COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
FEBRUARY 11 - 15

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GLOBAL MODEL UN NEW YORK 2027

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

ENSURING AND STRENGTHENING ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS, INCLUDING BY PROMOTING INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE LEGAL SYSTEMS, ELIMINATING DISCRIMINATORY LAWS, POLICIES AND PRACTICES, AND ADDRESSING STRUCTURAL BARRIERS

Simulation: Commission on the Status of Women

Welcome to Global Model UN New York 2027,

We are very pleased to introduce you to the most authentic simulation of the Commission on the Status of Women in the world; and hope to contribute to your understanding of the organisation, its mandate, and its critical role in global affairs.

Through a series of pre-conference webinars that will be offered and documents – like this resource guide – we aim to educate you not only about the global issues on the UN agenda, but also about the ways and means through which those topics are discussed, debated and negotiated by real UN diplomats.

This resource guide will provide you with a head start in doing research to gain a deeper understanding of the global issue that you will be discussing and the actions that the government you have been assigned recommends that the international community should take to address this issue. To make the research process a bit easier, the resource guide has been divided into sections and sub-sections to assist you in researching these two components. We strongly recommend you to give a careful look through the sources listed below so that the interaction with your peers is as exciting as possible.

We wish you all the very best in this journey of learning!

TOPIC DESCRIPTION

Access to justice is a fundamental human right and an essential part of achieving gender equality. It is more than having courts and laws.

While significant progress has been made, women continue to face greater barriers to justice than men in nearly 70 percent of surveyed countries. This shows that equality guaranteed by law does not always result in equality in practice.

Women and girls must be able to understand and exercise their rights, access justice institutions, receive fair treatment, and obtain effective remedies or ways to address violations of their rights. Depending on the situation, this could mean obtaining a protection order to prevent further domestic violence, receiving lost wages after unlawful workplace discrimination, regaining property or inheritance that was wrongfully denied, being reinstated in a job after discriminatory dismissal, or holding perpetrators of violence accountable through the criminal justice system.

Barriers to justice can begin within legal systems themselves. Discriminatory laws and policies continue to affect areas such as marriage, divorce, inheritance, nationality, employment, and protection from gender-based violence. Even where equal rights are formally guaranteed, weak implementation can prevent women and girls from benefiting from these protections. The costs required for legal representation, the distance to travel to a court, language barriers, and limited knowledge of legal rights can make justice difficult to access. Weak institutions, particularly in conflict-affected settings can create additional obstacles. These barriers may be even greater for girls, older women, women with disabilities and others facing multiple forms of discrimination.

Social and cultural norms also influence whether women seek justice. Fear of retaliation, community pressure, stigma, gender bias or mistrust in the testimonies given by women may discourage women from reporting violations. In some communities, particularly in rural areas, village councils, and other traditional mechanisms may be easier, faster or less expensive to reach than formal courts. Mediation led by community or traditional leaders, can provide accessible alternatives where formal institutions are difficult to reach, however, these mechanisms may also reproduce practices that discriminate against women and girls. While it is important to "expand access" to justice, the quality and fairness of the justice received is equally important. Member States therefore face the challenge of making justice accessible while ensuring that the rights of women and girls are equally protected.

TOPIC DESCRIPTION

Addressing these problems requires both legal reforms and effective implementation. Governments can review and eliminate discriminatory laws, expand legal aid, improve coordination among courts, police and social services, strengthen legal education, and support civil society organizations that help women navigate justice systems. Increasing women's participation as judges, lawyers, police officers and other justice professionals can also make justice institutions more representative. Women remain underrepresented in parts of the justice sector in many countries, particularly at senior levels. Increasing women's participation as judges, prosecutors, lawyers, police officers and other justice professionals can help make justice institutions more representative.

Technology offers additional opportunities and creates new barriers. Online legal information, remote services, and digital court systems can help people who live far from justice institutions. At the same time, unequal digital access, privacy concerns, and algorithmic bias that occurs when responses to online inquiries make unfair or discriminatory choices because they draw from flawed, stereotyped, or incomplete data.

