

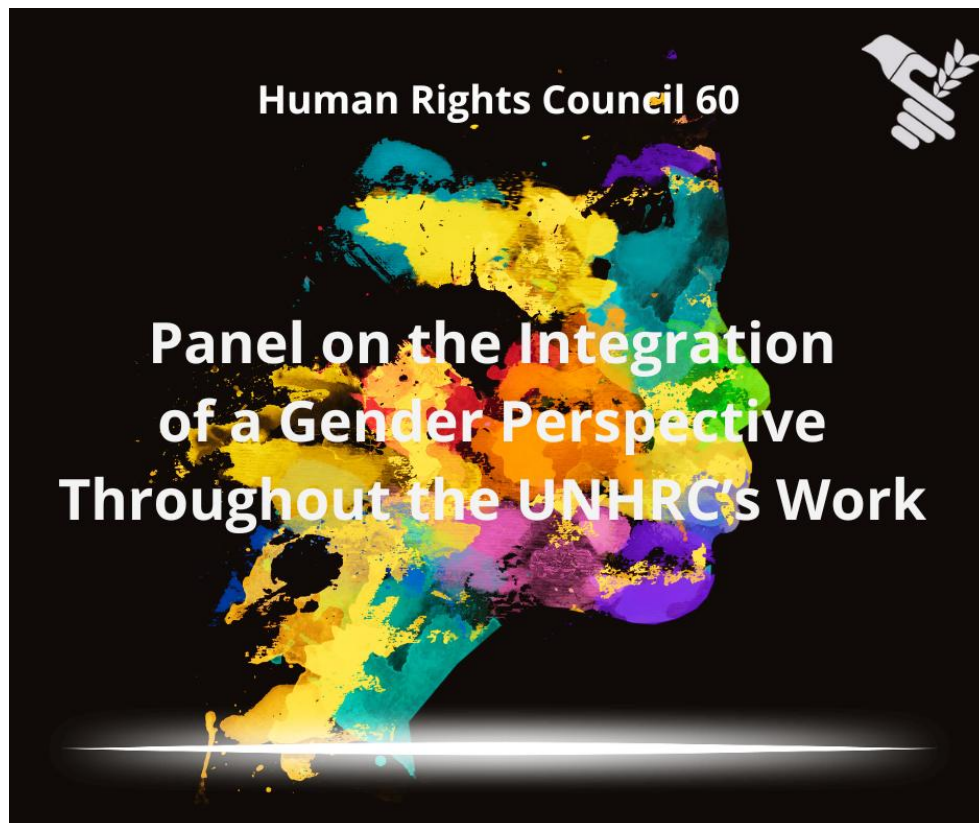


GENEVA CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
ADVANCEMENT AND GLOBAL DIALOGUE

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Annual discussion on the Integration of a Gender Perspective Throughout the Work of the Human Rights Council and that of its Mechanisms

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BACKGROUND

In its resolution 6/30 (2007), the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) mandated the annual discussion on gender integration and requested all special procedures to systematically incorporate a gender perspective. In line with that mandate, this panel discussion dedicated to **‘strengthening gender perspectives in transitional justice processes’** aims at addressing a critical gap in transitional justice practice and helping states and UN mechanisms to identify concrete strategies to dismantle barriers to gender-transformative approaches. Transitional justice processes play a vital role in securing accountability, redress, and reconciliation following conflict, repression, and human rights violations. The UNHRC and its mechanisms have increasingly reflected gender-specific violations and abuses affecting women, girls, and people of diverse gender identities in their transitional justice initiatives and recommendations. However, the **integration of a gender perspective remains inconsistent**.

An international normative framework is in place for protecting women’s rights in and after conflict, emphasizing the participation of women in peacebuilding. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) has two general recommendations, namely No. 30 (2013) on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations and



No. 40 (2024) on the equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems. However, **persistent gaps in implementation remain**, with the focus often narrowly limited to sexual violence, often excluding structural violence and treating the broader spectrum of gendered violations and abuses. The 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 25th anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) offer a timely opportunity to reflect on progress achieved and enduring challenges in ensuring comprehensive transitional justice processes.

This panel discussion aims to understand the **challenges and progress in gender-transformative transitional justice**, including superficial treatment of gender issues, sexual violence, and underrepresentation of women. It will explore strategies to overcome barriers and examine how transitional justice can contribute to gender-equal societies. The UNHRC will identify ways to strengthen a gender perspective in transitional justice through analyses, recommendations, and victim-centred approaches.

OPENING REMARKS

Ms. Nada AL-NASHIF, United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights

Welcoming this year's focus on transitional justice as an essential tool to help fractured societies to heal, reconcile and rebuild, the Deputy High Commissioner explains that the latest figures verified by OHCHR indicate that the number of **women and girls killed in conflict in 2023 and 2024** was three times higher than the previous two years. UN-verified cases of conflict-related sexual violence rose by 50 percent in 2023 compared to the previous year. Women and girls are suffering more than ever in conflicts around the world.

They have a right to equal power in peacemaking - not just a seat at the table. Their involvement is not a concession; it is a prerequisite for legitimacy and success. But despite overwhelming evidence that women's participation leads to more durable peace, they are routinely sidelined in peace-making. In 2023, on average, women made up **less than ten per cent of negotiators**, less than 14 per cent of mediators, and barely one quarter of signatories to ceasefire and peace agreements. Likewise, transitional justice processes often ignore gender altogether, or reduce it to a narrow, albeit important, focus on conflict-related sexual violence. This **exclusion is a fundamental failure**.

Research shows that when **women** are included in transitional justice processes, they push for more concrete and fundamental reforms. They broaden the issues under consideration to include development and human rights, which are fundamental to addressing the root causes of conflict. For this reason, OHCHR is supporting transitional justice processes grounded in gender equality around the world. Around the world, OHCHR supports the civil society and grass-roots organizations that hold the key to overcoming these challenges. Today's panellists reflect the central role, persistence and creativity of women peace activists. Women's rights organizations and activists are key architects of gender-transformative justice. Yet, these essential actors are **chronically underfunded and threatened**.

In **Colombia**, during the Truth Commission's mandate, OHCHR promoted the equal participation of women in dialogue processes and strengthened the Commission's ability to document the



differentiated impact of the conflict. In the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, OHCHR helped to embed gender considerations in transitional justice processes, including the National Transitional Justice Policy that was adopted by the Council of Ministers in May of this year. In the **Gambia**, OHCHR's work with the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission and others helped to integrate a gender perspective into transitional justice.

The experiences of **Peru, Sierra Leone and Timor-Leste**, among others, show that transitional justice processes must identify and respond to the unique, gendered impacts of conflict on women, men, and people of diverse gender identities. These must include indirect harm and structural violations of human rights, including stigmatization, marginalization, and economic exclusion. Knowing what works, we need to act on it.

First, OHCHR urges all those involved in transitional justice mechanisms not only to ensure full **accountability and redress** for conflict-related sexual violence and other violations suffered by women, but to address the deeper root causes that fuel them. Transitional justice processes need to tackle **intersectional discrimination** and patriarchy, including inequalities that predate conflict, and can persist long after it. Institutional reform and development should aim to change future practices, as well as addressing the past. They must prioritize gender equality and ensure equal access for women, in all their diversity, to justice, political participation, and decision-making. Reparations should aim to **transform lives** by integrating women's social and economic rights, including access to land, livelihoods, and education.

Second, transitional justice must be founded on **gender parity**. All transitional justice bodies, delegations, and negotiating teams should be gender equal. This should be seen as an issue of right, not an aspirational goal. Transitional justice processes should include formal, safe, well-resourced avenues for women's participation. Women's rights organizations and human rights defenders have been the driving force behind major advances in gender-sensitive peacebuilding. Investing in them is an investment in peace.

