

Women's Court

Presentations by women's rights activists from
Uganda, DRC, CAR and Sudan

Tuesday 1 June 2010 9.30 – 18.15 People's Space

Agenda

9.30 – 10.00

Welcome and Introduction

Brigid Inder

Executive Director, Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice

10.00 – 11.45

Presentations from Uganda followed by questions and answers

Moderator Wangari Maathai

Green Belt Movement, Kenya, Nobel Peace Laureate

11.45 – 12.00

BREAK

12.00 – 13.30

Presentations from the Democratic Republic of the Congo followed by questions and answers

Moderator Silvana Arbia

Registrar of the International Criminal Court

13.30 – 15.00

LUNCH

CICC side event on victims and affected communities

15.00 – 16.30

Presentations from the Central African Republic followed by questions and answers

Moderator Radhika Coomaraswamy

Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (to be confirmed)

16.30 – 16.45

BREAK

16.45 – 18.15

Presentations from Sudan followed by questions and answers

Moderator Elisabeth Rehn

Chairperson for the Board of Directors, ICC Trust Fund for Victims

Women's Initiatives
for Gender Justice



About the Women's Court

What is the Women's Court?

The Women's Court is an all-day advocacy event organised by the Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice. It follows in the tradition of the 'people's tribunal', a semi-formal tribunal with witnesses who testify about their experiences as if they were appearing in Court. The purpose of the Women's Court is to identify serious violations of women's human rights that occur during armed conflict — and to call attention to the fact that these crimes are often not investigated or prosecuted as vigorously as other international crimes.

Women's rights advocates have used the people's tribunal throughout history to highlight the denial of justice for women. Notably, the 1993 Vienna Tribunal on Women's Human Rights and the 2000 Tokyo Women's Tribunal drew attention to the particular harms that women and girls experience during armed conflict and the fact that crimes against women have been under-investigated and prosecuted. These tribunals, with their compelling testimony by women victims/survivors of armed conflict, helped pave the way for international tribunals like the ICTY and ICTR to prosecute gender-based crimes as international crimes.

What is the goal of the Women's Court?

The Women's Court aims to ensure that the voices and experiences of victims — and especially women — assume an appropriately central role at the Review Conference. Our goal is to influence the outcomes at the Review Conference to strengthen the institution of the ICC, and to ensure it can effectively deliver justice for women and girls.

During the first week of the Conference, states will engage in a Stocktaking Exercise where they will reflect on the work of the Court over first seven years of its existence in four areas:

- the impact of the Rome Statute system on victims and affected communities,
- the Court's contribution to international justice and peace,
- complementarity, or the Court's impact on promoting accountability and fighting impunity at the national level, and
- state cooperation with the ICC.

The Women's Court will be held one day prior to the beginning of the Stocktaking Exercise. By hearing from victims/survivors and victims' advocates before the official program begins, we aim to strengthen the gender perspective in the official discussions.

How will the Women's Court be structured?

The Women's Court will be divided into four sessions, one devoted to each of the ICC situations in which the Women's Initiatives has partners (CAR, DRC, Sudan, and Uganda). Each session will feature presentations from three of our partners from that country who will speak about their experiences as victims/survivors or working on behalf of victims/survivors, describe the types of harm suffered by women in particular, and share their views regarding the need for justice and peace in their communities. A moderator will offer some brief reflections at the conclusion of the session and take questions from the audience.