Discussions on this topic should focus on how Member States, international organizations and other relevant stakeholders can ensure that legal rights translate into meaningful justice for women and girls. Delegates should consider:

- How can discriminatory laws and practices be effectively identified and eliminated?
- How can Member States close the gap between legal rights and their implementation?
- How can legal aid and justice services reach women and girls facing economic, geographic, or social barriers?
- How should customary and formal justice systems interact?
- How can technology expand access without creating new inequalities ?
- How can reforms reflect different national circumstances while protecting the fundamental rights of all women and girls?

Ultimately, access to justice means ensuring that women and girls can exercise their right in practice, not merely possess them on paper.

Key Points and Main Issues

1. DISCRIMINATORY LAWS MUST BE CHANGED AND THE CHANGES ENFORCED

A law may guarantee equal rights while another law or everyday government practice still treats women differently.

Key issues include:

- Family, inheritance, nationality, employment and property laws may give women fewer rights than men or make it harder for them to exercise those rights.
- Changing a statute does not automatically change the instructions used by registrars, police, courts or other officials.
- Governments must decide how to review conflicting laws and how to address discrimination in both legislation and practice.

Recommended Actions

- Conduct a review of laws governing marriage, divorce, inheritance, nationality, land ownership and employment, and identify provisions that treat women and men differently.
- After amending laws, update administrative forms and procedures, train officials, publish guidance in accessible languages and monitor whether decisions change in practice.

Key Points and Main Issues (cont.)

2. WOMEN AND GIRLS NEED AFFORDABLE LEGAL HELP AND ACCESSIBLE JUSTICE SERVICES

Legal rights cannot protect someone who cannot find advice, reach a court or afford to pursue a case.

Key issues include:

- Court fees, transport, lost wages and the cost of a lawyer may prevent low-income women from seeking remedies.
- Rural residents may live far from courts; language barriers and inaccessible buildings or procedures can exclude others.
- Legal information may be difficult to understand, especially for girls and people unfamiliar with legal procedures.

Recommended Actions

- Expand free or low-cost legal aid, legal information centres, interpretation, disability-accessible services and mobile legal clinics in underserved areas.
- Measure whether people actually receive advice, file cases, obtain decisions and have those decisions enforced, rather than counting services established.

Key Points and Main Issues (cont.)

3. JUSTICE SYSTEMS MUST RESPOND EFFECTIVELY TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

Reporting violence should lead to protection and a fair investigation, not additional danger or humiliation.

Key issues include:

- Survivors may fear retaliation, loss of income, social stigma or disbelief by police and courts.
- Protection orders may be unavailable, delayed or poorly enforced; repeated interviews can force survivors to recount traumatic experiences.
- Online harassment, threats and non-consensual sharing of intimate images can create new investigative and evidence challenges.

Recommended Actions

- Coordinate police, medical, counselling and legal services so survivors can obtain urgent protection and assistance without repeatedly navigating separate agencies.
- Train investigators and prosecutors to handle evidence fairly and sensitively, provide safe reporting options and track whether protection orders and court judgments are enforced.

Key Points and Main Issues (cont.)

4. GENDER STEREOTYPES CAN AFFECT DECISIONS AT EVERY STAGE OF A CASE

Even neutral laws can be applied unfairly when officials make assumptions about how women should behave.

Key issues include:

- Police, lawyers and judges may discount testimony or assume a survivor is not credible because of dress, marital status or delay in reporting.
- Social pressure may discourage women from reporting discrimination or challenging family and community decisions.
- Without complaints procedures and independent review, discriminatory treatment can remain hidden.

Recommended Actions

- Include practical training and clear rules on avoiding stereotypes in police interviews, courtroom questioning and administrative decisions.
- Create confidential complaint channels and review patterns in dismissals, case delays and outcomes to identify possible unequal treatment.