As the year 2025 marks 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 25th anniversary of UNSC resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, OHCHR calls on all stakeholders to redouble efforts together in solidarity to ensure that peace and transitional justice processes uphold and promote women's rights, for the benefit of all.

H.E. Mr. Gustavo GALLÓN, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva

Ambassador Gustavo GALLÓN shares with the UNHRC the experience of Colombia which he depicts as profoundly transformative for the Colombian society, thereby putting it at the service of collective learning. Colombia knows firsthand the importance of placing **women, girls, and people of diverse identities at the centre of peace-building**. During more than six decades of internal armed conflict, they bore the disproportionate impact - sexual violence, land dispossession, political exclusion, and imposed silence. But they also sustained hope, opened paths of resistance, and, with enormous courage, claimed their place in the search for truth, justice, reparation, and guarantees of non-repetition.



As a result of this mobilization, the **2016 Peace Agreement** between Colombia and the FARC included a specific chapter on gender and more than 120 concrete measures to guarantee the rights of women and LGBTIQ+ people. This achievement - the first of its kind in the world and so far the only one - was not accidental. It is the result of the advocacy of thousands of women organized in the National Women and Peace Summit and the direct voice of female victims who travelled to the negotiating table in La Havana. A Gender Subcommittee reviewed the negotiations point by point.

That legacy lives on in Colombian transitional justice institutions. The **Special Jurisdiction for Peace** opened a case dedicated to investigating sexual and reproductive violence and hate crimes committed by all armed actors, known as Case 11. The Truth Commission, in its final report, included a volume titled *'My Body is the Truth'*, which recognized how sexual violence was systematically used in the war. The Search Unit for Missing Persons has highlighted the role of women as seekers and guardians of memory, creating guidelines for participation with a differential approach. Colombia has also put in place its first **National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security (2024–2034)**, designed with the participation of more than 1,500 women from across the country - rural women, Indigenous women, women of African descent, young women, women with disabilities, and LGBTIQ+ women. This Action Plan is an ambitious roadmap, aligned with the CEDAW recommendations and the SDGs, which seeks to move from a militarized vision of security to a human, feminist, and territorial security.

Aware that **enormous challenges remain**, Colombia notes that the implementation of the gender approach continues to be uneven across territories; resources are not always sufficient; and the weight of patriarchal structures continues to reproduce exclusions. However, the Colombian experience shows that transitional justice processes cannot be limited to recognizing sexual violence as an isolated event. They must also address structural root causes such as economic exclusion, denial of access to land, political marginalization, and intersectional discrimination affecting Indigenous, Afro-Colombian, and rural women, as well as LGBTIQ+ persons. This is also the UNHRC's position, which has called for the creation of transitional justice mechanisms that truly transform the conditions of inequality that made the war possible. Only in this way will we achieve a sustainable peace.

Colombia's trajectory is not perfect, but it is deeply honest. Sharing a powerful lesson with the international community, Colombia stresses it has learned that **peace cannot be decreed**; it is woven with the threads of truth, the dignity of victims, and the active participation of those who were silenced for so long. Gender-sensitive transitional justice is not a separate chapter - it is the very foundation of reconciliation. Humbly offering these experiences to the international debate, Colombia reiterates with conviction that **peace and gender equality are not parallel aspirations**, but the same task, the same horizon. They are born of the same mother.

**Mr. Bernard DUHAIME, Special Rapporteur on the Promotion of Truth, Justice and
Reparation**

Stressing the mandate's centrality of a gender perspective to transitional justice processes, this rapporteurship examined its 2021 thematic report the **multi-layered aspects** of the adoption of a gender perspective in transitional justice processes. The report examined states' obligations,

addressed emerging challenges and opportunities, and offered guidance to states undergoing political transitions to provide adequate and comprehensive redress to women, girls and people of diverse gender identities who were victims of serious human rights violations, through the adoption of a gender perspective in the conceptualization, design and implementation of national transitional justice strategies and mechanisms.

The report notes how the **first truth commission** ignored manifest violations based on gender, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Although significant progress has been made in this area over time, there is still a general lack of focus on sexual orientation and gender identity in the work of many truth commissions. It is essential to achieve a gender balance among commission members, establish thorough training processes, account for a broad typology of violations, conduct gender-sensitive public hearings, and develop a proactive strategy of support and confidence-building to encourage women and LGBT persons to provide statements.

The **typology of violations** used in their methodology must adequately capture the victims' experiences and include gendered conduct; broad definitions that are not limited to physical injuries; differentiated impacts of violations; records of both primary and secondary violations; and their effects on both primary and secondary victims. A cross-cutting, systematic approach to the issue of violence against girls, women, and LGBT persons and its differential impact is critical to the success of transitional justice processes.

Truth-seeking initiatives must contain an explicit reference to examining the causes and consequences of sexual- and gender-based violence; establish organized structures that allow for mainstreaming and specialization; ensure that the typology of violations includes broad definitions that are not limited to physical injuries and account for differentiated impacts; and adopt proactive dissemination and communication strategies. The explicit incorporation of a gender perspective in reparation programmes is also crucial and aims to provide redress for sexual and gender-based violence and to identify reparation decisions that may have a differential impact.

For **reparations** to be adequate, categories of violations and victims to be repaired must not reproduce patterns of gender discrimination, and must include primary surviving victims and their families, without restricting the notion of family to a rigid, legalistic, or culturally dominant concept. Reparation measures must take a holistic view of gender and gender-based violence. Intersectional criteria should be considered. Expansive conceptualizations of harm suffered by victims of gender-based violence must be developed to register the complexity of said harm. For example, the various forms of stigmatization, ostracism, legal insecurity, and loss of social status and livelihood.

Reparation programmes must be creative and flexible in order to overcome socio-cultural and administrative barriers, avoid evidentiary requirements that exclude or re-victimize victims, and address both the individual and collective dimensions of reparations, in order to satisfy the principle of integral reparation. Reparations should aim to be **transformational rather than restitutive**. It is not enough to put the victims in the position that they were in before the violation occurred as it does not imply the effective enjoyment of their rights. Reparations should aspire to



subvert the pre-existing structural inequality that may have engendered the violence suffered by women.

States should identify **measures with differential impacts** between the sexes and in relation to LGBT persons, ensure that reparation measures consider gender and its intersectionality; adopt expansive notions of violations and victims eligible for reparations; adopt a presumption of related gender-specific violations or lower evidentiary burdens of proof; and ensure that reparation programmes are creative and flexible in order to overcome socio-cultural and administrative barriers.

Concerning **accountability**, while the valuable experience of international criminal tribunals helped to shed light on sexual and gender-based violence, and raised standards for prosecution in national courts, the impunity of sexual and gender-related crimes still prevails, and there remain barriers to accessing justice for women and LGBT persons. It is necessary to strengthen the capacities of justice operators to overcome negligent and prejudiced attitudes; adopt special protocols for the investigation and prosecution of sexual and gender-based crimes, so that they are punished according to their gravity; establish a special inter-institutional model of investigation and prosecution; and incorporate a gender perspective in victim and witness protection programmes that address the specific risks faced by victims of sexual and gender-based violence.

Regarding **guarantees of non-recurrence**, states must work to amend discriminatory legal provisions; improve gender representativeness; develop gender-perspective training programmes for their agents; and establish specialized units in the justice, security, and armed forces sectors undergoing reform. They must also review educational curricula and manuals to include critical accounts of violent pasts, and move away from sexist cultural-educational structures that reproduce patterns of domination.

In addition, states must ensure that memorialization processes are gender-sensitive without falling prey to stereotype and incorporate critical analyses of hegemonic patriarchal cultures. A dynamic approach to memorialization that encourages collaboration between educational institutions, civil society organizations, cultural actors, and artists, should be taken to promote critical thinking and responsibly transmit the memories of women and sexual minorities across generations.

