harmful Practices’ that GWI co-sponsored and at which I spoke as a panelist.

Our **written statement** to CCPCJ can be found under this link:

https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CCPCJ/CCPCJ_Sessions/CCPCJ_32/NGO/ECN152023_NGO5.pdf

GWI also co-sponsored a statement by Soroptimist International demanding that ‘women and girls have equal and fair access to systems of justice, insofar that their human right to a safe education is respected, protected and fulfilled in accordance with international human rights law.’

https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CCPCJ/CCPCJ_Sessions/CCPCJ_32/NGO/ECN152023_NGO3.pdf

Please see the appendix for details of some of the side events that I attended.

Personal observations:

1) The UNODC **Guide for the Thematic Discussion** illustrates very well the challenges women face with criminal justice systems worldwide. Some highlights:

- ‘Gender-based discrimination in the criminal justice system disproportionately affects women, who face significant barriers in accessing justice, whether they are victims, witnesses, alleged offenders, or prisoners. Key drivers include institutional, policy and legislative failure to remove discrimination, gender bias, stereotyping, indifference, and impunity.

- Addressing gender-based discrimination against women in conflict with the law requires comprehensive interventions. Good practices include promoting gender-responsive legal aid services and prioritizing non-custodial measures for women wherever possible. Women prisoners should be provided gender-specific health care, as well as childcare and rehabilitation programmes in female prisons.
- Gender-based violence affects women and girls disproportionately. About **one in three** women worldwide has experienced sexual and other forms of violence. Women are also much more likely than men to be killed by their intimate partners or family members.
- Crimes involving violence against women remain underreported and unlikely to end in conviction. The COVID-19 pandemic has further reduced access to essential police and justice services for women, despite the increased incidence of gender-based violence.
- One important element in building and restoring trust between the criminal justice system and communities lies in ensuring that the criminal justice system is representative of the population it serves. UNODC data show that women professionals are underrepresented, especially in national police services, in which women make up only 10 to 20 per cent of personnel in most countries. Addressing the lack of women professionals in high-level positions in police and other criminal justice institutions is also key.
- Promoting access to comprehensive and coordinated essential health, social, police and justice services has shown significant value in breaking cycles of violence against women.'

2) UNODC's **Report on World Crime Trends and Emerging Issues** is well worth reading.

- The data on Femicide / GBV continues shocking. More than five women or girls are killed every hour by someone in their own family; in 2021, an estimated 45,000 women and girls worldwide were killed by their intimate partners or other family members.

- There is depressing data about how safe women feel in their communities. The proportion of women who report feeling safe walking alone around the area they live is only 61% - i.e. 2 out of 5 women worldwide do not feel safe in the area they live in. Feeling unsafe in public can have a negative influence on people's well-being and can result in them having less trust and contact with others and engaging less in the community; it therefore represents an important obstacle to development.

- Corruption in its many forms continues to taint many criminal justice institutions, undermining their core values, credibility, and ability to facilitate access to justice and prevent crime.

3) There was increasing discussion about the application of Artificial Intelligence to Criminal Justice systems.

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

We will continue to follow up on crime / criminal justice issues of interest and relevance to GWI at various upcoming meetings.

The UNODC Guide for the Thematic Discussion gives a list of questions about gender-sensitive criminal justice issues that are helpful - and NFAs might like to consider them in regard to their national advocacy work.

‘What measures have been effective in increasing the representation and retention of women and groups that are currently underrepresented in the criminal justice system? How are criminal justice institutions addressing the lack of women professionals in senior and decision-making roles, the gender pay gap, sexual harassment in the workplace and other systemic barriers to the equal participation of women in the criminal justice workforce? How can criminal justice institutions be supported in order to ensure that they reflect racial diversity within societies and provide opportunities for marginalized groups to be recruited and retained?’

What measures have proven effective in making criminal justice systems more gender-responsive? What has been the impact of domestic homicide committees and other initiatives to analyse and prevent gender-related killing through coordinated, multisectoral responses to gender-based violence? How are criminal justice systems ensuring that institutions and processes are gender-responsive and are informed by the experience of and feedback from victims and survivors? What has been the impact of measures taken at the national level to reduce the imprisonment of women, implement gender-responsive prison management and enhance the social reintegration of women released from prison?’

The prominent theme for next year’s CCPCJ will be ‘Thematic discussion on **promoting international cooperation and technical assistance** to prevent and address organized crime, corruption, terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and other forms of crime, including in the areas of extradition, mutual legal assistance and asset recovery.’

This was a successful CCPCJ for GWI, where we were prominent with i) our Written Statement and ii) our co-sponsorship of a well-attended side-event. Many thanks to Stacy and Patrice for their guidance and support.

Elisabeth Francis
GWI UN Representative, Vienna

APPENDIX - Special Event / Side Events

ENDING HARMFUL PRACTICES: PREVENTING VIOLENCE AND ENSURING ACCESS TO JUSTICE – GOOD PRACTICES*

Organized by ZONTA International with the support of **Graduate Women International**, Soroptimist International, the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development Vienna and the NGO Committee on the Status of Women Vienna

- * See Separate Report -

TEAM UP AGAINST CRIME: STRENGTHENING THE ROLE AND CONTRIBUTION OF SPORT TO SDG 16 AND THE PREVENTION OF YOUTH VIOLENCE AND CRIME

Organized by the International Olympic Committee with the support of Austria, France, Mexico, the Netherlands, Thailand and the UNODC Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Section

ACHIEVING SDG 16: THE CONTRIBUTION BY THE COMMISSION ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Organized by the Chair of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice with the support of the UNODC Secretariat to the Governing Bodies

SAFETY NET FOR VICTIMS OF ORGANIZED CRIME: BRIDGING THE JUSTICE GAP THROUGH CIVIL SOCIETY ACTIONS

Organized by the UNODC Civil Society Unit with the support of Sweden, the United States, the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons and the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE – RETHINKING THE DEFINITION OF TORTURE

Organized by the International Association of Democratic Lawyers with the support of Honduras, the NGO Committee on the Status of Women Vienna, the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development and the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

SDG 16: ACCELERATING PROGRESS TO ACHIEVE JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN

Organized by Brazil with the support of Canada, Indonesia, the Netherlands, Thailand, Baker McKenzie, the UNODC Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Section, the Global Initiative on Justice with Children, the Legal Empowerment Fund, the OECD, Terre des hommes, the Institute for Inspiring Children's Futures and the Working Group on SDG16+ Justice for Children

ENHANCING CRIMINAL JUSTICE AMID ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Organized by the International Association for the Advancement of Innovative Approaches to Global Challenges with the support of the Academic Council on the United Nations System, the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, the American Society of Criminology, the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Vienna School of International Studies, the International Association of Judges, the United Nations Studies Association and Verein Justizgeschichte und Rechtsstaat

CRIMES AGAINST JOURNALISTS: FOCUS ON CONFLICT AREAS

Organized by the State of Palestine

NOT FOR IDEOLOGY BUT FOR MONEY: THE ECONOMICS OF MODERN TERRORISM

Organized by Armenia, UNODC, UNICRI