

Gender Justice in International Criminal Law Conference

29-30 SEPTEMBER, 2025 | THE HAGUE

International Institute of Social Studies, Kortenaerkade 12, The Hague

PANELS AND SPEAKERS



WOMEN'S INITIATIVES
FOR GENDER JUSTICE



Panel Spotlight

Conference Opening: A Conversation with Joumana Seif and Michelle Jarvis

Monday, 29 September | 10:00 to 11:00 | Aula B

The conference will open with a keynote conversation between Michelle Jarvis, Deputy Head of the IIIM-Syria, and Joumana Seif, co-founder of the Syrian Women's Lobby.

This dialogue will explore the meaning and urgency of gender justice in today's international landscape—linking the lived realities of survivors and women human rights defenders with global legal and policy frameworks, setting the stage for the conference.

Together, they will reflect on how feminist, intersectional approaches can dismantle systemic barriers to justice, build solidarity across movements, and ensure survivors' perspectives remain central to international justice efforts

Speakers



Joumana Seif

Co-founder
Syrian Feminist Lobby



Michelle Jarvis

Deputy Head
IIIM-Syria

Panel Spotlight

Solidarity in Facing Attacks on Gender Justice

Monday, 29 September | 11:10 to 12:15 | Aula B

Attacks on gender justice are increasingly shaping the practice of international criminal law (ICL). This panel will focus on how solidarity across roles, disciplines, and regions can strengthen the field's capacity to respond. Practitioners in all areas of ICL have had to develop specific tools to resist these pressures, from reframing narratives and strengthening legal arguments to forging alliances with affected communities and integrating intersectional gender analysis into every stage of proceedings.

Practitioner takeaways:

- Practical methods for building solidarity across ICL roles and sectors.
- Examples of coalition-building and network that support countering anti-gender narratives.
- Approaches to connect with and support affected communities.
- Strategies to adapt to political and cultural pushback in different contexts.

Speakers



Sareta Ashraph

Senior Legal Adviser, **Center for Justice and Accountability**; **US Holocaust Memorial Museum**; **Atlantic Council Strategic Litigation Project**
Lecturer, **Geneva Academy**
Co-Founder, **ATLAS Women**



Momina Yari

Deputy Director
Afghanistan Organization for Development of Human Right (AODHR)



Jack Torbet

Program Manager
Legal Action Worldwide



Madeleine Rees

British lawyer and former Secretary General
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Moderator

Panel Spotlight

Strengthening Practitioner Connections in International Criminal Law

Monday, 29 September | 12:15 – 12:45 | Aula B

This update session will spotlight ongoing initiatives aimed to establish, strengthen and sustain meaningful engagement among practitioners in ICL. This session will showcase some of the existing practitioner networks, their functions and explore where gaps and challenges still exist.

Practitioner takeaways:

- Highlight how different initiatives function, the opportunities they create, and their contributions to advancing gender justice in ICL.
- Discuss where networks face obstacles, what support is lacking, and how these limitations impact practitioners in their work.
- Expand discussion on ways to build, sustain, and expand meaningful practitioner connections for collaboration, problem-solving, and solidarity.

Speakers



Samuel Emonet

Executive Director
Justice Rapid
Response



Chloe Marnay Baszanger

Team Leader
UN Team of Experts on
Rule of Law and Sexual
Violence in Conflict



Emily Kenney

Policy Specialist, Rule of
Law and Transitional
Justice
UN Women



Thandiwe Matthews

PhD Candidate
Legal Mobilization
Platform at
International Institute
of Social Studies

Moderator

Panel Spotlight

Making the Case: Gender Analysis in Accountability

Monday, 29 September | 13:45 – 15:00 | Aula B

Escalating global attacks on gender equality highlight the urgent need for coordinated and persuasive advocacy on why gender analysis is integral to accountability processes. This session will showcase concrete examples where applying a gender lens fundamentally shaped justice outcomes, and explore how the Women, Peace & Security (WPS) framework could help to strengthen the integration of gender into ICL.

Practitioner takeaways:

- Tools to craft clear, persuasive narratives on why gender matters.
- Methods for aligning messaging with local expertise and survivor leadership.
- Practical steps for integrating WPS principles into ICL strategies.
- Approaches to overcome silos between ICL and WPS work.