Finally, Mr. Bernard DUHAIME stresses the need to ensure the effective participation of women, girls and boys, LGBT communities, and victims of sexual and gender-based violence in the design, formulation, and implementation of transitional justice programmes broadly.

Ms. Devi KHADKA, Women's Rights Activist and Former Member of the Constituent Assembly of Nepal

Taking the floor on behalf of the sexual violence survivors of the 10-year-long armed conflict of Nepal, Ms. Devi KHADKA shares with the UNHRC **survivors' stories of pain, struggle and hope**. Various international instruments including the Beijing Declaration as well as UNSC resolutions 1325 and 1820 have built the foundation for the protection of rights of women and ensuring their participation in the peace-building process. But the reality is different.



According to Nepalese survivors' experience, transitional justice processes have not been able to **understand the pain of women**. Whenever gender issues are raised, the discussion is limited to sexual violence only. In addition, sexual violence is looked at only from the superficial point of view, it's not been understood as an outcome of patriarchal mentality and structural inequalities. As a result, serious issues such as economic exclusion, lack of access to resources, violation of sexual and reproductive health rights and political marginalization that Nepalese female survivors have been subjected to, are overshadowed.

Bringing to the UNHRC the voice of thousands of women who have been subjected to **institutional rape during the 10 years conflict** of Nepal, Ms. Devi KHADKA notes the absence of justice and even the lack of recognition as victims. They have been denied medical treatment since the past one and a half decades, forced to live with poverty, scarcity and social stigma, coupled with a body weakened by diseases.

In the **post-conflict period**, they were subjected to neglect and insult from both the State and the society. Their pain was made invisible. But they did not stay in silence. The Aparajit Foundation – which literally means 'the undefeated' – is a journey that started in 2021 with 11 women and has now become a huge family of 3,809 members. The Foundation coined the slogan 'Let's speak for ourselves. Let's fight together for ourselves.' Their experiences of struggle are not only confined to sexual violence, as they also encompass economic exclusion, lack of access to health services and structural violence of social stigmatization.

Their fight for justice is articulated in three different tiers. **Self-justice** consists of 'internal healing' processes with the survivors themselves becoming psychosocial counsellors and helping one another. **Social justice** is pursued through a campaign titled 'Rape is not stigma, it is a state crime' – which led to the amendment of the law in 2024. The **fight for legal justice** continues through the collection of complaints from 90 percent more survivors than the government and submitted it to the Transitional Justice Commission. This led to the formulation of the law that included the lifting of the statute of limitation, stopping re-victimization, a special court, compensation and accountability.

These achievements show that **gender transformative justice** is possible only through meaningful participation and strong advocacy. The Foundation has provided survivors the opportunity to become agents of change. Before the council, Ms. Devi KHADKA advocates for a shift away from a solely sexual violence approach and not to neglect structural inequalities. She questions why do the most vulnerable women within fragile countries have to endure such pain and why are they deprived of transitional justice. Continuing with another rhetorical question, she asks states how many more years do the survivors have to remain 'an example.' It is impossible to envision a civilized world by pushing so much injustice in the womb of this earth.

The Aparajit Foundation advocates for a **just presence of female survivors** in transitional justice mechanisms, thereby stressing that justice is not only about the perpetrator being punished, but is also about the education, health and dignity of the survivor. Nepal's experience shows that once female survivors became organized, they achieved an amendment of the law. Collectively, they also organized medical health camps and became themselves psychosocial counsellors, thereby putting their slogan 'Let's speak for ourselves' into practice.



On behalf of the Aparajit Foundation, Ms. Devi KHADKA calls on the UNHRC and all stakeholders to **connect truth with justice**. Sexual violence shall not only be regarded as a crime, but as a violation of women's political, social and economic rights. When formulating policies, international mechanisms should prioritize the voices of local women's rights activists and survivors. Reparation projects should not be limited to only physical compensation, but should address the structural inequalities faced by women. Women's full, equal and meaningful participation should be ensured in every step of the peace process, decision-making and justice.

Nepalese survivors' stories of struggle convey a clear message. They are not only victims. They are power. Their aspirations, their voices and their justice must not be neglected under any pretext. Only then real justice will be restored and society progress towards equality and stability.

Ms. Kateryna BUSOL, Legal Adviser, International Centre for Transitional Justice (ICTJ)

Ms. Kateryna BUSOL describes it as hope-giving the opportunity to discuss at the UNHRC one of the most fundamental dimensions of truly nuanced and sustainable justice – a dimension which understands and empathetically addresses and redresses human's traumatic experiences in armed conflicts and atrocity situations endured because of their gender. Two **misconceptions regarding gender persist**. First, gender dimensions are still often seen only through the prism of sexual violence, including conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV). Second, gender is still often associated with women and girls, overlooking the spectrum of experience of men and boys. Drawing from varied examples globally, Ms. Kateryna BUSOL will challenge these two assumptions and propose some key ways forward to more holistic, gender-competent justice.

CRSV remains a devastating issue globally. However, many other international crimes and serious human rights violations as well as atrocity situations more broadly have **acute gendered dimensions**, which should inform their transformative redress. During the dictatorship period in **Tunisia**, female relatives and children of political prisoners endured social stigma and exclusion, which impacted their ability to earn the living, access education and exposed them to harassment, including sexual violence. In **South Africa**, many women activists of the African National Congress decided not to testify before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, to prevent their traumatic experience from overshadowing their activist stance. Destruction of hospitals in **Ukraine** and other situations of active hostilities devastate everyone's access to healthcare, including reproductive services, which are crucial for a given society's in- and post-conflict survival. At the same time, hospital attacks disproportionately affect women, who remain principal caregivers to children, the elderly and relatives with disabilities globally.

Women and girls have been disproportionately affected by sexual and other forms of gender-based violence in conflict and are critically **underrepresented in peace processes and post-conflict recovery**. However, these historical and structural realities cannot be redeemed with a sketchy approach to male exposure in armed conflicts that portrays men exclusively as perpetrators and decision-makers and neglects their victimhood and other layers of their lived experiences. From Syria to the Rohingyas and Ukraine, **CRSV against males is on the rise**. It includes electrocution, mutilation and beating of genitalia; rape and threats of rape to detained men or their relatives; forcing captured males to sexually violate their family members or other detainees; forced nudity, including in low temperatures; all predominantly combined with denied



medical assistance and inhuman conditions of detention. Attacks on gay men and trans women bear additional acute gendered dimensions.

OHCHR has reported that more than 90% of civilians it interviewed have been subjected to torture or ill-treatment in Russian captivity, with around three quarters of survivors being men. The UNHRC-mandated Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine and the Special Rapporteur on torture have highlighted the pervasive sexual dimensions of this mistreatment. **Rohingya CRSV male survivors** admit the difficulty in reporting their traumatic experience, given that men are presumed to be perpetrators of sexual violence – and that the majority of support mechanisms are designed or publicised as those for women and girls. Men forced to witness sexual abuse of their relatives are torn by an alleged failure to perform their protector’s role, self-censor their experience and do not recognise it for what it is – sexual mental torture. A **failure to see harm is amplified by a failure to redress it** in a sensitised gendered manner, not only for a particular male, but also for females he engages with and for their wider community.

Transitional justice measures - from reparations to prosecutions, truth-seeking, memorialisation and institutional reforms - should engage with all layers of these experiences and highlight **females’ and males’ often invisible ordeals**. Urgent interim reparations for girls, boys, women and men CRSV survivors should be introduced as early as possible, without waiting until the end of hostilities. Syria and Ukraine have demonstrated that, where possible, other justice measures, too, should be activated early, to ensure comprehensive documentation, survivor support and authentic narratives.

At the same time, transitional justice measures should always ensure that the verbalisation and redress of endured harms do not further objectify women, but **amplify women’s extraordinary resilience in armed conflicts and atrocity situations** and contribute to gender-nuanced transformations in their respective societies. For that, women and wider gender issues should not just be on the agenda of transitional justice priorities. Women, along with men of different backgrounds should be co-shaping this agenda, from national consultations on its design until its full implementation.

