

## 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 Reproductive Rights, Latin America and Caribbean program
25. Centro Internacional para Investigaciones en Derechos Humanos (CIIDH)
26. Civitas Maxima
27. Clinique de Droit International Pénal et umanitaire
28. Coalition for the International Criminal Court
29. Coalition for the Prevention of Hazara Genocide (CPHG)
30. Coalition Nationale (CPI RDC)
31. Coalition of Somali Human Rights Defenders CSHRD
32. Concern for Integrated Development
33. Congo Peace Initiative, C.P.I.
34. DIGNITY
35. Educational and Health Organization for Afghanistan Women
36. End Gender Apartheid Campaign
37. Equality Now
38. European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR)
39. Farida Global Organization
40. Forum of Nigerian Women In Politics (FONWIP)
41. Foundation Builders
42. Free Yezidi Foundation
43. Freedom from Torture
44. Fundación Internacional Baltasar Garzón (FIBGAR)
45. Global Initiative Against Impunity (GIAI)
46. Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect
47. Global Justice and Research Project
48. Global Justice Center
49. Global Rights Compliance
50. Global Survivors Fund
51. Good Health Community Programmes
52. Human Rights Advocates
53. Human Rights Centre ZMINA
54. Human Rights First
55. Human Rights Watch
56. ImPact Coalition on Strengthening International Judicial Institutions
57. IMPACT: Center Against Human Trafficking and Sexual Violence in Conflict
58. Indigenous Peoples Network, Kenya
59. Int'l Convocation of U\*U Women
60. International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)
61. International Helping For The Young
62. International Humanitarian Law and Youth Initiative (IHLI)
63. Investigator Organization for the Rule of Law
64. Just Access
65. Just Planet
66. Justice for Iran
67. Justicia Pro Persona, A.C.
68. Kurdistan Center for International Law
69. Kurdistan Organizations Network to Abolish Nuclear and Mass Destruction Weapons
70. Lawyers for Justice in Libya
71. Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada
72. Libya Crimes Watch (LCW)
73. Ligue Burundaise des Droits de l'Homme Iteka
74. LingvaLexa
75. Maff Network for Solidification of justice and Development of Democracy
76. Malala Fund
77. Mukwege Foundation
78. Myanmar Ethnic Rohingya Human Rights Organization in Malaysia (MERHROM)
79. National Center for Combating Violence and Abuse Against Children
80. National Forum for Human Rights

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

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171. Mohamed Aboelazm
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