

## **ENABLING JUSTICE FOR WOMEN**

### **STRATEGIC AND PRACTICAL LESSONS ON GENDER INTEGRATION IN RULE OF LAW AND JUSTICE PROGRAMMING**

A panel discussion organized by the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) and Knowledge Platform Security and Rule of Law (KPSRL)

25 October 2018, 10:00 am - 12:30 pm  
IDLO Office, Hofweg 9E, 2511 AA, The Hague

There exists an enormous gap between the needs of women and girls and the response delivered by rule of law and justice programs. In many parts of the world, justice for women remains an illusion. Inequalities in the law continues to persist and impunity remains widespread, restricting women's mobility and capacities; dictating what they can say and do; imposing male guardianship over them; and even regulating intimate choices of their sexual and reproductive lives. Justice institutions often fail to protect women from violations. In many cases, justice outcomes are rarely in line with international standards or constitutional guarantees of equality. Worse, many justice outcomes are unable or unwilling to address women's needs and may even put them at risk of violence.

In the past decades, there has been an increasing number of calls for ensuring the centrality of gender concerns in the design, implementation and evaluation of all international development policies, programs and other interventions. The Beijing Platform for Action and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, especially through its General Recommendation 33 on Access to Justice, highlights the need for gender mainstreaming as well as for gender-specific interventions to address the numerous challenges faced by women in accessing justice. More recently, Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, underscores the need for ensuring justice for women, including concrete commitments through both SDG 5 on gender equality and women's empowerment and SDG 16 on peaceful, just and inclusive societies. National and local stakeholders too have shown their commitment through the adoption of gender action plans and policies pushing for its integration across all sectors.

Integrating a gender approach in justice programming is crucial to addressing unequal power relations in society and enabling a long term transformation. Shaping rule of law and justice projects through the gender lens is critical not only because it contributes to the promotion gender equality but also because it facilitates the emergence of equitable and inclusive institutions that inspire the trust of both women and men and, responds to the needs of a greater percentage of the population.

Nevertheless, integrating gender in rule of law and justice work continues to be extremely challenging – particularly in situations where programming occurs in fragile and conflict situations. In many cases, although gender integration is in place, lessons and good practices are not easy to come by. The panel discussions will elaborate on insights and lessons learned on integrating gender in legal and justice work.

## Panel Discussions/Presentations

### **1. *Integrating Gender in our Work: What does it look like?***

The first panel will discuss how does IDLO's work on ensuring justice for women look like in a variety of contexts. The panel will begin with a short overview of IDLO's Gender Strategy 2015-2018, main lessons from its implementation so far. It will proceed with country presentations to discuss the (a) challenges of doing gender and justice work in the country and (b) key strategic and practical lessons and good practice experience for scale up and replication.

Speakers on this Panel are:

- *Supporting the Work of Specialized Prosecution Units in Afghanistan*, Leslie Schneider, Senior Advisor, IDLO Afghanistan;
- *Enhancing the Efficiency of the Sexual Offenses Court in Liberia*, Teresa Mugadza, Country Manager, IDLO Liberia;
- *Addressing Sexual and Gender-based Violence through Rule of Law Centers*, Christina Beninger, former Country Manager, IDLO Myanmar;
- *IDLO's Gender Strategy: Assessing What Works and Why*, Rea Abada Chiongson, Senior Legal Advisor on Gender, IDLO (Moderator);

### **2. *Gender and Justice Programming – Global Experiences and Lessons***

The second panel seeks to discuss lessons, approaches and good practices adopted by partners and experts in the area of gender integration and to learn from them. The panellists will focus on (a) how have they integrated gender in the justice work they are engaged in and (b) what lessons and good practice guidance can they offer for replication and scale up. The experts will speak topics from a range of thematic and geographic contexts, such as: the Gender Perspective on Humanitarian Action in the protection of Internally – Displaced People; Gender integration in adjudicating conventional justice; Gender mainstreaming in Rule of Law Development.

Speakers on this panels are:

- *Lessons Learned and Examples from Implementing Sweden's Feminist Foreign Policy*, Anna Wrangle, Counsellor, Multilateral Affairs, Embassy of Sweden in the Netherlands;
- *From Papua New Guinea to Sierra Leone: Lessons on Adjudicating Gender-based Crimes*, Teresa Doherty, Judge, Residual Court for Sierra Leone;
- *Women, Internally-Displaced Persons and Transitional Justice: Lessons for Programming*, Cecilia Jimenez-Damary, Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons (IDP);
- Siobhan Hobbs, Legal and Programme Director, Women's Initiative for Gender Justice (Discussant);
- Anna Koppel, Senior Program Coordinator, IDLO (Moderator)

Light Lunch served after the Panel Discussion.

**RSVP – Please inform Widya Boerma at [TheHague@idlo.int](mailto:TheHague@idlo.int) of your participation on or before October 22, 2018.**