REPLIES AND CONCLUDING REMARKS

In reply to questions and remarks raised by various stakeholders, **Ms. Kateryna BUSOL** recalls first and foremost the importance of addressing gender dimensions of all atrocity crimes, not only conflict-related sexual violence. This address and redress shall focus on all individuals. Second, transitional justice measures shall prioritize these reparations. They should be introduced as early as possible through simplified administrative procedures and they should not be connected to lengthy criminal proceedings. While usually **mental health considerations** are discussed with respect to survivors, she stresses the importance of mental health and well-being for first responders, investigators, prosecutors and all professionals who work in atrocity situations. Finally, she emphasizes the importance of accountability, the support for domestic prosecutions as well as the International Criminal Court as already voiced. Lastly, she notes the crucial relevance of **universal jurisdiction**, the action of each individual state to exercise its rights and obligation under international law to investigate and prosecute core international crimes and the key steps in many atrocity situations.



Ms. Devi KHADKA shares on experience resulting from sever years of experience of the Nepalese survivor network. The latter is able to support civil society by explaining the issues to the state's representatives. Thanks to their support, these activities are successful. Despite the fact that victims are not yet able to become healers or the people in the trauma are not able to provide services to the traumatized people, the network is in the process of building this ability.

Ambassador Gustavo GALLÓN positively notes the absence of statements contrary to the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in transitional justice, except for two speeches on other topics discussing the relevance of sexual education or the extension of the conceptualisation of gender to persons other than those of male and female sex, which are separate issues that should be discussed on another occasion. Given this unanimous support for mainstreaming a gender perspective, Ambassador Gustavo GALLÓN calls on all delegations and stakeholders to ensure that concepts expressed during this panel are translated into a powerful dynamic force so that gender mainstreaming is effective both in countries undergoing transitional justice and in the work of the United Nations. Colombia reiterates its conviction, based on its national experience, of the importance and richness that gender mainstreaming brings to transitional justice, peace processes and the realisation of human rights, namely the decisive participation of the gender perspective and women's organisations in this area. Drawing to a close, Ambassador Gustavo GALLÓN stresses that this can only be achieved through the presence and active involvement of women, women's organisations, and organisations fighting for gender rights in these processes. Encouraging this participation, listening to their experiences, incorporating their proposals, their reflections, and their experiences is crucial to moving forward in this direction.

INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

Regional and Cross-Regional Groups

Chile jointly with Brazil, Costa Rica, Colombia, Honduras, Mexico and Peru welcomes the focus on strengthening the gender perspective in transitional justice, stressing that these processes should not be limited solely to clarifying the facts, but should contribute to transforming the discriminatory structures that gave rise to violence and inequality. Comparative experience in Latin America shows that, although significant progress has been made, important challenges remain for the inclusion of a gender perspective in transitional justice processes. The causes, motivations and impacts of human rights violations and abuses often differ profoundly depending on the gender of the victim. However, the transitional justice response often reduces them solely to sexual violence, leaving aside other dimensions such as economic exclusion, political discrimination, stigmatisation, racism, unequal access to land and resources, and multiple forms of structural violence. For transitional justice to be truly transformative and guarantee non-repetition, it is essential to place victims at the centre; recognise the diversity of their experiences; and ensure their full, effective, safe and equal participation. It is noteworthy to recall that integrating a gender perspective is prerequisite for truth, justice, reparation and sustainable peace.

The **European Union** notes that transitional justice processes play a vital role in securing accountability, redress and fostering reconciliation. Ten years ago, the EU developed a policy framework on support to transitional justice that sets out how the EU can engage in situations



where violations and abuses have occurred. It is critical for transitional justice mechanisms to acknowledge and respond to the full range of violations and abuses women and girls experience during conflict and to their gender differentiated impact and to ensure the full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership of women in transitional justice processes. In 2023, the African Union has launched the EU- and Germany-funded '*African Women for Transitional Justice Platform*'- developed to strengthen women's capacity, participation and integrate gender sensitive approaches in transitional justice processes. The EU and its member states have multi-annual funding programmes with partner countries and most have gender responsive approaches to transitional justice. This can mean gender responsive data collection, training on combating SGBV, women's access to justice, the mandatory hiring of gender advisors and other measures. In 2023, the EU has launched a new 21 euro million project entitled global initiative to fight against impunity for international crimes, make justice work that supports gender responsive and victim centred approach to transitional justice.

Ghana on behalf the African group stresses that, for decades, the African Union (AU) has provided a guiding framework to enhance states' capacity to advance gender equality and women's empowerment, principles that are indispensable to effective transitional justice. The AU's transitional justice policy and the AU's strategy for gender equality and women's empowerment provide a comprehensive framework for ensuring the transitional justice processes address gendered violations, enhance women's participation and promote transformative reparations. In spite of the progress registered so far, the African group is cognizant of the tremendous challenges that continue to hinder the full integration of a gender perspective in transitional justice processes on the African continent, including the work of the UNHRC. To address these, the Maputo Protocol urges states to ensure the equal and meaningful participation of women in all stages of peace processes and in all transitional justice mechanisms; implement legal and policy reforms to guarantee women's access to justice and effective remedies including reparations and address economic marginalization; and protect women and girls from all forms of violence and ensure their rights of physical integrity and reproductive health rights and integrate a gender perspective in all truth-seeking reparations and institutional reform programmes to address the root causes of inequality.

Latvia on behalf of the Nordic-Baltic countries emphasizes that mainstreaming gender perspective in transitional justice processes requires a comprehensive understanding of the broader social, economic and political structure of society and how these influence the integration of gender perspectives and transitional justice mechanisms. From conflict related sexual and gender-based violence to socioeconomic discrimination, trafficking and enforced disappearances, it must be acknowledge the diverse impacts and complexities of conflict and implement transitional justice measures that are tailored to the specific needs and experiences. This discussion is an essential step towards better understanding of gender related gaps, fostering an inclusive approach to transitional justice and supporting states in dismantling barriers to gender transformative approaches.

New Zealand jointly with Australia and Canada reaffirm their commitment to advancing the full, equal and meaningful participation of all women and girls and all their diversity in peace building and transitional justice. Mainstreaming gender is essential to ensuring justice, accountability and sustainable peace. UNSC resolution 13/25 and subsequent resolutions



recognize that not only are women and girls disproportionately impacted by conflict and violence but that they also play critical roles as agents of peace and security. Some 25 years on, a growing body of evidence demonstrates that women's and girls' participation in peace building and transitional justice leads to better and more sustainable outcomes including a 35% greater likelihood of peace agreements lasting at least 15 years. Transitional justice must address the causes of all forms of gender based violence and discrimination including sexual violence, ensuring accountability and advancing gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment are fundamental to social cohesion, economic development and in turn long lasting peace. The three countries commend the important contributions of human rights defenders and civil society organizations in transitional justice processes and remain committed to working with all partners to promote approaches that uphold justice and human rights, foster reconciliation and build inclusive societies.

State Delegations

Andorra reaffirms its commitment to accountability, redress, reconciliation, and women's rights in post-conflict contexts. Societies emerging from conflict must heal past wounds and build a fairer future. Thirty years after the Beijing Declaration and twenty-five after resolution 1325, transitional justice needs a transformative gender lens, addressing not only sexual violence but also inequalities, economic exclusion, and political marginalization faced by women, girls, minorities, and LGBTIQ+ persons. This demands inclusive mechanisms, incorporating gender-sensitive language, dedicated equality frameworks, and ensuring women and girls' full participation in decision-making to drive peace and reconciliation. In Andorra, gender equality is a priority. Andorra has strengthened laws on equality, established the Equality Observatory, and emphasized education on equality from an early age. Support for victims of gender-based violence and reformed curricula promote respect and challenge stereotypes. The UNHRC must mainstream gender across all its work. With 2030 nearing, gender equality drives all Sustainable Development Goals, building inclusive, resilient societies. Transitional justice must be a catalyst for societal transformation, ensuring the rights and dignity of all.