Key Points and Main Issues (cont.)

5. FORMAL COURTS AND CUSTOMARY JUSTICE MECHANISMS MUST BOTH PROTECT EQUAL RIGHTS

Community-based dispute resolution can be easier to reach, but accessibility alone does not guarantee fairness.

Key issues include:

- Traditional councils and mediation may resolve family, land and inheritance disputes faster or closer to home than formal courts.
- Community pressure or unequal bargaining power can cause women to accept settlements that deny rights guaranteed by law.
- States must decide which matters can be mediated and when independent court review is necessary.

Recommended Actions

- Provide clear information about the right to use formal courts and to appeal discriminatory decisions reached through customary or informal mechanisms.
- Set safeguards for voluntary participation and impartial decisions, and prevent compulsory mediation in cases where it could endanger survivors of violence.

Key Points and Main Issues (cont.)

6. WOMEN FACING MULTIPLE BARRIERS REQUIRE DIFFERENT FORMS OF SUPPORT

A single national reform may not reach women whose circumstances create additional obstacles.

Key issues include:

- Women with disabilities may face inaccessible buildings, communication barriers or difficulty giving evidence.
- Migrant and refugee women may lack documents, interpretation or confidence that reporting abuse will not threaten their status.
- Indigenous women, rural women, older women and girls may face distinct language, distance, social or procedural barriers.

Recommended Actions

- Consult affected communities when designing legal aid, interpretation, accessible facilities and safe reporting arrangements.
- Collect appropriately protected data on who uses services and who remains excluded, without exposing survivors or vulnerable groups to additional risks.

Key Points and Main Issues (cont.)

7. JUSTICE IN CONFLICT AND DISPLACEMENT REQUIRES PROTECTION AND FUNCTIONING INSTITUTIONS

Conflict can destroy records, close courts and increase risks of violence and exploitation.

Key issues include:

- Displaced women may lose identification, marriage records or documents proving ownership of land and property.
- Courts, police and legal aid providers may be unavailable or unable to operate safely.
- Survivors of conflict-related sexual violence may need medical support, witness protection and credible accountability processes.

Recommended Actions

- Support replacement of lost civil documents, accessible legal assistance for displaced people and safe mechanisms to document property claims.
- Ensure that investigations and reparations processes protect survivors and witnesses and are coordinated with health and protection services.

Key Points and Main Issues (cont.)

8. DIGITAL TOOLS CAN EXPAND ACCESS BUT MUST NOT EXCLUDE PEOPLE

Online services can reduce travel and waiting times, but technology is not equally accessible or always safe.

Key issues include:

- Remote hearings and electronic filing can help women far from courts, provided they have devices, connectivity and private spaces.
- Women with limited digital skills or internet access may be excluded if services move entirely online.
- Automated tools can reproduce discrimination when they rely on incomplete or biased data, and online case records may expose sensitive personal information.

Recommended Actions

- Keep in-person or assisted alternatives alongside digital services, and test online systems with women who face connectivity, language or disability barriers.
- Protect confidential information, explain when automated tools are used and require human review of decisions that affect legal rights.

Key Points and Main Issues (cont.)

9. ACCOUNTABILITY REQUIRES RESOURCES, DATA AND WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION

Reforms are more likely to work when institutions have the people, funding and oversight needed to implement them.

Key issues include:

- Underfunded courts and legal aid offices may have large backlogs, even when laws promise equal treatment.
- Women may be underrepresented among senior judges, prosecutors, police officers and justice administrators.
- National statistics may record laws passed or cases filed without showing whether women obtained remedies.

Recommended Actions

- Fund justice services and publish practical indicators such as waiting times, legal aid coverage, enforcement of judgments and user experiences, while safeguarding privacy.
- Support fair recruitment, promotion and professional development for women in justice institutions, and involve civil society in evaluating reforms.

Key Points and Main Issues (cont.)

10. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION SHOULD SUPPORT NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION WITHOUT WEAKENING RIGHTS

Countries have different legal systems and resources, but all must consider how to turn equal rights into effective remedies.

Key issues include:

- Governments may disagree about which reforms to prioritize, how to regulate customary practices and how much support international partners should provide.
- International agreements provide common standards, while countries differ in administrative capacity and legal traditions.
- Delegates must distinguish commitments that can be implemented immediately from reforms requiring training, financing or institutional changes.

Recommended Actions

- Propose technical assistance, exchange of successful legal aid models and voluntary cooperation on data collection and professional training.
- Identify which national institutions would implement each proposal, what resources are needed and how progress would be evaluated.

OFFICIAL UN RESOURCES ON THE TOPIC

12th Plenary Meeting — Expert Panel on Access to Justice — 2026

An expert panel addresses practical obstacles to justice, including issues affecting Indigenous women, women with disabilities and people using different legal systems. Students can use the webcast and meeting materials to identify policy options and compare expert recommendations. Searchable transcript.

9th Plenary Meeting — High-Level Meeting on Violence Against Women and Girls (Continued) — 2026

The continuation of the high-level meeting includes contributions from governments, human rights experts and civil society. It helps students explore how legal protections and justice institutions respond to violence against women and girls.

8th Plenary Meeting — High-Level Meeting on Violence Against Women and Girls — 2026

The high-level meeting addresses violence against women and girls in connection with the priority theme. Delegations' interventions provide examples of measures to prevent violence and improve access to protection and remedies.

4th Plenary Meeting — Interactive Discussion on Access to Justice — 2026

The interactive discussion brings together country interventions on women's and girls' access to justice. Students can consult available statements and the webcast to identify national priorities and compare approaches to removing legal and practical barriers.

OFFICIAL UN RESOURCES ON THE TOPIC (CONT.)

17th Plenary Meeting — Explanations of Vote and Statements Following Adoption — 2026

The meeting records delegations' explanations of vote and statements after adoption of the agreed conclusions. Students can compare the positions expressed by different countries and distinguish support for the overall outcome from reservations about particular provisions.

15th Plenary Meeting — General Discussion (Transcript) — 2026

The general discussion includes contributions by Member States and international organizations, including organizations working on legal reform and human rights. The searchable transcript can help students locate interventions on barriers to justice and proposed national responses. The linked title opens the searchable UN Transcripts record; the transcript also links to the webcast.

14th Plenary Meeting — General Discussion — 2026

The general discussion includes a statement by Canada on behalf of the Group of Countries of the Justice Action Coalition. Students can use the meeting page to examine this joint intervention and compare it with other delegations' statements.

13th Plenary Meeting — Interactive Dialogue with Youth Representatives — 2026

Youth representatives discuss barriers to justice affecting women and girls. The meeting offers student delegates perspectives on youth participation and on how justice systems can respond to the needs of young people.

OFFICIAL UN RESOURCES ON THE TOPIC

Commission on the Status of Women: Report on the 70th Session (E/2026/27–E/CN.6/2026/14) 2026

Official report documenting the Commission's meetings, procedural decisions and adopted outcomes. Helps delegates distinguish statements made in debate from positions formally agreed by the Commission.

Chair's Summary: Priority Theme Discussion (E/CN.6/2026/12) 2026

Summarizes the Commission's discussion on removing discriminatory laws and practical barriers to justice. Useful alongside meeting recordings to identify major proposals and areas of concern; it is not a verbatim record.

Chair's Summary: Interactive Dialogue among Youth Representatives (E/CN.6/2026/13) 2026

Summarizes youth perspectives on women's and girls' access to justice. Offers delegates examples of issues young people raised and potential approaches for including youth in justice reforms.

Report of the Secretary-General on Women's and Girls' Access to Justice (E/CN.6/2026/3) 2026

Provides the principal background analysis for the priority theme, covering discriminatory laws, legal aid, stereotypes, customary justice, conflict settings and barriers to effective remedies.

