

Gender Justice in International Criminal Law Conference

29-30 SEPTEMBER, 2025 | THE HAGUE

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

International Institute of Social Studies, Kortenaerkade 12, The Hague



Day One - Monday, September 29

09:00 – 10:00

Doors open.

10:00 – 10:45 | Aula B

Conference Opening

The co-organizers will welcome participants and outline the aims and themes of the conference. A keynote address will follow, setting the stage for the discussions and exchanges over the next two days.

10:45 – 11:00

Coffee Break.

The Gender Justice Practitioner Hub Pillar One | Connecting Practitioners: Building Solidarity and Bridging Silos

11:00 – 12:15 | Aula B

Solidarity in Facing Attacks on Gender Justice

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.

12:15 – 12:45 | Aula B

Networks: Strengthening Practitioner Connections in ICL

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.

Day One - Monday, September 29

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.

12:45 – 13:45

Lunch.

13:45 – 15:00 | Aula B

Making the Case: Gender Analysis in Accountability

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.

The Gender Justice Practitioner Hub Pillar Two | Knowledge Repository and Building Expertise

15:00 – 16:00 | Aula B

Upgrading and Applying the Gender Justice Toolkits in International Criminal Law

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.

Day One - Monday, September 29

- 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.

16:00 – 16:30

Coffee Break.

Parallel Strategy Sessions – 16:30 – 17:30

16:30 – 17:30 | Aula B

Session A: Gender-sensitive Institution Building

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.

16:30 – 17:30 | Room 3.14

Session B: Reproductive Violence as a Strategy of Genocide

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.

Day Two | Tuesday, September 30

The Gender Justice Practitioner Hub Pillar 3 | Peer-to-peer Strategy Building for Concrete Justice Opportunities

09:00 – 10:15 | Aula B

MENA In Focus | Gender Justice for Palestine

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.

10:30 – 11:00

Coffee Break.

10:45 – 12:00 | Aula B

MENA In Focus | Strategising to support emerging justice opportunities – Syria

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.

Day Two | Tuesday, September 30

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.

Parallel Strategy Sessions – 12:00 – 13:00

12:00 – 13:00 | Aula B

Session A: Gender at the International Court of Justice

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.

12:00 – 13:00 | Room 3.14

Session B: Repairing Gender-based Violence

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.

Day Two | Tuesday, September 30

13:00 – 14:00

Lunch.

Parallel Strategy Sessions – 14:00 – 15:30

14:00 – 15:15 | Aula B

Session A: MENA In Focus | Gender Justice across the MENA Region

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.

14:00 – 15:15 | Room 3.14

Session B: ICL and the continuum of structural discrimination

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.

Day Two | Tuesday, September 30

15:30 – 16:00

Coffee Break.

15:45 – 16:45 | Aula B

Next generation strategies in ICL

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

16:45 – 17:30 | Aula B

Closing Session

This closing session will take stock of the discussions over the past two days and look ahead at next steps for change.

NOTES

Interpretation in Arabic will be available on-site and virtually for the full conference.

Lunch will be catered both days, offering a range of vegetarian sandwiches and soups.

Throughout the Conference

Exhibition: “Palestinian Narratives: Women in Isolation: Stories of Resilience and Resistance Under Israel’s Family Reunification Ban”

This exhibition is curated by the Community Action Centre (Jerusalem, Palestine) and PAX, and documents the humanitarian consequences of Israel’s ban on family reunification for Palestinian women in occupied East Jerusalem. Featuring photographs and written testimonies by affected women, it sheds light on the discriminatory legal frameworks shaping their lives and sparks a broader international dialogue on the gendered impacts of Israeli apartheid.

Art Installation: “The Carpet of Return”

This installation brings together contemporary ceramic artworks by Maryann Jaraisy, inspired by Arabic typography, cultural motifs, and Palestinian heritage. The Carpet of Return and accompanying pieces weave together tradition and innovation, evoking stories of memory, resilience, and belonging. Jaraisy’s practice, rooted in her brand Ballet Teen (“Wet Clay” in Arabic), transforms clay into living narratives that bridge past and future.

Facilities and Accessibility

Safe Space Lounge

In recognition of the emotionally demanding content of many sessions, a quiet, peer-supported safe space will be available throughout the conference. Whether you need time to reflect, regain composure, or support others, you’re invited to use this confidential space whenever needed.

Quiet Room (Neurodivergent-Friendly Space)

A dedicated quiet room will be available throughout the conference for participants who need a calm space to recharge. The room is kept locked to ensure privacy. You can collect the key from the ISS reception or ask one of our volunteers for access at any time.

Access to the building

The main entrance on the Kortenaerkade has a call button for those unable to use the steps into the building. A volunteer will be ready to assist anyone who requires access with the platform lift to help wheelchair users and others unable to use the stairs.

Gender-neutral toilets

Gender-neutral toilets are available on all floors. Here you can also find free of charge menstrual products.



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Lactation Room

Nursing mothers can make use of a lactation room to express milk. A fridge is available in this room to keep the milk cool. The key to the lactation room can be collected from the ISS reception.

Virtual Participation

The conference will also be accessible online through Zoom Webinar. All registered participants will receive a link and instructions by email shortly before the event, using the same email address you provided during registration.

When joining the webinar:

- You do not need to have a Zoom account to participate. Simply click the link in the email and follow the instructions.
- Arabic interpretation will be available online. You can select the interpretation channel once you have joined the webinar.
- Auto-generated captions can be enabled directly in Zoom by clicking the “CC/Live Transcript” button at the bottom of your screen.

We encourage participants to test their connection and join a few minutes early to ensure a smooth start.

Participants can access the full program, updates, and practical information through the Yapp app. [Download Yapp](#) and enter the event code provided in your conference practical information email to join.

Conference Organizers



We gratefully acknowledge the support of the Government of Australia, the European Union, and UN WOMEN in making this conference possible.



Australian Government



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