Azerbaijan recognizes that transitional justice mechanisms play a critical role in addressing the legacies of conflict and violations of international law, fostering reconciliation and preventing recurrence. These mechanisms must fully reflect the needs, rights and agency of women and girls. Too often, gender considerations in transitional justice are approached through a narrow lens while structural inequalities and intersections affecting forms of discrimination remain overlooked. Transitional justice processes must go beyond this narrow approach to address economic exclusion, political marginalization as well as barriers faced by women and girls from ethnic, religious and other vulnerable groups. As a country emerging from conflict and committed to post-conflict peace building and reconstruction, Azerbaijan is working actively to ensure that the rights of all affected populations including women and children are fully respected and protected. On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of UNSC Resolution 1325 and the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration, the international community must reaffirm its collective commitment not only to protecting women in conflict, but also empowering them as agents of peace and reconstruction. Azerbaijan remains steadfast in translating these commitments into concrete action.



Belgium stresses that women and girls are disproportionately targeted during times of conflict or under authoritarian rule because of their gender. Pre-existing gender inequalities are often exacerbated and conflict related sexual violence remains widespread, while progress in women's participation in decision-making continues to be limited. Regrettably, 25 years after the adoption of UNSC resolution 1325, women seeking remedies still face gender-blind transitional justice systems, gendered social norms and power imbalances that hinder their access to transitional justice. This also applies to male victims and those targeted because of their sexual orientation and gender identity. Noting that 2025 marks the 10th anniversary of the EU's framework for transitional justice, Belgium highlights that this framework acknowledges the full range of violations women and girls experience during conflict, as well as the differentiated needs of women and men in accessing and benefiting from TJ processes. It also recognizes women's leadership and the important role of women human rights defenders in conflict resolution. In closing, Belgium would appreciate the panellists' guidance on how to best address resistance to gender transformative transitional justice mechanisms.

Cyprus underlines that no one can deny that conflicts exacerbate existing discrimination, atoning the risk of sexual, physical, even psychological violence. The evidence is overwhelming. Regrettably, women all over the world continue to face substantive and procedural obstacles in the pursuit of justice. Gender transparency approaches to transitional justice are essential to eradicate structural inequalities and inequalities that render certain groups more vulnerable to violence. It is imperative to establish social trust and as well as ensuring accountability and adequate legal remedies. Without accountability, women's rights will continue to be denied while past mistakes will continue to be repeated. The fundamental principles of equality and non-discrimination may be at the centre of all efforts that will begin at the national level. Cyprus is taking concrete steps in this direction, such as the strengthening of the legislative frameworks and institutional mechanisms and the introduction of targeted policies aimed at eliminating gender-based discrimination and combating sexism. In closing, Cyprus believes this should not be the moment of self-reflection, but a call for action and an opportunity to reaffirm its genuine commitment towards transitional justice.

France underlines that the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 25th anniversary of UNSC resolution 1325 provide an opportunity to reflect on the progress and challenges of taking women into account and involving them in transitional justice processes. It is essential to promote the international normative framework for women's rights in order to encourage women's participation in conflict resolution, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. For this reason, France supported the CEDAW's General Recommendation No. 40 on the equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems and encouraged all states to support its implementation at the 58th session of the UNHRC. Action to achieve equality between women and men is essential to fulfil the promise of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to respect CEDAW's commitments. Through its feminist diplomacy, France is committed to working alongside the United Nations, states and civil society to build peaceful, just, sustainable and inclusive societies.

Germany recalls the crucial importance of UNSC resolution 1325 and the significance of women and peace and reconciliation processes. Recognizing this, Germany advocates for the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda in crisis regions and multilateral



organizations and at the regional level. It is deeply disconcerting that the utilization of sexual and gender-based violence as a warfare tactic has escalated to alarming levels in recent conflicts. It is imperative that these conflict-related sexual crimes are being investigated and prosecuted to ensure accountability. Moreover, it is key to actively involve women in the investigation and prosecution of these crimes and to ensure that their voices are heard. In today's uncertain times, Germany will continue to advocate for gender equality and the full integration of agenda perspective and transitional justice processes to allow for lasting peace and reconciliation.

Guatemala, a nation forged by cultural diversity, values this annual debate and reiterates its commitment to gender perspective as a fundamental pillar of human rights. Within the framework of the 2030 Agenda, particularly SDG 5, gender equality is consolidated as a key tool for eliminating structural barriers that perpetuate discrimination, violence, and exclusion. Despite persistent challenges, Guatemala recognises that the active participation of women in positions of power is essential to strengthening democracy and advancing towards sustainable and inclusive development. Guatemala urges the integration of the gender equality agenda into public policies, adopting an intersectional, intergenerational, intercultural and human rights-based approach that responds to the specific needs and challenges of women and girls in all contexts. Lastly, it urges the UNHRC to integrate this vision into all spheres of society. Only in this way will we achieve transformative policies that position women as agents of change and guardians of equality. Not an aspiration, but a reality.

Ireland strongly supports the integration of gender perspectives across all phases of transitional justice. Gender responsive transitional justice is essential to achieving lasting peace, accountability and nonrecurrence. Recognizing that conflict and repression affect individuals differently on the basis of gender and other intersecting identities, Ireland emphasizes the importance of ensuring that transitional justice processes fully acknowledge and respond to the experiences of women, girls and members of marginalized groups as well as survivors of sexual and gender based violence. Ireland underlines the necessity of women's full, equal and meaningful participation in the design, implementation and monitoring of transitional justice mechanisms. Their leadership is central to addressing root causes of conflict and building inclusive and rights respecting societies. Ireland also supports the development and implementation of gender responsive reparation programmes, access to justice for survivors and the collection and preservation of sex and gender disaggregated data as foundational to effective transitional justice. Further stressing the important role of civil society, particularly women's organizations in ensuring accountability and advocating for structural reform, Ireland remains committed to advancing gender responsive transitional justice through its foreign policy, development cooperation and multilateral engagement.

Japan stresses that transitional justice processes too often focus on conflict related sexual violence but they must also address structural gender inequalities that perpetuate the cycle of exclusion and violence. Firmly committed to supporting survivors and ending impunity, Japan works closely with the Office of the UNSG Special Representative on sexual violence in conflict and the Global Survivors Fund, supporting initiatives that strengthen accountability and deliver survivor centred assistance. Ending impunity remains a priority of our diplomacy under the women peace security agenda. At the same time, cooperation with international organizations such as UN Women is crucial. In South Sudan, Japan has partnered with the UN Women to



support over 8,000 women and girls in rank and Marrakech providing protection services, livelihood opportunities and solar lighting to reduce the risks of gender-based violence. This addresses both immediate needs and deeper structural inequalities. Looking ahead, Japan urges the UNHRC to strengthen support for gender transformative approaches and deepen engagement with women led organizations. Integrating gender perspective in line with the Women, Peace and Security Agenda will promote lasting and inclusive transitional justice and ensure that the human rights of survivors are upheld.

Kuwait takes this opportunity to review the latest relevant developments at the national level. Based on its commitment to developing a legislative system that is consistent with international standards, legislation raising the age of marriage has recently been amended. Kuwait reaffirms the vitality and effectiveness of women's role in general, which it seeks to highlight through the establishment of a Committee concerned with the implementation of UNSC resolution 1325, which has held several meetings to promote this role at the national level and preserve the gains achieved by women. It is worth noting that Kuwaiti women participate actively in various sectors, including, but not limited to, the judicial sector, with 123 female prosecutors, 20 female judges and four female deputy directors, and the military sector, with 47% and the diplomatic corps with 22%. Kuwaiti women represent 58% of the national workforce in various fields. Lastly, Kuwait seeks to support and empower women, believing in their full rights as essential partners in building the nation, which is also reflected in the ministerial formation of several successive governments.