Speakers



Pamela Angwech

Founder and
Executive Director
**Gulu Women's
Economic
Development and
Globalization**



Najwa Nabti

Legal Officer and
Expert on Gender
and Victim/Survivor-
Centred Approach
IIIM Syria



Bridget Prince

Investigator and
gender advisor.



Catherine O'Rourke

Professor of Global
Law
Durham Law School



Lina Biscaia

Senior Human
Rights Officer
United Nations

Moderator

Panel Spotlight

Upgrading and Applying the Gender Justice Toolkits in International Criminal Law

Monday, 29 September | 15:00 – 16:00 | Aula B

This session will offer updates on new resources and practical strategies being developed to advance gender justice in prosecuting core international crimes. Speakers will also critically assess the limitations of these and other international tools in local contexts. Case examples from investigations, prosecutions, and policy reform will illustrate how intersectional approaches can improve outcomes, strengthen institutions, and counter resistance to gender analysis

Practitioner takeaways:

- Updates on new and emerging gender justice tools.
- Guidance on applying these tools in investigations, prosecutions, and judicial reasoning.
- Strategies for embedding gender analysis across all crimes, not only sexual violence.
- Examples of institutional change driven by proactive gender integration.
- Methods for adapting global tools to local and survivor-led contexts.

Speakers



Thomas Ebbs

Senior Legal and Policy
Advisor
All Survivors Project



Natia Navrouzov

Executive Director
Yazda Organisation



Hassiba Hadj Sahraoui

Gender Advisor and
SGBV Investigator



Louise Chappel

Director
Australian Human
Rights Institute at
UNSW Sydney

Moderator

Panel Spotlight

Gender-sensitive Institution Building

Monday, 29 September | 16:30 – 17:30 | Aula B

Embedding gender sensitivity and feminist values into the DNA of institutions with accountability mandates is essential for lasting gender justice. Without this foundation, gender analysis is rarely sustained, progress remains fragile, and outcomes often fall short. Lessons from the ad hoc tribunals underline this risk, yet the issue warrants more attention in the ICL field.

Practitioner takeaways:

- Lessons from gender-sensitive institutions and how to avoid common pitfalls.
- Measures and indicators to institutionalise and assess gender sensitivity.
- Strategies to safeguard progress and close the practice–policy gap.

Speakers



Alexandra Lily Kather

Co-founder
Emergent Justice
Collective



Antônia Pereira de Sousa

Chief of Office of the
Registrar
The International
Criminal Court



Lily Rueda Guzman

Judge
Colombian Special
Jurisdiction for Peace



Katheryna Busol

Associate Professor
The National
University of Kyiv-
Mohyla Academy



Michelle Jarvis

Deputy Head
IIIM-Syria

Moderator

Panel Spotlight

Reproductive Violence as a Strategy of Genocide

Monday, 29 September | 16:30 – 17:30 | Room 3.14

Reproductive violence in armed conflict is not only a consequence of war but is often deployed as a deliberate strategy of genocide. Forced pregnancy, sterilisation, and the denial of reproductive healthcare are used to erase, dominate, or forcibly assimilate communities targeted for destruction. Yet these crimes remain under-theorised and rarely prosecuted in ICL. Drawing on contexts including Palestine, Tigray, Darfur, Guatemala, and the Rohingya in Myanmar, this panel will explore how reproductive violence can signal genocidal intent and why recognising it as such is essential for justice and for political resistance. Panellists will critically examine the gender-blindness of existing genocide jurisprudence and propose practical pathways for legal reform, survivor-led advocacy, and coordinated political action to hold perpetrators to account

Practitioner takeaways:

- Legal arguments for framing reproductive violence as evidence of genocidal intent.
- Case examples from diverse historical and contemporary contexts.
- Strategies for integrating survivor-led advocacy into legal processes.
- Practical proposals for reforming gender-blind genocide jurisprudence.
- Methods for linking legal accountability with political resistance efforts.