OFFICIAL UN RESOURCES ON THE TOPIC (CONT.)

CSW70 Agreed Conclusions — 2026

The agreed conclusions adopted at the seventieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women represent the most recent intergovernmental outcome on the priority theme. They establish areas of international agreement on strengthening women's and girls' access to justice, including promoting inclusive legal systems, eliminating discriminatory laws and practices and addressing structural barriers. This resource is particularly useful because it demonstrates the policy commitments and language that Member States were able to agree upon at the global level.

Justice is the foundation of every right that women and girls are entitled to — CSW70 calls for action to close the justice gap — 2026

This resource examines structural barriers that prevent women and girls from accessing justice across both formal and informal justice systems. It identifies discriminatory laws, harmful social norms and practical obstacles as continuing barriers and discusses challenges involving family and personal-status law, gender-based violence, employment and administrative justice. It also considers post-conflict settings, digital justice mechanisms and traditional or customary justice systems, offering a broad overview of how the justice gap affects women and girls.

3rd Plenary Meeting — Consideration and Adoption of Agreed Conclusions — 2026

The meeting covers proposed amendments, procedural votes and adoption of the agreed conclusions. It illustrates how delegations negotiate and register differences over the final text, showing how disagreement can lead to recorded votes rather than adoption by consensus. Searchable transcript.

OFFICIAL UN RESOURCES ON THE TOPIC (CONT.)

UNDP — Gender Justice Platform Annual Report 2024

2025

This report presents the results of the UNDP-UN Women Gender Justice Platform in 2024. It highlights work carried out in more than 45 countries to improve women's access to justice, strengthen gender-responsive justice systems and support women's participation in justice and peacebuilding processes. It also provides examples of legal aid, justice services, partnerships and approaches used to address barriers faced by women and girls. The report is useful for delegates because it shows how international organizations are translating commitments on gender justice into practical programmes.

UNDP — Gender Justice and the Law

2023

This UNDP publication examines laws affecting gender equality and women's access to justice across different countries. Developed by UNDP, UN Women, UNFPA and ESCWA, the country reports assess laws in areas including legal rights and public life, violence against women, employment and economic rights, family and personal matters, and sexual and reproductive health and rights. The resource is useful for delegates because it helps them examine how national laws can either protect women's rights or create barriers to equality and access to justice.

General Recommendation No. 33 on Women's Access to Justice

2015

General Recommendation No. 33, issued by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, is one of the most important international frameworks concerning women's access to justice. It explains that having laws and courts is not enough. Women must also be able to understand their rights, reach justice institutions, receive fair treatment, get legal help and receive a solution when their rights are violated. It also discusses problems such as discriminatory laws, stereotypes, lack of legal aid, and barriers in both formal and informal systems.

Gender Stereotypes Remain a Barrier to Women's Access to Justice

n.d.

This UN Women article examines how gender stereotypes can affect women's experiences throughout justice systems. It explains how stereotypes and gender bias can influence judges, lawyers and other justice actors, leading to discrimination and unequal treatment. The article also presents a three-way pathway for progress, focusing on changing discriminatory laws and policies, addressing harmful gender stereotypes and strengthening justice institutions. These approaches can help ensure that women are treated fairly and can fully access their rights.

Finding and using statements from CSW70 meetings

Three complementary UN resources allow delegates to hear or read what speakers said during CSW70. The meeting entries below link to the relevant recordings and, where available, transcripts.

UN Journal — Start with the linked plenary meeting page below. It identifies the meeting agenda and speakers, provides available electronic statements (eStatements), and embeds the video recording. Use the speaker list to find your country or an organization, then read its statement if one is posted or locate its intervention in the video.

UN Web TV — Watch the meeting recording to hear the full intervention, including statements for which no written eStatement was submitted. The recording is also embedded in the corresponding UN Journal page. Use it to check the speaker's exact wording and the context of a statement.