Montenegro affirms its firm commitment to gender equality and to ensuring that all women and girls in all their diversity fully enjoy their human rights. Montenegro will continue to advocate for the systematic integration of a gender perspective across all UN human rights work. This commitment is more urgent than ever in light of alarming pushback to the rights and autonomy of women and girls. While the UNHRC and its mechanisms have increasingly addressed gender specific violation and structural inequalities, the integration of a gender perspective remains inconsistent. Transitional justice in particular often narrows gender to sexual violence who while overlooking deeper structural harms such as political and economic exclusion, denial of resources and violation of sexual and reproductive health and rights. These abuses are rooted in the same entrenched inequalities that fuel conflict and security and injustice. The 30 anniversary of the Beijing declaration is not only a milestone. It is a call to act decisively. 47 Special Procedures have recently reaffirmed the centrality of understanding gender as a tool for advancing substantive equality and human rights for all. Legal and policy frameworks that fail to incorporate the gender perspective risk reinforcing rather than dismantling inequality. Montenegro joins the call on all states to ensure the rights and dignity of all women and girls in all their diversity. This is essential to upholding the integrity and credibility of the international human rights system and fulfilling the universal promise of equality, justice and peace.

Morocco believes that this panel discussion is particularly relevant in a global context marked by rising structural inequalities and conflicts with deeply gendered impacts. Transitional justice cannot be truly effective without a transformative approach that addresses the root causes of gender-based violence including socioeconomic exclusion, intersectional discrimination and political marginalization. Morocco firmly believes that a gender perspective must go beyond addressing sexual violence alone and encompass the broader power dynamics and systemic



inequalities that underpin such violations. In line with its international commitments, Morocco exceeded in 2022 to the Optional Protocol to the CEDAW. Morocco continues to promote equitable representation of women in decision-making processes including in matters of preparation and memorization and institutional reform. Through the 2020 Marrakech Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls, Morocco reaffirmed its determination to advance women's rights within a structural and inclusive framework. As part of its ongoing engagements with this council and its mechanisms, Morocco calls for the strengthening of the United Nations support for states in implementing public policies intended for women and girls in post-conflict and transitional settings. Transitional justice to be credible and effective must justice, also gender justice.

Nepal is committed to eliminating all forms of discrimination against women and to ensure gender equality in all walks of life. The Constitution of Nepal guarantees women the right to equal lineage and ancestral property as well as the right to participate in decision-making bodies in line with the principles of inclusion and proportional representation. Nepal is heading towards completing the last mile works of the transitional justice process, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Commission for Investigation of Enforced Disappeared Persons have been carrying forward their mandate in line with Nepal-led and victim-centric approach while ensuring the participation of women in the process.

The **Netherlands** believes that transitional justice mechanisms should meaningfully engage with the gender dimensions of conflict, acknowledging the disproportionate impact on women and girls. The Netherlands is mindful that transitional justice mechanisms are most effective when they are inclusive, context specific and informed by lived experiences of all affected groups. This includes listening to the voices of survivors and recognizing structural inequalities that often persist long after the conflict ends. As the host of the ICJ and the ICC, the Netherlands supports the role of multilateral institutions in ensuring accountability. At the same time, the Netherlands recognizes that justice cannot be imposed from above. It must be co-created with those it seeks to serve. The Netherlands's support for women, peace and security programmes, particularly those led by civil society, reflects our belief to remove barriers to women's full, equal and meaningful participation and support for survivor-centred approaches. Highlighting the essential role of mental health in post-conflict recovery, the Netherlands believes psychological needs of victims and communities are central to true reconciliation.

Poland reaffirms its strong commitment to advancing gender equality and human rights in all contexts including transitional justice on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 25th anniversary of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. Poland recognises that transitional justice processes must take into account the specific experiences of women and girls, particularly the harms they endure during conflict and persecution such as sexual and gender-based violence and the structural barriers they face in assessing justice and participating in peace-building. The gender responsive approach is essential to ensure that justice mechanisms are inclusive, participatory and truly transformative. It is not enough to treat gender as an add-on. It must be integrated at every stage from true seeking to reparations and institutional reform. Poland emphasizes the importance of ensuring that women are meaningfully involved and that survivors are placed at the centre of all efforts to deliver justice and accountability. Poland stands ready to support efforts to strengthen the



gender dimension in the work of the UNHRC and its mechanisms and to ensure that the transitional justice processes contribute to lasting peace, equality and non-recurrence.

Sierra Leone recognizes the importance of this panel discussion on gender integration in transitional justice. Such processes are vital for achieving accountability and reconciliation in societies emerging from conflicts and oppression. As a post-conflict country, Sierra Leone acknowledges that transitional justice must be inclusive, participatory and responsive to the experiences of all those affected. From its national experience, integrating a gender perspective has been integral and has played a significant role in strengthening post-conflict mechanisms. Sierra Leone acknowledges the existence of significant legal frameworks that safeguard and advance women's rights in conflicts and post-conflict scenarios. These include the Beijing Declaration on Platform for Action, UNSC resolution 1325 and subsequent resolutions and the general recommendations of the CEDAW Committee. Although there are frameworks for gender transformative transitional justice, gaps remain with gender often reduced to sexual violence while broader structural violations and discrimination are overlooked. Sierra Leone highlights the importance of gender sensitive practices in transitional justice. Its 2022 Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Act reaffirms the sustainable peace requires the full and equal participation of women and girls.

Slovenia reaffirms its strong commitment to ensuring the transitional justice processes are inclusive and responsive to the needs of women and girls in all their diversity. Gender mainstreaming is a foundational element, not a peripheral consideration. This entails several actions. First, ensuring the full equal and meaningful participation of women in all transitional justice decision-making bodies. Second, systemic collection, analysis and utilization of gender desegregated data to inform all policies and processes. Third, explicit acknowledgement of conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence as international crimes. Slovenia emphasizes the imperative to provide comprehensive support for survivors of SGBV including their safe access to justice, specialized healthcare and psychosocial services. Reparation programmes must be designed to be gender-transformative addressing both individual trauma and the broader collective and structural harms inflicted upon communities. Discriminatory social and cultural patterns must also be dismantled, including gender stereotypes that fuel impunity and perpetuate cyclical violence. Finally, Slovenia calls upon to enhance technical guidance and capacity-building for gender-transformative transitional justice and reconciliation.

Spain, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and the 25th anniversary of UNSC resolution 1325, Spain wishes to reaffirm its strong support for the women, peace and security agenda, as well as for General Recommendations No. 30 and 40, which are particularly relevant in this area. Spain considers it essential to integrate data disaggregated by sex and gender in order to highlight patterns and identify violence, to ensure the full, equal and meaningful participation of women and girls, women's organisations and civil society at every stage, and to design transformative reparation programmes that address the structural causes of inequality. Emphasising the importance of UN human rights treaty bodies, UNHRC special procedures and mechanisms, including the UPR, in order to ensure that perpetrators are held accountable, Spain reiterates its full support for the International Criminal Court and its Office of the Prosecutor in ending impunity. Spain will continue to work constructively to ensure that

transitional justice not only repairs the past but also contributes to creating societies that are more just, more equal, more inclusive, more sustainable and, ultimately, more feminist.