Speakers



Ashita Alag

Legal adviser
**Global Justice
Centre**



Payal Shah

Director of Research,
Legal, and Advocacy.
**Physicians for Human
Rights**



Wendy Harcourt

Professor of Gender, Diversity
and Sustainable Development
**International Institute of Social
Studies of the Erasmus
University in The Hague**



Juliana Laguna Trujillo

Legal and Advocacy
Advisor
**Women's Initiatives
for Gender Justice**

Moderator

Panel Spotlight

Gender Justice for Palestine

Tuesday, September 30 | 09:00 – 10:30 | Aula B

For decades, the gendered impacts of occupation in Palestine have been minimised or ignored, including within the gender and ICL community. Only recently has there been a visible shift toward solidarity, yet major gaps remain in attention, resources, and coordinated action. This panel will address urgent challenges to achieving gender justice in Palestine, focusing on the lived realities of women, girls, and gender-diverse people in Gaza, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem. Speakers will discuss the intersecting effects of prolonged occupation, displacement, and conflict-related violations, and explore strategies for legal accountability, survivor-led advocacy, and cross-movement solidarity that centre Palestinian expertise and leadership.

Practitioner takeaways:

- Understanding the gendered dimensions of occupation and related violations.
- Insights into current legal and advocacy efforts led by Palestinian actors.
- Strategies for centring local expertise in international accountability work.
- Building sustained solidarity within the gender and ICL community.
- Critical reflections on the political and institutional barriers to action.

Speakers



Amrita Kapur

Secretary-General
Women's
International League
for Peace and
Freedom



Randa Siniora

Deputy Director General
Women's Center for
Legal Aid and
Counseling



Yuli Novak

Executive director
B'Tselem



Antonia Mulvey

Founder and Executive
Director
Legal Action Worldwide

Moderator

Panel Spotlight

MENA FOCUS: Strategising to Support emerging justice opportunities in Syria

Tuesday, 30 September | 10:45 to 12:00 | Aula B

The Syrian experience offers valuable lessons in sustaining justice efforts despite blocked legal pathways, as well as a critical opportunity to embed an intersectional gender analysis into future transitional justice processes from the outset. This is not guaranteed and requires proactive, coordinated action. This panel will draw on the strategies developed by Syrian women and feminist advocates, highlighting approaches that have maintained momentum toward accountability. Discussions will focus on how international and regional actors can provide meaningful, non-extractive support, and on how these lessons can inform gender justice strategies in other contexts.

Practitioner takeaways:

- Key strategies to prepare for justice in the absence of formal pathways.
- Opportunities to integrate intersectional gender analysis from the start of transitional justice processes..
- Examples of Syrian-led advocacy and legal innovation.
- Practical measures for supporting feminist actors without undermining local agency.
- Lessons from Syria applicable to other accountability contexts.

Speakers



Razan Rashidi

Executive Director
The Syria Campaign



Sema Nasser

Director
Dar Justice



Sana Kikhia

Executive Director
Syrian Legal
Development
Programme (SLDP)



Mariana Karkoutly

Co-founder
Huquqyat



Joumana Seif

Co-founder
Syrian Feminist Lobby

Panel Spotlight

Gender at the International Court of Justice

Tuesday, September 30 | 12:00 – 13:00 | Aula B

This session will open with updates on three key proceedings before the ICJ: *The Gambia v. Myanmar*, *South Africa v. Israel*, *Canada and The Netherlands v. Syria*. Each raises distinct gender dimensions, yet the International Court of Justice (ICJ) has a limited history of engaging with gender-related issues, and parties to cases have often failed to meaningfully raise these issues. With inter-state litigation at the ICJ gaining prominence, there is an urgent need to ensure that gender issues are addressed in pleadings, evidence, and judicial reasoning.

Practitioner takeaways:

- Gender dimensions and developments in current ICJ proceedings.
- Strategies for raising gender issues effectively in inter-state litigation.
- Lessons from recent cases on judicial receptiveness to gender arguments.
- Approaches to securing gender-responsive reparations.
- Advocacy tactics to strengthen the ICJ's engagement with gendered crimes.

Speakers



Palika Bhasin

Deputy Head International
Law Team
British Embassy in The
Hague



Asila Wardak

Human rights activist,
former diplomat, and co-
founder of the **Afghan
Women's Network**



Antonia Mulvey

Founder and Executive
Director
**Legal Action
Worldwide**



Natalie Reid

Partner
Debevoise & Plimpton



Erin Rosenberg

Senior Legal and Policy
Advisor
**Dr. Denis Mukwege
Foundation**

Moderator

Panel Spotlight

Repairing Gender-based Violence

Tuesday, 30 September | 12:00 to 13:00 | Room 3.14

The conversation will explore feminist strategies for making reparative justice more inclusive, comprehensive, and effective as a mechanism for both healing and accountability.