UN Transcripts — Where a transcript is available, search the text to find references to your country, a particular issue or a speaker, then use the linked video to verify the passage. Transcripts are automatically generated and may contain transcription or speaker-identification errors; they are not official UN verbatim records. For a meeting without a transcript, you must first subscribe to the free services by providing your email. Once you send your email, you will be sent a link to the UN Transcript website and can then open any page that is in the UN Transcript database. When you find the page you want to transcribe, click on "Generate transcript" and then select "Email me when ready." The service processes the audio and identifies speakers automatically. The optional "Analyzing topics" feature is not needed for this task. You will receive an email with a link when the transcript is ready.

Suggested research approach: Begin with your country's eStatement, if available; compare it with statements by other delegations; use transcripts to search for discussion of the topic; and consult the video when a statement is missing. You do not need a subscription to use the UN Journal or UN Web TV resources.

United Kingdom National Statement at the UN Commission on the Status of Women General Discussion

2026

This official United Kingdom statement provides a recent Member State perspective on the CSW70 priority theme. It addresses the importance of dismantling socioeconomic, cultural and institutional barriers that prevent women and girls from accessing justice and emphasizes the need to strengthen protection and support for survivors of violence. The statement is useful because it illustrates how a Member State may frame its national and international priorities when addressing barriers to justice.

Rwanda's National Statement for the Ministerial Round Table on CSW70 Focus Area

2026

This statement presents Rwanda's approach to improving women's and girls' access to justice. It highlights the importance of making justice services accessible to survivors of violence and describes Rwanda's use of one-stop centres, which bring together services such as medical care, psychosocial support, legal assistance, investigation and referrals. The statement provides a concrete example of how a Member State is working to make justice systems more accessible and responsive to women's needs.

Statement by Indonesia on the Conclusion of the 70th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

2026

This statement explains Indonesia's position following the negotiation of the CSW70 Agreed Conclusions. Indonesia supports strengthening the legal system and policies so that women and girls can have fair, effective and equal access to justice. At the same time, it emphasizes that implementation should consider each country's national circumstances, priorities and legal frameworks. The statement is useful for understanding how Member States may support international commitments while also emphasizing national differences during implementation.

Statement by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia at the Ministerial Round Table

2026

Georgia's statement discusses the barriers women and girls face when trying to access justice and presents national measures aimed at addressing them. It highlights Georgia's National Strategy for the Protection of Human Rights 2022-2030, which includes women's rights combating domestic violence. Georgia also describes reforms such as improved shelters and crisis centres, risk assessment tools, and survivor centred support. The statement connects these efforts to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and shows how international commitments can be translated into national policies.

National statement at the 70th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

2026

This national statement presents Sweden's position at CSW70 and emphasizes the importance of protecting equal rights and advancing gender equality. It addresses the continued backlash against women's and girl's rights and stresses the need to protect existing progress while ensuring that all women and girls can fully enjoy their human rights. The statement provides a WEOG (Western European and Other States) perspective on how governments can respond to barriers and resistance affecting women's rights and equality.

Women, Business and the Law 2026 — 2026

Produced by the World Bank, this report examines laws, supportive systems and the implementation and enforcement of women's rights across economies worldwide. It is particularly relevant to the committee's topic because it demonstrates that legal equality on paper does not necessarily result in equality in practice. By examining both legal frameworks and the systems needed to implement them, the resource helps delegates analyze the gap between formal rights and women's actual ability to exercise those rights.

Women's Access to Justice in Europe and Central Asia — 2026

This UN Women regional study examines women's access to justice across Europe and Central Asia in connection with the CSW70 priority theme. It considers the relationship between legal frameworks and implementation, noting that access to justice depends not only on legal protections but also on women's ability to claim their rights and hold institutions accountable. The resource is particularly useful for examining legal aid systems, justice reform and barriers that persist despite improvements in gender equality legislation.

