

## **CSW70 Recommendations for the First Draft**

NGO CSW/NY Advocacy & Research Group

### **Dynamics of Women's Access to Justice: Delivery and Impact**

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We formally present recommendations for the CSW70 First Draft, urgently advocating for the rights of all women and girls in their full diversity, including underrepresented, indigenous, disabled, and LGBTQI+ people. Our consultations reveal a need to comprehensively address the dynamics of women's access to justice, where systemic failings fundamentally deny rights and erase survivors' suffering. The goal is to ensure justice mechanisms are accessible and effectively deliver equitable and lasting impact. The meaningful inclusion of all women and girls in leadership and decision-making is critical for successful implementation.

The CSW70 priority theme requires dismantling structural barriers to ensure access to justice for all women and girls across social, economic, political, cultural, and digital dimensions, and challenging ourselves to reconceptualize justice. In 2026, preparatory meetings to negotiate a Crimes against Humanity Treaty will begin, offering a binding global framework to define, prevent, and punish the most severe forms of gender-based harm. This expanded justice framework must prioritize accountability, center women's agency, connect prevention with enforcement, and ultimately drive the social and cultural transformations needed to end systemic discrimination and violence and foster a culture of peace.

#### **Expanding Transitional Justice: From Accountability to Structural Transformation**

Transitional justice includes truth-seeking, prosecutions, reparations, and reforms to prevent recurrence through legal, institutional, and societal change. It now extends beyond post-conflict contexts to address root causes of violence, systemic discrimination, and enduring structural inequalities.

1. Member States should adopt the expanded [transitional justice framework](#), integrating accountability for all systemic rights violations into national justice mechanisms.
2. Mandate truth-telling and documentation of all forms of gender related violence and atrocities.
3. Implement transformative reparations that address systemic inequality, with full participation in design and implementation by all women and girls.
4. Guarantee non-recurrence by reforming institutions, laws, and policies that perpetuate discrimination, exploitation, exclusion, erasure, and denial of development rights.

#### **Social Justice: Recognizing all Women and Girls as Agents of Change**

Transformative systems restructuring for all women's and girls' lives requires dismantling discriminatory barriers and recognizing them as agents of change. This demands strengthening human rights-based governance and investing in gender-responsive institutions. The goal is ensuring safe, equal access to justice, protected rights, and accountability, to live free from violence and structural oppression.

1. Centering all women's voices, leadership, and lived experiences in policy, peacebuilding, climate, and economic decisions.
2. Implementing intersectional, inclusive mechanisms to ensure equitable access to power, resources, and safety, and ending structural violence.
3. Investing in reproductive autonomy and solidarity across movements, transforming institutions and conditions that perpetuate inequality.

#### **Economic Justice: Systemic Reform and Social Protections**

Economic justice requires full, equal access to jobs, contracts, and opportunities for all women and girls to shape economic systems. Unequal access to justice reinforces inequalities through unpaid care, wage discrimination, property rights denial, and political exclusion. Advancing economic justice strengthens social protections.

1. Reform labor and property laws to eliminate discriminatory provisions and guarantee equal pay, safe workplaces, and women's autonomous ownership of assets.
2. Expand publicly funded childcare, social protection, and legal aid services.

3. Implement the ILO Convention 190 on eliminating violence and harassment in the world of work.

### **Political Justice: Equal and Safe Political Participation**

Political justice ensures that all women and girls can fully and safely participate in governance through voting, holding office, decision-making, and access to remedies. Addressing discriminatory and violent barriers that exclude from governance requires civil society to monitor violations and advocate for supportive laws, networks, and independent bodies.

1. Expand nationwide civic and legal literacy and voter-rights programs
2. Establish and fund independent bodies to document, prevent, and prosecute violence
3. Mandate gender-responsive electoral and political participation laws (quotas & enforcement)

### **Cultural Justice: Engaging Men & Boys**

Achieving cultural justice for all women requires engaging men and boys as allies by offering healthy, positive models of masculinity and addressing the limiting pressures and stereotypes that limit them. Also, we must counter the rising digital misogyny, elevate constructive male role models, and advance strong laws that ensure shared power, equality, and real accountability for gender-based violence.

1. Require social media platforms to control the digital abuses and texts promoting gender based violence.
2. Present men with alternative and positive role models and views to combat the normalization of misogyny.
4. Engage women and men in power to advocate for gender based justice laws with significant and appropriate penalties.

### **Digital Justice: Safety, Access, and Equity for Women and Girls**

Digital justice ensures all women and girls can safely access and benefit from digital technologies without discrimination. Rooted in global frameworks, digital exclusion limits access to education, health care, economic opportunity, and civic participation. Achieving digital justice requires removing algorithmic bias, expanding affordable internet, strengthening laws on online harms, and enhancing digital literacy.

1. Enforce gender-responsive digital rights and safety laws, addressing online violence and algorithmic bias.
2. Ensure affordable internet and digital literacy programs for girls, rural women, and marginalized groups.
3. Require gender impact assessments in AI, data governance, and digital policy with clear accountability.
4. Covering online safety, equitable access, data rights, and algorithmic fairness.

### **Expanding Conceptualization of Justice**

The reconceptualization of justice promotes healing and the restoration of social ties, extending beyond the law. Reform requires translating statutory advances into improved lived realities, backed by community and individual commitment. Change in hearts, minds, and collective culture is vital for justice and gender equality.

1. The Commission could convene spaces to explore the impact of justice on women and girls, fostering unity and collaboration among stakeholders by minimizing competition and emphasizing moral principles.
2. Develop quantitative and qualitative indicators to measure shifts in cultural views and broader approaches to justice and gender equality.
3. Communicate grassroots narratives about social norms being refashioned toward just and equitable societies.

### **CSW Revitalization & Liquidity—Its Impact on Our Work**

The UN80 Initiative provides an opportunity to address funding disparities and improve the efficiency of resources to safeguard gender equality programs. To maintain accountability across all 12 Critical Areas of the Beijing Platform, reforms must reinforce UN Women's specialized institutional role rather than weaken it. The liquidity issue has persisted for decades. The UN's work advancing gender equality should not be curtailed through institutional consolidations or efficiency measures, particularly while the UN Charter's Article 17 funding obligations remain unmet.

1. Member States must pay assessed contributions on time in full; states in arrears should forfeit budgetary influence, with public reporting on program impacts.
2. Improve UN internal governance to ensure contributions and funding are spent efficiently and responsibly.
3. UN Women's mandate must be preserved and strengthened with assessed rather than voluntary funding.