

gender justice

Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice



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The International Criminal Court

About the Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice

The Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice is an international women's human rights organization committed to:

- advocating for gender justice through the International Criminal Court (ICC)
- monitoring the ICC to ensure the Court implements the Rome Statute, particularly its gender-inclusive provisions
- enhancing the capacity among women in the use of international law, particularly the Rome Statute
- ensuring women victims/survivors and their communities are included in the investigations, prosecutions and reparations processes of the ICC
- strengthening advocacy in women's human rights and gender equality.

We campaign to raise awareness about the ICC amongst national, regional and international NGOs; monitor investigations and prosecutions; campaign for the recruitment of women to the ICC; advocate for gender competence amongst staff of the Court; promote universal ratification of the Rome Statute; and support local law reform efforts for States to comply with the Rome Statute and recognize women's human rights.

Gender Justice and the ICC

For the first time in history, an international treaty - the Rome Statute of the ICC - recognizes rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilization, gender-based persecutions, trafficking (particularly of women and children) and sexual violence as war crimes and crimes against humanity, and in some circumstances may also recognize these crimes as genocide. The ICC is required to investigate and prosecute gender-based crimes and sexual violence as an important part of its work.

Gender integration within the Rome Statute includes:

- the gender-inclusive definitions of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes
- gender-sensitive support and assistance requirements for victims and witnesses
- the requirement for staff with expertise in trauma related to crimes of sexual violence
- gender-inclusive protection measures
- the requirement for the fair representation of women and men and regional representation within the staff of the Court
- the requirement for a Gender Legal Advisor
- gender-inclusive measures in relation to evidence and questioning.