Switzerland notes that despite significant regulatory progress thanks to the Beijing Declaration, UNSC Resolution 1325 and subsequent resolutions, as well as CEDAW's guidelines, the integration of a gender perspective into transitional justice remains uneven and insufficient. Too often, responses reduce gender issues solely to sexual violence as the primary concern, without addressing the broader realities of structural violence. Invisible barriers to access to justice, economic exclusion often based on lack of access to land and resources, violations of the right to health and sexual and reproductive health rights, political marginalisation and intersecting forms of discrimination, particularly against LGBTI women and those from minority communities, remain neglected, and this despite the fact that they should be an integral part of any transitional justice process. The upcoming anniversaries of the Beijing Declaration and UNSC resolution 1325 invite us to take stock of where progress has been made and where persistent gaps continue to limit justice and equality. Transitional justice must not only address past abuses. It must also help build a future for societies where women, girls and people of diverse gender identities participate fully and equally in decision-making and where their rights are protected in practice and not just in principle.

Togo firmly believes that the systematic integration of a gender perspective into the development, implementation and evaluation of all public policies is not an option but an essential condition for achieving truly inclusive, equitable and sustainable development. In this regard, the Togolese Government's political will is reflected in concrete actions, notably the adoption of a national policy on gender equality and equity and its strategic action plan, which serves as a compass for all governmental and non-governmental actors. In addition, the institutionalisation of gender analysis in the budgetary process through various initiatives aims to make gender-responsive budgeting a standard tool for a more equitable allocation of resources. Furthermore, Togo's commitment is reflected in the strengthening of the technical capacities of public administration officials, local elected representatives and civil society actors on the concepts and tools of the gender approach so that they can be effective relays for this transformation.

The **United Kingdom** has consistently championed the integration of agenda perspective in transitional justice. Its commitment is practical as well as political. The UK is dedicated to ensuring survivors of conflict related sexual violence receive justice and that those responsible are held accountable. Through the preventing sexual violence initiative, the UK has worked globally to strengthen legal systems, share expertise and promote the meaningful and safe participation, leadership and representation of women in decision-making. In Colombia, women's movements are central to peace. The UK has supported transitional justice efforts by funding and advocating gender based violence cases through our support for civil society and parliamentary engagements. In Syria, the UK has consistently underlined the importance of an inclusive transitional process, one that protects the rights of all Syrians including women and girls, addresses the legacy of human rights violations during the Syria conflict, foster social cohesion and preventing recurrence. Despite progress on the integration of agenda perspective in transitional justice, structural inequalities and an increase in gender specific violations continue to affect women, girls and people from diverse gender identities.



UN Entities

UN Women and UNFPA appreciates the Council's attention to gender responsive transitional justice in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of UNSC Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. To make transitional justice gender responsive, action on three fronts is needed. First processes must address the human rights violations experienced by women, men, girls and boys and examine how individuals may be targeted differently because of their gender and how gender intersects with other grounds of discrimination. Second, transitional justice must confront the gendered root causes of conflict and abuse including negative gender norms and patriarchal structures. Third, it must guarantee the full and meaningful participation of women in all their diversity as equal rights holders, agents of change and leaders. Meaningful participation means that women must gain access to decision-making spaces, be able to form coalitions and exercise their agency and have real influence on outcomes. It takes many forms, women's political leadership, representation in justice institutions, women's civil society organizations and most importantly the leadership of survivors themselves. Transitional justice that is inclusive and gender responsive pays the way for lasting peace. UN Women and UNFPA stand ready to work with states, civil society and above all with women and girls to make this vision a reality.

National Human Rights Institutions

The **Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines** notes with concern that too often, the human rights violations and abuses committed against women, children, LGBTQI+ persons, and other marginalized groups remain overlooked. These can take the forms of systematic and structural violence that are ingrained in daily realities. Harmful gender norms and existing inequalities lead to exposure to violations and limitations to access to justice. Sexual violence against girls is under-reported due to stigma. Girls face heightened risks of child marriage and women become more at risk of being exploited when in crisis situations. Sexual violations against women, girls, and persons of diverse identities in less public spaces remain invisible in official records. To address these gaps, transitional justice must be survivor-centred and gender-responsive. The Philippines' National Human Rights Institution continues to promote gender-responsive approaches to accountability and justice, through working with survivors, civil society, and institutions in determining solutions that can lead to reconciliation and healing. The Commission encourages the UN Human Rights Council to further integrate gender analysis across its mandates and to support NHRIs and civil society in advancing gender-sensitive transitional justice. Lastly, the Commission reaffirms its commitment to these efforts, and to ensuring that gender perspectives are strengthened across all accountability and transitional justice processes.

The **National Human Rights Commission of Togo** is a constitutional and independent institution created in 1987 with the mission of promoting and protecting human rights, protecting human rights defenders, and preventing torture and other forms of inhuman or degrading treatment. Gender equality enjoys legal protection in Togo. It is guaranteed by article 2 of the Togolese Constitution of 6 May 2024; the National Policy for Gender Equity and Equality, adopted in 2011 and updated in 2019; a new law on equality, adopted in 2022. In the same vein, the CNDH has created a division responsible for promoting and protecting the rights of women, children, and other specific groups in 2005; and amended its organic law in 2018 and 2021. Article 7



establishes a composition of nine members, including at least four individuals of each gender; the executive board is composed of three members, including at least one woman. Several women hold senior management positions, and three out of five women currently head the Commission's regional offices throughout the country. In 2024, a gender focal point was set up to ensure that a gender perspective is integrated into the development, implementation, and evaluation of its management policy and its interventions in the field. Despite all these efforts and the convincing results, many challenges remain in this area, including sociocultural constraints; insufficient commitment from stakeholders; non-compliance with legislation; and insufficient resources. The Commission intends to continue working with all stakeholders to address these persistent challenges.

Non-Governmental Organizations

Action Canada for Population and Development on behalf of the Sexual Rights Initiative (SRI) welcomes the UNHRC's recognition that transitional justice processes do not adequately or consistently address the needs, rights and experiences of women and girls. These processes often reduce women and girls to their perceived vulnerabilities and tokenize their participation in decision making processes. This ends up recreating the same conditions and frameworks that enable gross human rights violations in the first place, deny women and girls their full humanity, and does not serve the transformative goals of transitional justice. If the Council is truly serious in its objectives to meaningfully integrate a gender perspective into transitional justice processes, States must start their processes with gendered analyses at the centre, not as an add-in later. As 47 Independent UN Experts recently stated, gendered analyses are 'essential for exposing power disparities, structural inequalities and discriminatory practices embedded in laws, institutions and social norms.' The Council and States must move beyond a simplistic and biological categorization of women and girls and towards a deeper understanding and visibility of the multiple and intersecting ways women, girls and gender diverse people are systemically excluded from transitional justice processes. There can be no transitional justice without gender justice.

The **Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW)** welcomes this panel on strengthening gender perspective in transitional justice to address the full continuum of gender based violence and structural inequalities faced by women and girls impacted by conflict. Too often, gender has been reduced to issue of sexual violence alone. While accountability for Conflict Related Sexual Violence is very important, the focus shall also remain on the systematic violation such as economic exclusion, political marginalization and denial of land and resources as well as violation of sexual and reproductive health and rights. ARROW recalls the commitments under the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BDPA), the CEDAW, and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. 25 years after UNSC resolution 1325, women's equal participation in transitional justice remains nominal, undermining the legitimacy of the peace process, and reconciliation efforts. ARROW urges the UN Human Rights Council and its mechanisms to guarantee full, equal and meaningful participation of women in all their diversities at all stages of the transitional justice process; collect sex, gender and diversity disaggregated data; and support transformative reparations that dismantle inequalities at their root. Finally, ARROW stresses the importance of working with women rights and feminist civil society who have consistently driven gender just outcomes. Transitional justice must not only



deliver accountability from past harm, also ensure guarantee of non-repetition and lay the foundation for gender equal, inclusive societies.

