

70th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 70):

Expert Group Meeting

“Ensuring and strengthening access to justice for all women and girls, including by promoting inclusive and equitable legal systems, eliminating discriminatory laws, policies, and practices, and addressing structural barriers”

PROGRAMME OF WORK- Closed Expert Group Meeting
September 8-10, 2025

Day 1 – September 8 <i>Formal legal systems, traditional justice mechanisms, and justice service delivery</i>	
7:45 – 8:00 am (EST)	Interpreter Check-In / IT Check
08:00–08:30	<p>Welcome and opening of the meeting</p> <p>Co-Chairs Opening (10 minutes) Professor Julissa Mantilla Falcón, Pontifical Catholic University of Peru and former President of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights Piyumi Samaraweera, Director of Programmes, CREA and Co-Chair of Generation Equality Feminist Movements & Leadership Action Coalition</p> <p>Sarah Hendriks, UN-Women, Director Policy, Program and Intergovernmental Division (12 minutes)</p>
8:35-9:05	<p>Session 1 – Background Paper I</p> <p>Presentation of Background Paper 1 (15 minutes):</p> <p>Women’s Access to Justice: An Overview of Key Concerns – Lee Waldorf, Independent Consultant</p> <p>Antonia Kirkland, Equality Now – Moderator and Discussant leads plenary discussion (15 minutes)</p>
9:05 -9:15	Break
9:15 – 10:15	<p>Session 2 – Legal Frameworks</p> <p>Presentation of Expert Short Papers (10 minutes each):</p> <p>Slow Legal Progress and Global Trends: Realizing Equal Legal Rights and Access to Justice for All – Dr. Jody Heymann, UCLA and Founding Director of WORLD Policy Analysis Center and Amy Raub, Principal Research Analyst, WORLD Policy Center <u>presented by</u> Aleta Sprague, Director, Legal Analysis and Communication, at WORLD Policy Analysis Center, UCLA</p> <p>Focus Area: Family Law, Culture and Economic Justice - Hyshyama Hamin, Global Campaign for Equality in Family Law</p> <p>Regional Legal Instruments and Women’s Access to Justice – Florence Nannyanzai Butegwa,</p>

	<p>Diffusion of International Legal Frameworks on Women's Rights to National Laws and Local Initiatives - Professor Bonita Meyersfield, Wits Law School</p> <p>Antonia Kirkland, Equality Now, Moderator and Discussant leads plenary discussion, including emerging policy recommendations (20 minutes)</p>
10:15 - 10:25	Break
10:25 - 11:20	<p>Session 3 - Justice Service Delivery</p> <p>Presentation of Expert Short Papers (10 minutes each):</p> <p>Implementation Gap: Justice Service Delivery in the Pacific –Nalini Singh, Fiji Women's Rights Movement</p> <p>Case Study: Justice Service Delivery in Antigua and Barbuda for Girls and Women - Samantha Marshall, Lawyer and Former Minister for Social Transformation, Human Resources, Youth and Gender Affairs for Antigua and Barbuda</p> <p>Access to Justice for Women and Girls and Administrative Practices - Dr. Rebecca Sandefur, Arizona State University</p> <p>Specialized Gender Justice Mechanisms – Professor Aida Kemelmajer de Carlucci, Former Justice of Argentine Supreme Court for Mendoza, lawyer and author</p> <p>Gabriela Kletzel, Heinrich Boll Stiftung – Moderator and Discussant leads plenary discussion, including emerging policy recommendations (15 minutes)</p>
11:20 - 11:30	Break
11:30 - 12:10	<p>Session 4 - Traditional Justice Systems</p> <p>Presentation of Expert Short Paper (15 minutes):</p> <p>Legal Pluralism and Women's Rights – Professor Fareda Banda, SOAS/University of London</p> <p>Expert Views (5-7 minutes):</p> <p>Rea Abada Chiongson, IDLO</p> <p>Dr. Simeon Koroma, University of Edinburgh and Co-Founder of TIMAP for Justice - Moderator and Discussant leads plenary discussion, including emerging policy recommendations (20 minutes)</p>
12:10 - 12:20	Break
12:20 - 1:10	<p>Session 5 - Gender Based Violence</p> <p>Presentation of Expert Short Papers (10 minutes each):</p>

International Standards of Credibility - Dr. Adilia de las Mercedes, Association of Women in Guatemala

	<p>Femicide/Feminicide: Progress and Remaining Challenges in Investigation and Accountability - Dr. Patsili Toledo, CEDAW Committee Member (via video)</p> <p>Gender Responsive Policing -Jane Townsley, Former President of the International Association of Women Police & Independent Consultant and Gerry Campbell, Independent Advisor & Former Scotland Yard</p> <p>Professor Nkatha Murungi, Center for Human Rights and Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria – Moderator and Discussant leads plenary discussion, including emerging policy recommendations (20 minutes)</p>
1:10 – 1:15	Closing for the Day – Co-Chairs

