

Advancing Gender Justice in the Crimes Against Humanity Convention: A Declaration

We, the undersigned organizations and individuals, welcome the official start of preparatory work for a Crimes Against Humanity Convention. This is a significant opportunity to ensure an inclusive instrument that addresses long-standing gaps in the protection against gender-based crimes, particularly for women and girls. We urge states to adopt a gender-competent and intersectional negotiation process and convention, which is shaped by victims' multidimensional experiences. We call on all states to take comprehensive action, including:

1. *Recognize all gender-based harms that meet the crimes-against-humanity threshold, by codifying crimes such as:*

Forced Marriage: as compelling a person into a conjugal union through force, threat, coercion or inability to consent, consistent with established jurisprudence.

Reproductive Violence: as intentional acts or omissions that violate a person's reproductive autonomy.

Gender Apartheid: as inhumane acts committed within and to maintain an institutionalized regime of systemic gender-based oppression and domination.

Slave Trade: as acts involved in bringing a person into, and maintaining them in, a situation of slavery, and reflecting its peremptory status.

2. *Center victims and survivors in the convention:*

The convention should deliver justice that people can access and trust—not a system that looks strong on paper but leaves victims behind.

Victims' perspectives, including those from marginalized groups, should shape the treaty's content, particularly with regard to prevention, accountability, and reparations.

States should **conduct safe consultations with victims** on the text—including the definition of victim—and provide procedural accommodations to ensure their meaningful participation throughout the negotiations, implementation and monitoring.

The text should **define victims** to include at least all persons who suffer harm from acts that constitute crimes against humanity in line with international standards and **provide for prompt, full, and effective reparations**.

3. *Embed gender-competence across the convention's content and process to promote equality and prevent discrimination, such as by ensuring:*

Gender-inclusive language is used throughout the text of the convention.

An **approach** that is grounded in **intersectionality and gender inclusivity** guides all sections of the convention, including provisions on definitions, procedure and enforcement.

A strong **non-discrimination and substantive equality** clause and strong provisions for **monitoring** to promote implementation, progressive interpretation, and compliance are included.

In the text, gender is understood in line with current international **human rights and criminal law**.

The negotiations incorporate **gender expertise** and **robust civil society participation**, intersessional **meetings** on gender justice, and **gender parity** across delegations.

Endorsed by:

Organizations

1. 6Rang (Iranian LGBT+ Network)
2. A World Without Chemical and Biological Weapons
3. Action pour la Réforme de la Justice et la Promotion des Droits de l'Homme (ARJPDH)
4. Advocacy Network for Justice and Peace (ANJP)
5. Afghanistan Human Rights and Democracy Organisation
6. Africa Legal Aid
7. African Platform for Human Rights and Governance (APHURG)
8. Al-Haq
9. Alianza Iniciativa de Mujeres Colombianas por la Paz-IMP
10. Alpha Support Development Programme
11. Amnesty International
12. Aotearoa Lawyers for Peace
13. Article 19
14. Asia Justice Coalition
15. Asian Resource Foundation
16. Association of World Citizens
17. Avaaz
18. Awer Women Empowerment
19. Baran Tursun Foundation
20. Basel Peace Office
21. Bir Duino-Kyrgyzstan
22. Center for Human Rights Advocacy
23. Center for Justice and Accountability
24. Center for Prisoners' Rights
25. Center for Reproductive Rights, Latin America and Caribbean program
26. Centro Internacional para Investigaciones en Derechos Humanos (CIIDH)
27. Civitas Maxima
28. Clinique de Droit International Pénal et humanitaire
29. Coalition for the International Criminal Court
30. Coalition for the Prevention of Hazara Genocide (CPHG)
31. Coalition Nationale (CPI RDC)
32. Coalition of Somali Human Rights Defenders (CSHRD)
33. Concern for Integrated Development
34. Congo Peace Initiative, C.P.I.
35. DIGNITY
36. Educational and Health Organization for Afghanistan Women
37. End Gender Apartheid Campaign
38. Equality Now
39. European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR)
40. Farida Global Organization
41. Forum of Nigerian Women In Politics (FONWIP)
42. Foundation Builders
43. Free Yezidi Foundation
44. Freedom from Torture
45. Fundación Internacional Baltasar Garzón (FIBGAR)
46. Global Initiative Against Impunity (GIAI)
47. Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect
48. Global Justice and Research Project
49. Global Justice Center
50. Global Rights Compliance
51. Global Survivors Fund
52. Good Health Community Programmes
53. Human Rights Advocates
54. Human Rights Centre ZMINA
55. Human Rights First
56. Human Rights Watch
57. ImPact Coalition on Strengthening International Judicial Institutions
58. IMPACT: Center Against Human Trafficking and Sexual Violence in Conflict
59. Indigenous Peoples Network, Kenya
60. Int'l Convocation of U*U Women
61. International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)
62. International Helping For The Young
63. International Humanitarian Law and Youth Initiative (IHL YI)
64. Investigator Organization for the Rule of Law
65. Just Access
66. Just Planet
67. Justice for Iran
68. Justicia Pro Persona, A.C.
69. Karama
70. Kenya Human Rights Commission
71. Kurdistan Center for International Law
72. Kurdistan Organizations Network to Abolish Nuclear and Mass Destruction Weapons
73. Lawyers for Justice in Libya
74. Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada
75. Libya Crimes Watch (LCW)
76. Ligue Burundaise des Droits de l'Homme Iteka
77. LingvaLexa
78. Maff Network for Solidification of justice and Development of Democracy
79. Malala Fund
80. Mukwege Foundation
81. Myanmar Ethnic Rohingya Human Rights Organization in Malaysia (MERHROM)
82. National Center for Combating Violence and Abuse Against Children
83. National Forum for Human Rights
84. Organization Against Weapons of Mass Destruction in Kurdistan
85. Organization of the Justice Campaign (OJC)
86. Our Culture is Giving

- 87. Parliamentarians for Global Action
- 88. Physicians for Human Rights
- 89. Prevention of Crimes against Humanity Project, Columbia Law School
- 90. Redress
- 91. Refugee Consortium of Kenya
- 92. Repro Justice Congo
- 93. Sociedad de Profesionales por la Dignidad y la Justicia (IUS DIGNITAS)
- 94. Society for The Empowerment of People (STEP)
- 95. Somali Human Rights Association (SOHRA)
- 96. Strategic Litigation Project
- 97. Synergy for Justice
- 98. Tanzania Community Health Information and Support (TaCHIS)
- 99. The Arrested Lawyers Initiative
- 100. The Circle
- 101. The European Law Students' Association (ELSA)
- 102. The Reckoning Project
- 103. The West African Transitional Justice Centre
- 104. TRIAL International
- 105. Union des Amis Socio Culturels d'Action en Developpement (UNASCAD)
- 106. United States International Council on Disabilities
- 107. Urban Morgan Institute for Human Rights, University of Cincinnati College of Law
- 108. Wayamo Foundation
- 109. Winam Chanua Dada CBO (CHADALA)
- 110. Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice
- 111. Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (UK)
- 112. Working Group for ASEAN Human Rights Mechanism, Singapore (MARUAH)
- 113. World Federalist Movement-Institute for Global Policy
- 114. World Without Genocide
- 115. Youth for Peace and Dialogue Between Cultures
- 116. Youth Initiative for Human Rights Croatia
- 117. Youth Initiative for Human Rights Serbia (YIHR Serbia)

Individuals

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Updated as of January 19, 2026