



Coalition for the International Criminal Court

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Contact: Anaga Dalal,
(+1.646.465.8517, dalal@iccnw.org)

GLOBAL COALITION SAYS IMPLEMENTATION OF ROME STATUTE'S GENDER PROTECTIONS AT TURNING POINT

New York, New York. The Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC)—a global network of more than 2,000 groups advocating for a fair, effective and independent International Criminal Court (ICC) today called on the Hague-based court to demonstrate more strongly its commitment to women and to implement its gender mandate.

“Many of our members were instrumental in ensuring that the Rome Statute, the founding treaty of the ICC, championed the rights of women who suffer a double jeopardy as victims of grave crimes,” said Tanya Karanasios, Program Director of the CICC. “Now, some five years after the Statute entered into force, we strongly urge the Court to ensure that the landmark standards and protections for women in the Rome Statute are immediately implemented.”

The Statute is the first international treaty to identify crimes against women as crimes against humanity, war crimes, and in some cases, genocide. Specifically, the Statute recognizes rape, sexual slavery, forced prostitution, forced pregnancy, forced sterilizations, gender-based persecutions, trafficking of persons particularly women and children, and sexual violence as among the most serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole.

Various Coalition members have reported on rape, sexual slavery and other gender-based crimes taking place in Darfur, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Northern Uganda—the three situation countries in which the Court is currently investigating.

“We are taking the opportunity of International Women’s Day to remind both the ICC and States Parties that it is time to live up to the Rome Statute’s high standards for women’s rights on both the national and international level,” said CICC Convenor William Pace.

The Coalition also used the occasion of International Women’s Day to support the Court’s efforts to balance its staffing with as many women as men, and build its expertise on crimes against women. According to CICC member, Women’s Initiatives for Gender Justice, 46% of the Court’s overall staff is female but this is by far not reflected at the senior staff level. For example, there are no women among the Heads of Division for the Registry, and only 37% of the Registry’s Heads of Section are women. In addition, only 16% on the List of Counsel are women and only 20% of the Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for Victims is female.

“This is an issue of both gender equality within the ICC as well as gender competence in its substantive work,” said Brigid Inder, Executive Director of the Women’s Initiatives. “The Court needs to address the significant under-representation of women in senior professional posts, appoint the Gender Legal Adviser position required by the Rome Statute and be seen to prosecute gender-based crimes. We need to see some action on these issues.”

For more information on gender and the ICC, please visit the Coalition’s new gender webpage at www.iccnw.org/?mod=gender

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List of NGO Experts on Gender and the ICC:

Ms. Brigid Inder, Executive Director, Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice (The Hague)

Tel: +31 70 302 9911

Email: brigid@iccwomen.org

Ms. Katherine Booth, Women's Rights Coordinator, Fédération Internationale des Ligues des Droits de L'Homme (FIDH - International Federation for Human Rights) (Paris, France)

Tel: + 33 1 43 55 55 04

Email: kbooth@fidh.org