Day 2 – September 9	
Structural barriers, social norms, and intersectional discrimination	
7:45 – 8:00 am (EST)	Interpreter Check-In / IT Check
8:00–8:15	Opening of Day 2 and Brief Recap of Day 1: EGM Co-Chairs
8:20–9:25	<p>Session 1 – Background Paper 2 and Conflict/Post-Conflict/Crisis Contexts</p> <p>Presentation of Expert Background Paper 2: Structural Challenges - Access to Justice for Women and Girls in Conflict/Crisis/Post-Conflict Contexts: Dr. Shuvai Busuman Nyoni, African Leadership Center (15 minutes)</p> <p>Expert Views (7 minutes each):</p> <p>Richard Bennet, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan</p> <p>Randa Siniora, Women’s Center for Legal Aid and Counselling</p> <p>Dr. Khrystyna Kit, Ukrainian Women Lawyers Association/JurFem</p> <p>Hon. Professor Clara Sandoval, Global Survivors Fund and University of Essex/Geneva Academy</p> <p>Galuh Wandita, Asia Justice and Rights – Moderator and Discussant leads plenary discussion, including emerging policy recommendations (20 minutes)</p>
9:25 – 9:35	Break
9:35–10:40	<p>Session 2 – Intersectional Identities and Access to Justice</p> <p>Presentation of Expert Short Papers (10 minutes each):</p> <p>Access to Justice and Women and Girls with Disabilities –Ana Peláez Narváez, Former Chair and Current Member of UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women</p> <p>Access to Justice and Older Women – Tanvi Patel, HelpAge International</p> <p>Access to Justice and LGBTIQ+ Women and Girls – Thilaga Sulathireh, Justice for Sisters, Malaysia</p> <p>Expert View (5-7 minutes):</p> <p>Dr. Ashwini K.P. UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism</p> <p>Teresa Zapata, FIMI/International Indigenous Women’s Forum - Moderator and Discussant leads plenary discussion, including emerging policy recommendations (20-25 minutes)</p>
10:40–11:00	Break
11:00 – 12:00	Session 3: Legal Aid and Community-Based Workers

Presentation of Expert Short Papers (10 minutes each):

	<p>Justice for Survivors of Gender-Based Violence: Access to Information and Support Networks - Arab Region Focus - Salma Waheedi, Harvard University</p> <p>Case Study: Legal Aid as Pathway to Advancing Women’s and Girls Access to Justice in Kosovo - Arrita Reznqi, Coordinator of the Free Legal Aid Center, Kosovo</p> <p>Intersectionality and legal aid - Professor Claudia Flores, Chair of the UN Working Group on discrimination against women and girls</p> <p>Eleanor Thompson, Citizens’ Barray - Moderator and Discussant leads plenary discussion, including emerging policy recommendations (20 minutes)</p>
<p>12:00 - 12:05</p>	<p>Closing for the Day - Co-Chairs</p>

Day 3 – September 10	
Drivers for Change: Autonomous Feminist Movement, Legal Support, Technology and Research	
7:45 – 8:00 am (EST)	Interpreter Check-In / IT Check
8:00–8:15 (EST)	Opening of Day 3 and Brief Recap of Day 2: EGM Co-Chairs
8:20 – 9:10	<p>Session 1 – Innovation, Technology and Research</p> <p>Presentation of Expert Short Papers (10 minutes each):</p> <p>Innovation and Technology for Access to Justice – Dr. Tania Soudin, Emeritus Professor, University of Newcastle Law School</p> <p>Gender Bias in Judicial Algorithms – Caitlin Kraft Buchman, Women at the Table</p> <p>Expert Views (7 minutes):</p> <p>Mariam Safi, DROPS</p> <p>Dr. Margaret Satterthwaite, UN SR on the independence of judges and lawyers (TBC)</p> <p>Tea Trumbic, World Bank – Moderator and Discussant leads plenary discussion, including emerging policy recommendations (15 minutes)</p>
9:10 – 9:20	Break
9:20 – 10:20	<p>Session 2 – Structural Barriers & Social Norms</p> <p>Presentation of Expert Short Papers (10 minutes each):</p> <p>Structural Barriers and Women’s Access to Justice - Dr Laurel Weldon, Simon Fraser University</p> <p>How Does Change Happen? Social Norms, Religion and Muslim Family Laws in the MENA Region -- Dr. Marwa Sharafeldin, Musawah</p> <p>Legal norms and Social Norms: Recommendations for building a better bridge – Professor Kate Bedford, University of Birmingham</p> <p>Reparations for Gender-Based Violence: Structural Barriers and the Limits of Punitive Justice - Gabriela Kletzel, Democracy and Human Rights Program, Heinrich Boll Stiftung/Argentina</p> <p>Paro Chaujar, Policy Advisor on Social Norms - Moderator and Discussant leads plenary discussion, including emerging policy recommendations (20 minutes)</p>
10:20 – 10:30	Break
10:30 – 11:20	Session 3: Feminist Legal Activism

Presentation of Expert Short Papers (10 minutes each):

	<p>Feminist Activism and the Quest for Democracy and Gender Justice – Dr. Amrita Basu, Amherst College</p> <p>Strategic Litigation and Access to Justice – Professor Claudia Martin, Latin American Network for Gender-Based Strategic Litigation and Co-Director of the Academy of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law, American University/Washington</p> <p>Pathways to Justice and Redress for Women Living with HIV – Keren Dunaway, International Community of Women Living with HIV</p> <p>Lina Abou-Habib, Asfari Institute for Civil Society and Citizenship, American University of Beirut –Moderator and Discussant leads plenary discussion, including emerging policy recommendations (20 minutes)</p>
11:20 – 11:30	Break
11:30 – 12:05	<p>Session 4: Outline For EGM Report/Key Recommendations</p> <p>Session Lead to Present EGM Report Outline/Summarize Key Recommendations: Lee Waldorf, Independent Consultant (15 minutes)</p> <p>Co-Chairs leads plenary discussion, including emerging policy recommendations (20 minutes)</p>
12:05 – 12:15	Closing Remarks by Co-Chairs
12:15 – 12:25	Closing Remarks by Adriana Quinones, UN Women, Chief of Human Rights and Non-Discrimination Section