



# Justice for Women

## High-level Group Report

# The Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies

When world leaders adopted the 2030 Agenda, they included SDG16, a goal that seeks to create peaceful, just and inclusive societies. Such an overarching ambition was absent from the Millennium Development Goals, the SDGs' predecessor. However, there was no clear path to implementation of this aspirational goal, and no agreement on how to turn it into an agenda for action.

In response, a number of countries took the lead to become the Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive societies. These Pathfinder countries come together to demonstrate the action they will take to build more peaceful, just and inclusive societies, providing a basis for exploring the partnerships, funding, and knowledge sharing required to underpin delivery of this new goal.

The Pathfinders focus on all targets for peaceful, just and inclusive societies, linking the 12 targets from SDG16 to 24 targets from seven other goals that directly measure an aspect of peace, justice or inclusion. They call this SDG16+.

In September 2017, the Pathfinders launched the Roadmap for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, as a 'first guide' to implementation, supported by 28 Pathfinder countries and 18 international organizations. The Roadmap identifies three grand challenges, areas in which the Pathfinders want to set a policy and learning agenda while raising ambition and increasing political will.

The Task Force on Justice was set up in response to one of these grand challenges—the ambition to provide access to justice for all.

## The Task Force on Justice

In February 2018, the Task Force was launched in Buenos Aires, as an initiative of the Pathfinders. It is chaired by ministers from Argentina, the Netherlands, and Sierra Leone, and by Hina Jilani, lawyer and human rights activist who is one of the Elders.

The Task Force on Justice aims to contribute to better justice outcomes for people and communities who are outside the protection of the law, in line with SDG16.3 and related targets on justice, in several ways:

- It will encourage governments (national and sub-national) to make ambitious commitments to implement SDG16.3, backed up by credible, realistic, and funded strategies and plans.
- It seeks to contribute to increasingly coherent and comprehensive support for the implementation of SDG16.3 by international and regional organizations, and by multi-stakeholder partnerships.
- It is at the heart of efforts to build a more effective and empowered movement for justice at global, regional, national and local levels.

The Task Force took on three core tasks: to develop a new global estimate of the justice gap; to make the case for investment in justice; and to identify the strategies, tools and approaches that will increase access to justice.

The Task Force is supported by a growing alliance of justice partners. The World Justice Project, UNODC and other partners are developing a new synthesis of justice data. The OECD and the World Bank are building a case for investment in justice. HiIL is leading a working group on innovation, and the International Center for Transitional Justice is heading the working group on transitional justice. Multiple partners, including UNDP and the Open Government Partnership, are supporting countries to strengthen national implementation.

In this way, the Task Force will act as a platform for commitments on justice ahead of the High-Level Political Forum in 2019.

## The High-level Group on Justice for Women

Members of the Task Force on Justice feel strongly that there cannot be justice for all without justice for women, and they made this a priority in the Task Force's workstreams.

On the initiative of UN Women, three co-conveners came together to form the High-level Group (HLG) on Justice for Women, as represented by:

- **Phumzile Nguka-Mlambo, Executive Director, UN Women;**
- **Irene Khan, Director General, IDLO; and**
- **Sandie Okoro, Senior Vice President and Group General Counsel, World Bank Group.**

In addition to the co-conveners, the HLG is composed of high-level representatives from governments, international and national organizations, academics and CSOs, across various regions:

- **Abubacarr Marie Tamberdou**, Minister of Justice, the Gambia;
- **Catherine Harrington**, Campaign Manager, Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights;
- **Dubravka Simonovic**, UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its causes and consequences;
- **Frida Angelica Gomez Perez**, Director-General, Noticias Tiemposmodernos, and National Councilor for the Evaluation and Monitoring of Public Policies on Youth, Mexican Youth Institute, Mexico;
- **Hilary Gbedemah**, Chairperson, CEDAW Committee;
- **Maria Fernanda Rodriguez**, Under-Secretary, Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, Argentina;
- **Nana Darkoa Sekyiamah**, Director of Information, Communications and Media, AWID;
- **Nathalie G. Drouin**, Deputy Minister of Justice and Deputy Attorney General, Canada;
- **Nursyahbani Katjasungkana**, Head, Association of Indonesian Women for Justice, Indonesia;
- **Patricia Scotland**, Commonwealth Secretary General; and
- **Rangita de Silva de Alwis**, Associate Dean, University of Pennsylvania.

# The HLG was tasked to address the following questions:

## Measuring the justice gap for women and girls

What do women and girls need and want when they seek justice? Are the justice needs of women and girls being comprehensively addressed across their life cycle and in challenging circumstances such as during conflict and in post-conflict situations? What is the impact of gender discriminatory legal frameworks and social norms, as well as gender bias, on the delivery of justice for women?

## Making the case

What impact will women's increased access to justice have on reducing violence and ensuring access to economic resources and basic services such as land, credit, sexual and reproductive health, and education? What is the case for action and investment in access to justice for women and girls, and how can this case be made effectively?

## Understanding what works

What strategies, tools and approaches are likely to increase access to justice for women and girls? How can legal, policy and fiscal reforms be scaled up and accelerated in their favor? How can discriminatory social norms and gender bias be addressed in formal and informal justice systems?

## Call to action

What commitments should national and local actors make to close the justice gap for women and girls? How can international and regional cooperation support access to justice for women and girls at national levels? What can be done in the immediate, medium and long term?



The current report is the result of this work. It seeks to bring together insights and make recommendations on strategies to further justice for women. As such it charts a course that will support implementation of SDG16 and SDG5. The HLG invites justice leaders from across the world to join them in their commitment to further actions to accelerate implementation of the vision of Agenda 2030 on justice for all and justice for women.

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