

Proposed Event for Law, Justice and Development Week 2018 – “Rights, Protection and Development”

Justice for Women: Making the Case for Action, Investment and Change

6 November 2018, 5:00 -6:00 PM

World Bank, Room MC 2-800, Washington DC

Organized by the World Bank and IDLO

Background

Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals put forward an unprecedented commitment to gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls and the promotion of peaceful, just and inclusive societies. The powerful synergies between SDG 5 on gender equality and SDG 16 on access to justice for all, present an enormous and immediate opportunity to make a difference in the life of women and girls.

Justice for women is indispensable not only for the promotion and protection of women’s basic rights and the realization of gender equality, but more broadly, for the emergence of peaceful, just and inclusive societies. It brings about broader sustainable development outcomes and contributes to the realization of other human rights.

There can be no just, peaceful and inclusive societies if women are consistently and persistently excluded from the benefits of the rule of law. At present however, women suffer from a severe ‘justice gap’. They form the majority of the estimated four billion people who are outside the protection of the rule of law, due to a combination of discriminatory legal systems, unequal social norms and discriminatory attitudes, gender stereotypes, cultural, economic, religious and other barriers affecting their capacity to realize basic rights and access justice and remedies on a non-discriminatory basis. The lack of an enabling legal and social environment exacerbates the justice gap and continues to keep women away from the full benefits of the rule of law.

Event Description

Within the framework of the ongoing work of the High-level Group on Justice for Women, this event will look at innovative ways to close the justice gap for women and girls. It will discuss empowerment approaches, intersectoral and multi-disciplinary solutions, as well as promising good practices in the delivery of justice for women and girls, with the aim of turning the debate into action and placing justice for women and girls at the center of the development agenda, ahead of the 2019 High-level Political Forum.

In a forward-looking discussion, the Speakers will focus on the investment, action and mobilization needed to address the justice gap, and on the broader benefits of closing the gender justice gap for development.

Proposed Speakers

- Maria Fernanda Rodriguez, Under-Secretary, Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, Argentina
- Sandie Okoro, Senior Vice President and General Counsel, World Bank Group
- Irene Khan, Director-General, International Development Law Organization
- Abubacarr Marie Tambadou, Attorney General and Minister of Justice, The Gambia

Proposed Format: Panel Discussion (1 hour)

Organizers: World Bank and IDLO