Council of Europe — Resolution 2668 — 2026

This resolution of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe examines women's access to justice as a fundamental human right. It identifies barriers including economic and social inequalities, gender stereotypes and discriminatory practices, with particular attention to women facing multiple forms of discrimination. It calls for stronger gender-sensitive justice systems, better training for legal professionals, adequate resources, improved data collection and victim-centred procedures. The resolution gives delegates a regional European example of how governments can address barriers to justice through legal and institutional reforms.

CSW70 Asia-Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting Report — 2026

This report summarizes the Asia-Pacific region's preparation for CSW70 and identifies the main barriers women and girls face in accessing justice. It discusses discriminatory laws and practices, limited legal awareness, weak institutional responses, unequal access to legal services and barriers within both formal and traditional justice systems. It also highlights survivor-centred approaches, women's participation in justice institutions, digital solutions, community-based initiatives and the importance of data and accountability. The report helps delegates understand the major priorities and concerns raised across the Asia-Pacific region before CSW70.

Organization of American States — Inter-American Commission on Human Rights — 2007

This report from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights examines the main obstacles women face when seeking justice after experiencing violence. It discusses barriers within justice institutions, including discrimination, impunity, inadequate judicial responses and limited access to effective remedies. It also considers economic, geographic, cultural and institutional barriers and provides recommendations for States to strengthen legal protection and judicial responses. The report gives delegates a regional perspective from the Americas on the gap between legal protections and women's actual access to justice.

Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol) — 2003

Commonly known as the Maputo Protocol, this African Union instrument establishes regional commitments concerning women's rights and gender equality. It addresses discrimination, violence against women, marriage, property and inheritance, among other issues affecting women's ability to claim and exercise their rights. The Protocol is useful for delegates because it demonstrates how regional legal frameworks can supplement global human rights standards and establish more specific obligations for States.

Legal Action Worldwide — Annual Report 2025

2026

This report describes Legal Action Worldwide's work supporting survivors and communities facing barriers to justice across 18 countries. It covers issues including conflict-related sexual violence, modern slavery, accountability and access to legal support. The report provides practical examples of how legal organizations work with survivors and communities to turn legal rights into meaningful access to justice, particularly in conflict-affected settings. This is useful for delegates examining the connection between access to justice, gender-based violence, conflict and accountability.

Justice for Women and Girls: an Assessment of the 70th UN Commission on the Status of Women

2026

This article from the Council on Foreign Relations talks about the 70th UN Commission on the Status of Women and its efforts to improve access to justice for women and girls around the world. It highlights the importance of eliminating discriminatory laws, addressing gender-based violence, and strengthening legal protections for women. The article also discusses the political challenges surrounding the Commission's final agreement, including opposition from the United States. Finally, it raises concerns about funding cuts and proposed changes to UN agencies that could affect future efforts to advance women's rights and gender equality.

Rule of Law Index 2025 — 2025

Produced by the World Justice Project, the Rule of Law Index evaluates how the rule of law is experienced in practice across countries. Its indicators address areas including fundamental rights, civil justice, criminal justice, corruption and government accountability. Although it is not exclusively focused on women, it provides comparative data for evaluating the broader institutional environment in which women and girls seek justice. The resource is particularly useful for country research and for comparing the effectiveness and accessibility of justice systems.

Women, Peace and Security Index 2023/24 — 2023

Produced by the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security and the Peace Research Institute Oslo, this index measures women's inclusion, justice and security across countries. It incorporates indicators related to legal discrimination, intimate partner violence, political participation and other factors affecting women's rights and security. The resource is useful for comparing national contexts and understanding how access to justice is connected to wider social, political and security conditions.

World Justice Project — Women's Access to Justice: A Global Snapshot — 2019

This resource examines the everyday legal problems women face in areas such as employment, housing, education, health and family life. It looks at barriers including discrimination, social stigma, limited knowledge of legal rights and economic disadvantages. It also examines whether women seek legal assistance, whether they are able to resolve their problems and how confident they feel when dealing with justice systems. The resource helps delegates understand access to justice from the perspective of women's real experiences rather than only through laws and policies.