



Organización de los  
Estados Americanos



SUPREME COURT  
OF ARGENTINA

Canada

The Human Rights of Women:

*Good Practices in Gender Justice*

September 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> 2013

Supreme Court of Justice of Argentina  
Buenos Aires, Argentina

The international legal and policy framework on women's rights and gender equality comprises a wide range of agreements – including legally-binding agreements such as the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW, 1979) and the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Belém do Pará Convention, 1994), as well as numerous political commitments.

This international legal and policy framework provides a strong basis for an effective response to the rights of women in the region. While Latin America and the Caribbean has made the most progress in the formal recognition of women's rights – from the adoption of international and inter-American level commitments and the recognition of equality between women and men at the constitutional level, to the formulation of laws and public policies on women's rights and gender equality – this progress still has not translated into adequate protection and guarantees of the rights of women.

Of particular concern are the continuing gaps in women's access to justice and in judicial action and jurisprudence on women's rights in the region, particularly in the area of violence against women and despite the existence of some landmark decisions. As UN Women highlights, "...despite the fact that equality between women and men is guaranteed in the Constitutions of 139 countries and territories, the lack of adequate laws and the gaps in the implementation of existing norms turns these guarantees into empty promises that have little impact on women's daily lives."

In many contexts, the justice sector has failed to respect women's rights, which has resulted in the inadequate delivery of services and a hostile attitude on the part of those responsible for meeting women's needs. The progress of women in the world shows that effective legal and judicial systems can become vital mechanisms for the respect and protection of women's rights, as they can facilitate accountability, rein in abuses of power and establish new norms. Justice tribunals have been key spaces for the vindication of women's rights and the setting of legal precedents that have benefitted countless women.

In this context, this international seminar seeks to analyze the current situation of gender justice, identifying both persistent obstacles and good practices that exist in the countries of the region. On the basis of this analysis, the seminar will conclude with the identification of specific areas of hemispheric cooperation that will foster and maximize the potential of gender justice as a powerful tool in the struggle against gender-based violence and discrimination.



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## The Human Rights of Women:

## Good Practices in Gender Justice

Wednesday September 25<sup>th</sup> 2013

Audience hall of the Palace of Justice – City of Buenos Aires

- 8:30-9:30      **Accreditation**
- 9:30-10:30    **Welcome and Opening session**
- Ricardo Luis Lorenzetti, President of the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation of Argentina
  - Elena Highton de Nolasco, Vice-President of the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation of Argentina
  - Carmen María Argibay, Minister of the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation of Argentina
  - Carmen Moreno, Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission of Women of the Organization of American States (OAS)
- 10:30-10:45    Break
- 10:45- 12:30   **Good practices from the international justice system**
- Moderator: Florentín Meléndez, Former President of the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights (IACHR)
- Cecilia Medina, Professor of International Public Law at the University of Chile and former Judge of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights
  - Victor Abramovich, Executive Secretary of the MERCOSUR Institute for Public Policy on Human Rights, Commissioner of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR) and Rapporteur for Women's Rights (2006-2007)
  - Soledad Murillo de la Vega, Professor at Salamanca University, member of the Committee for the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women 2009-2012 (CEDAW Committee)
  - Marja Ruotanen, Director of Justice and Human Dignity, Council of Europe
  - Carmen Rosa Villa, Regional Representative for Central America, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- 12:00-13:00    Plenary debate
- 13:00-15:00    Welcome Lunch and Reception
- 15:00- 16:30    **Round-table: Regional perspectives on women's human rights and gender justice**
- Moderator: Luz Patricia Mejía, Technical Coordinator of the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI)
- Zarela Villanueva, President of the Supreme Court of Costa Rica
  - Thelma Aldana, Magistrate of the Supreme Court of Justice of Guatemala
  - Carmen Zuleta, Magistrate of the Constitutional Hall of the Supreme Tribunal of Justice of Venezuela



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## The Human Rights of Women:

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- Florentín Meléndez, Former President of the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights (IACHR)

16:30-17:30 Plenary debate

#### Thursday September 26<sup>th</sup> 2013

Audience hall of the Palace of Justice – City of Buenos Aires

9:00-11:00

#### Good practices from the national level: Training

Moderator: Liliana Tojo, Program Director for Bolivia and the Southern Cone, Centre for Justice and International Law (CEJIL)

- Argentina  
*Gender and access to justice team of the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation of Argentina*
- Brazil  
*Aline Yamamoto, General Coordinator for Women's Access to Justice and Violence Combat, Secretariat for Confronting Violence against Women, Secretariat of Policies for Women*
- Mexico  
*Mónica Maccise Duayhe, Secretary for Follow-up of Equity Programs, Judicial Branch of the Federation*
- USA  
*Anne Tierney Goldstein, Esq., Human Rights Education Director of the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ)*

11:00-11:30 Plenary debate

11:30-12:30

#### Good practices from the national level: Protection

Moderator: Soraya Long, Centre for Action on Human Rights

- Nicaragua  
*Aminta Granera, First Commissioner of the National Police*
- Chile  
*Bernardita Prado, Lawyer, Chief of the Unit for the Prevention of Violence against Women, National Service for Women (SERNAM)*
- Argentina  
*Liliana Tojo, Program Director for Bolivia and the Southern Cone, Centre for Justice and International Law (CEJIL)*

12:30-13:00 Plenary debate

13:00-14:30 Lunch

14:30-15:30

#### Good practices from the national level: Prosecution

Moderator: Susana Chiarotti, Principle Expert to the MESECVI (Argentina)

- Guatemala

*Judith Erazo, Chief of the Office for Victim Services, Public Ministry*

- Canada

*Louisa Russell, Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter*

- Dominican Republic

*Luis Norberto Vergel, Director, Centre for Behavioural Intervention with Men, Public Ministry*

15:30-16:00 Plenary debate

16:00-17:00 **Good practices from the grassroots: Human rights defenders**

Moderator: Orfe Castillo Osorio, Coordinator of the Solidarity and Urgent Action Focus of JASS-Mesoamérica, Just Associates (JASS)

- Sexual violence

*Mario Joseph, Bureau of International Lawyers (BAI-Haiti)*

- Indigenous women

*Otilia Lux de Cotí, Executive Director, International Indigenous Women's Forum*

- Femicide

*Liz Meléndez López, Director, CLADEM Peru*

- Sexual and reproductive rights

*Natalia Gherardi, Latin American Gender and Justice Team (ELA)*

17:00-17:30 Plenary debate

## Friday September 27<sup>th</sup> 2013

*Audience hall of the Palace of Justice – City of Buenos Aires*

9:00-9:30 Good practices in gender justice

- Presentation of the initiative

*Hilary Anderson, Principal Gender Specialist, Inter-American Commission of Women*

9:30-10:30 Debate on hemispheric cooperation to foster gender justice

- Establishment of agreements

10:30-12:30 The Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI)

- Presentation

- Participation of the Justice Sector in the work of the MESECVI

*Luz Patricia Mejía, Technical Coordinator of the MESECVI*

*Laura Pautassi, Gender Specialist, member of the Working Group to Examine the Periodic Reports of the States Parties to the Protocol of San Salvador*

12:30-13:00 Conclusions and closing