Practitioner takeaways:

- Approaches for designing reparations that reflect intersectional experiences and diverse forms of harm.
- Strategies to ensure survivor leadership and agency in reparations processes.
- Methods for linking reparations to broader structural change, justice, and peacebuilding efforts.

Speakers



Khrystyna Kit

Chairwoman
**Ukrainian Women
Lawyers Association
(JURFEM)**



Jacqueline Mutere

Director
Grace Agenda



Deborah Ruiz Verduzco

Executive Director
**Trust Fund for
Victims**



Kolbassia Haoussou

Survivor Advocate.
Head of **Survivors
Speak OUT**



Alix Vuillemin

Executive Director
**Women's Initiatives
for Gender Justice**

Moderator

Panel Spotlight

Gender Justice across the MENA Region

Tuesday, September 30 | 14:00 – 15:30 | Aula B

Gender justice in the MENA region is advanced every day through the work of lawyers, activists, survivor networks, and community organisers who address gendered human rights violations and international crimes in diverse and innovative ways that are often overlooked by those working outside the region. This workshop creates space for those directly engaged in this work to share strategies, build connections, and explore how different approaches interact and strengthen each other.

Practitioner takeaways:

- Insights from legal, advocacy, and movement strategies across the MENA region.
- Ways to connect and reinforce diverse approaches to gender justice.
- Practices that strengthen solidarity while respecting autonomy.
- Contributions of MENA-led work to global justice thinking and practice.
- Critical reflection on power dynamics in cross-regional collaboration.

Speakers



Bilge Sahin

Assistant Professor in
Conflict and Peace
Studies
**International Institute
of Social Studies**



Kifayeh Kharim

International Advocacy
Officer
**Women's Centre for
Legal Aid and
Counselling (WCLAC)**

Moderator



Razan Rashidi

Executive Director
The Syria Campaign

Panel Spotlight

ICL and the Continuum of Structural Discrimination

Tuesday, 30 September | 14:00 – 15:30 | Room 3.14

What are practical ways the ICL practitioner’s community confront entrenched systems of oppression that operate across time, geography, and identity? This session will begin with a discussion on intersectionality as a framework for recognising and addressing the multiple, overlapping forms of discrimination that shape experiences of harm and access to justice. Across all topics, the session will emphasize legal and advocacy tools that can dismantle structural discrimination in its historical and contemporary forms.

Practitioner takeaways:

- Understanding and applying intersectionality in ICL practice.
- Feminist critiques of slavery, the slave trade, and their contemporary legacies.
- Legal frameworks for prosecuting gender persecution and gender apartheid.
- Approaches to integrating transgender and queer rights in ICL strategies.
- Advocacy methods that connect legal action to broader liberation movements.

Speakers



Emilie Pradichit

Founder & Executive
Director
Manushya Foundation



Priya Gopalan

International
criminal lawyer &
gender specialist



Paxton McCausland

Organizer, researcher,
and trans rights
activist



Brisna Caxaj

Gender Program
Director
Impunity Watch



Akila Radhakrishnan

International human rights
lawyer

Moderator

Panel Spotlight

Next Generation Strategies in International Criminal Law

Tuesday, 30 September | 15:45 to 16:45 | Aula B

This session will bring together critical and timely developments in gender justice that push the boundaries of current practice. Discussions will cover the integration of gender perspectives in the draft Crimes Against Humanity (CAH) treaty, the proposal to enumerate the slave trade in the CAH treaty and the proposed slavery crimes amendments for the Rome Statute, and feminist approaches to digital accountability in the context of technology and artificial intelligence (AI).

Practitioner takeaways:

- Updates on integrating gender into the draft CAH treaty negotiations.
- Insights on the proposal to enumerate slave trade as a distinct CAH and on the proposed slavery crimes amendments for the Rome Statute.
- Understanding feminist strategies for digital accountability in relation to technology and artificial intelligence.
- Strategies for building alliances across sectors to address emerging and complex harms.

Speakers



Leila Sadat

James Carr Professor of International Criminal Law
Washington University School of Law



Valerie Oosterveld

Professor & Western Research Chair in International Criminal Justice, Faculty of Law,
Western University



Kim Thuy Seelinger

Professor
Washington University School of Public Health



Patricia Viseur Sellers

International Criminal Lawyer



Valeria Babără

Legal and Advocacy Adviser, AI Lead
Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice

Moderator