Asociación HazteOir.org is deeply concerned by the growing attempt to impose what is called a 'gender perspective' but in reality, amounts to a gender ideology. This ideology is not neutral. It replaces biological reality with fluid concepts, and it is being introduced into schools and policies without the consent of parents or societies. Through so-called Comprehensive Sexuality Education, children as young as six are told that gender is fluid, that it can be changed at will, and that parental values or religious convictions do not matter. This is not education; it is indoctrination. No State should force parents to surrender their right to guide the moral and cultural upbringing of their children. Even more troubling, UN agencies have begun promoting so-called 'gender-affirming treatments' - puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and surgeries - for minors. These are irreversible medical interventions carried out on children who cannot possibly grasp the lifelong consequences. Minors are not allowed to vote, to take out a bank loan, or even to buy cigarettes - yet we are told they can consent to permanent sterilization and body mutilation. That is not progress; that is abuse. Human rights are universal because they are anchored in truth: boys are male, girls are female, and both deserve dignity, protection, and love. Replacing reality with ideology will not bring justice; it will bring harm. HazteOir.org urges the Council use precise language, respect parental rights, and protect children from experiments disguised as rights.

Centre for Global Non-Killing stresses that, from a Woman heading the United Nations to everyone being 'gender-champion'; from the gutters of Afghanistan to the dirtiest prison in the world; from female genital mutilation to male genital mutilation; from the male culture of hierarchy, violence and war unto a cooperative world, where every person, regardless of gender, can equally live its fundamental rights. The transition towards gender equality needs objectivity, measure and a worldwide perspective. It starts in post conflict situations, but also reaches every person, every bed and living room, every discussion on the planet. Gender peace is a planetary transition. Offering an apology in the name of men, past and present, in the name of civilization, in the speaker's name, for all past violence done unto women, and for each failure to bring women equally to the forefront. There is post-conflict trauma, people to heal, to bring to gender dignity. There is also discrimination against men, who for instance live shorter lives, and this is partly a social issue. These must not be forgotten. To end what may seem like infinite suffering, there is an infrastructural transition towards gender peace, which will bring universal peace.

Iuventum e.V., as an educational NGO for sustainability, commends the High Commissioner's update for covering many important and representative issues and some encouraging examples of the recent achievements in human rights. Highly appreciating the hard work of every stakeholder in the UN human rights community, Iuventum would be glad to make constructive contributions to the 60th session and the discussions beyond. Most of what has to be done for human rights should make sense to good people with empathy and compassion. Critical thinking and constructive efforts are needed, too. Iuventum would be glad to see the following proposal for improvement included in the future draft resolutions. The United Nations has accumulated a huge amount of human rights wisdom, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the outcomes of the UNHRC sessions. All member states should be obliged to teach human rights in school, and the children's knowledge should be tested and ranked internationally.



Make Mothers Matter (MMM) welcomes this important discussion. Transitional justice can only deliver truth, justice, reparation and non-recurrence if it reflects the full spectrum of gendered harms. Sexual violence, which is often used deliberately as a weapon of war, must be addressed with urgency and seriousness. Yet women - especially mothers - also face other violations that are too often overlooked. Maternal mortality and morbidity, economic dispossession, forced displacement, political exclusion, denial of reproductive rights, and the systemic devaluation of their caregiving roles. Mothers stand at the heart of families and communities. In times of conflict, they are caregivers, providers, and protectors, holding together the fabric of communities and society while bearing the compounded costs of violence. Their unpaid care work sustains not only survival but also resilience and recovery. Despite this, mothers remain largely invisible in transitional justice processes. MMM urges the Council and member states to collect sex- and gender-disaggregated data that captures the lived realities of women and mothers; ensure women, and especially mothers', equal participation in all stages of transitional justice; and design transformative reparations that value care work, restore livelihoods and healthcare, uphold dignity, and address intergenerational impacts. Recognizing mothers' multiple roles and ensuring their rights is not only a matter of justice, it is essential for rebuilding societies, preventing recurrence, and achieving sustainable peace.

Observatorio Régional Para la Mujer de América Latina y El Caribe stresses that transitional justice is not only about addressing past violations. It is about building a future rooted in equality, dignity and non-discrimination. If gender perspectives are ignored, transitional justice risks repeating the very injustices it seeks to repair. Across the world, women and girls and often gender diverse persons have suffered unique harms in terms of conflict, sexual violence, forced displacement, loss of livelihood and silencing of their voices. Too often, their experiences remain invisible in truth commissions, reparations and peace-building. Strengthening gender perspectives means ensuring women's full and equal participation at every stage of the process, recognizing gender-based crimes as serious violations of human rights and prosecuting them without impunity, designing reparations that address not only individual harm but also the social and economic inequalities that make women vulnerable in the future. Incorporating local women's group and survivors networks as key partners in truth, reconciliation and peace-building. Transitional justice without a gender perspective is incomplete justice. By placing the experiences and voices of women and marginalized genders at the centre, we can ensure that societies do not just heal but truly transform.

Promotion of Economic and Social Development (PDES) firmly believes that transitional justice mechanisms cannot truly deliver truth, reparation, and reconciliation unless they fully address the experiences, needs, and rights of women, girls, et persons with disabilities. Approaches too often remain narrowly focused on sexual violence, while overlooking structural realities such as economic exclusion, denial of access to land and resources, violations of sexual and reproductive health and rights, political marginalization, and multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, particularly against women from ethnic or religious minorities or in a state of disability. Therefore, PDES urges the UNHRC and its mechanisms to systematically promote the collection and use of sex- and gender-disaggregated data to reveal the true scope of violations; ensure the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women and their organizations at every stage of transitional justice; design truly transformative reparations, which not only compensate



individual harm but also dismantle the structural inequalities that enabled such violations in the first place. On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration (BDPA) and the 25th anniversary of UNSC resolution 1325, it is urgent to translate normative commitments into tangible realities. Transitional justice must serve as an opportunity to build equal, sustainable, and inclusive societies grounded in human rights.

Sambhali Trust stresses that the integration of a gender perspective is essential to uphold the equal rights, dignity, and safety of all people. Recognizing gender as a cross-cutting factor in policy, services, and protection ensures that laws and programmes reduce inequality, prevent violence, and deliver sustainable development for everyone regardless of caste, class, or sexual orientation. Sambhali Trust applies a community-centred model to make this integration tangible. Sambhali Trust runs empowerment centres and boarding homes offering education, vocational training, legal and psychological support; a dedicated project titled '*Garima*' which means dignity, provides a safe drop-in space, rights awareness, and professional support for sexual-and-gender-diverse people. India has likewise advanced gender-sensitive frameworks across policy and law, and instituted Ministries and programmes to mainstream gender in social welfare, education, and budgeting. India has made progress under Sustainable Development Goal 5, promoting gender equality and empowerment. Welcoming the leadership of the United Nations, Sambhali Trust encourages renewed support for grassroots organisations, targeted funding for gender-sensitive programming, so that rights, safety, and dignity are realised for all.

Vida y Familia de Guadalajara Asociación Civil states that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (VDPA) was adopted by consensus in 1993, and that consensus is its greatest strength. In it, States affirmed that women's rights are human rights, and committed themselves to eliminating all discrimination based on sex and promoting real equality between men and women. That consensus can only be maintained if the text is interpreted in good faith. It is worrying to see attempts to use the VDPA as a pretext to introduce concepts that were never in it, such as the so-called expansive 'gender perspective'. In 1993, the VDPA did not question the objective reality of the two sexes, nor did it open the door to redefinitions of human identity. Its language was clear: it spoke of 'sex', 'men and women', 'boys and girls', and equal rights between men and women. Transforming that language into something else is a manipulation that divides states and weakens the authority of the UNHRC. A consensus document cannot be forced to impose ideologies that were not accepted in binding instruments. The Association calls for the original strength of Vienna to be preserved: equality between men and women, dignity for all people and the elimination of discrimination based on sex. Only in this way can we honour the trust that States placed in this historic text and keep alive the consensus that gave it legitimacy.

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