

22nd annual session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute

General Debate

Tuesday December 5<sup>th</sup> 2023 - New York, USA

Joint Statement by Global Justice Centre and Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice

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Your excellencies, dear colleagues, dear friends,

Understanding gender justice in international criminal law is a fast and ever evolving field.

For one, it embraces a broader understanding that goes beyond the binary concepts that underpin our shared harmful traditions in ICL.

A broader understanding of gender justice is becoming well anchored in the work of the policy, jurisprudential, and institutional developments at the ICC and in the Feminist Foreign Policy considerations that an increasing amount of you, states parties, are bringing to the ASP.

These developments are particularly evidenced at this ASP session, where there is at least one gender justice related side-event scheduled each day.

Let me draw a parallel with the ongoing discussions in the UN General Assembly on a crimes against humanity treaty. Many of us, along with our NGO colleagues, are advocating for a treaty that is not only gender-competent but also survivor-centric and intersectional. This discussion builds upon 25 years of the Rome Statute and the Court's jurisprudence, prompting us, in turn, to update our understanding and application of the Statute.

And for good reason. Understanding gender is understanding a fuller picture. That fuller picture cannot exist without a gender justice that is anchored in intersectionality. Or in other words, that calls for anti-discrimination competence.

Indeed, efforts to advance gender mainstreaming at the ICC and at the ASP must be expanded beyond the single axis of 'gender' to avoid overshadowing the structural transformation that is needed to ensure equity and anti-discrimination practices.

As such, we call on you, states, to be mindful of the impact of your decisions over the next two weeks. In matters related to the Court's budget, the selection of new ICC Judges, participation in panels and side-events, and engagement with civil society colleagues, let us move from reactivity to proactivity.

Many of our civil society colleagues present here are the voices of the victims of ICC crimes. I urge you to keep the civil society space open, here at the ASP and beyond, recognizing its vital role in amplifying these voices and contributing to a more just and inclusive world.