

RESOURCE GUIDE

Gender Perspective for the proposed UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Humanity



FIRST EDITION 2026

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN (IAW)

International Alliance of Women is an international, voluntary, non-profit organization founded in 1904 in Berlin, Germany.

IAW has held general consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council since 1947, participatory status with the Council of Europe, and observes at the Arab League and International Criminal Court.

OVERVIEW

GENDER PERSPECTIVE FOR THE PROPOSED UN CONVENTION on the PREVENTION and PUNISHMENT of CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

UN Member States, members of specialized agencies, representatives of regional intergovernmental organizations, and ECOSOC accredited civil society organizations gathered at UN headquarters in New York City (January 2026) to continue a multi-year process of drafting and negotiating a new convention on the prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity (CAH). Further negotiations are scheduled through 2029.

The proceedings were held under the auspices of the Preparatory Committee for Plenipotentiaries on the UN Convention for the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Humanity (CAH).ⁱ Under review was a draft convention prepared by the UN International Law Commission (2019). Mr. Declan Smyth of Ireland was elected Chair of the Preparatory Committee.

A Convention gives UN Member States the opportunity to amplify women's human rights and correct the shortcomings in international law that have overlooked the gendered impact of crimes against humanity. The CEDAW Committee (UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women) recommended that Member States secure gender parity in their international delegations to this proceeding, as a necessary means of redress for past shortcomings.ⁱⁱ

A Convention may also deny sanctuary to those who commit these heinous crimes as well as enhance international cooperation for prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity.

Many UN ECOSOC accredited civil society organizations (CSO) participated in the proceedings. More than 115 CSOs submitted written statements to the Preparatory Committee. They raised awareness of inadequate protections for all humanity, including women, in the draft convention and under current international law for crimes against humanity.ⁱⁱⁱ Civil society organizations sent the powerful moral message that the gravest of all crimes shall never go unanswered.

International Alliance of Women (IAW) grasped the opportunity to deliver an oral statement during the General Debate session on the afternoon of January 20, 2026. IAW's oral statement is found on page 5 of this Resource Guide.

We envision our readers using this Resource Guide to raise awareness of civil society's contributions, past and present, to the enactment of a universal convention on the prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity. Our members are encouraged to advocate for text in a convention that supports meaningful inclusion of women in

decision-making, embeds language that prevents gender discrimination, centers accountability measures and gender expertise in discussions, provides redress for all humanity, and codifies forced marriage, reproductive violence, gender apartheid and slave trade as crimes against humanity. This is an essential step in focusing our advocacy initiatives over the coming months. This is an essential step to leading with strength and conviction. ^{iv}

Let us leave no one behind as we speak out for a convention on the prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity. Silence is not an option. Lyricist Paul Simon said it well “Silence like a cancer grows.”

With respect:

Jill Follows – Main IAW Representative at UNHQ

Jessica Pierson and **Thalia Brown** – Alternate IAW Representatives at UNHQ

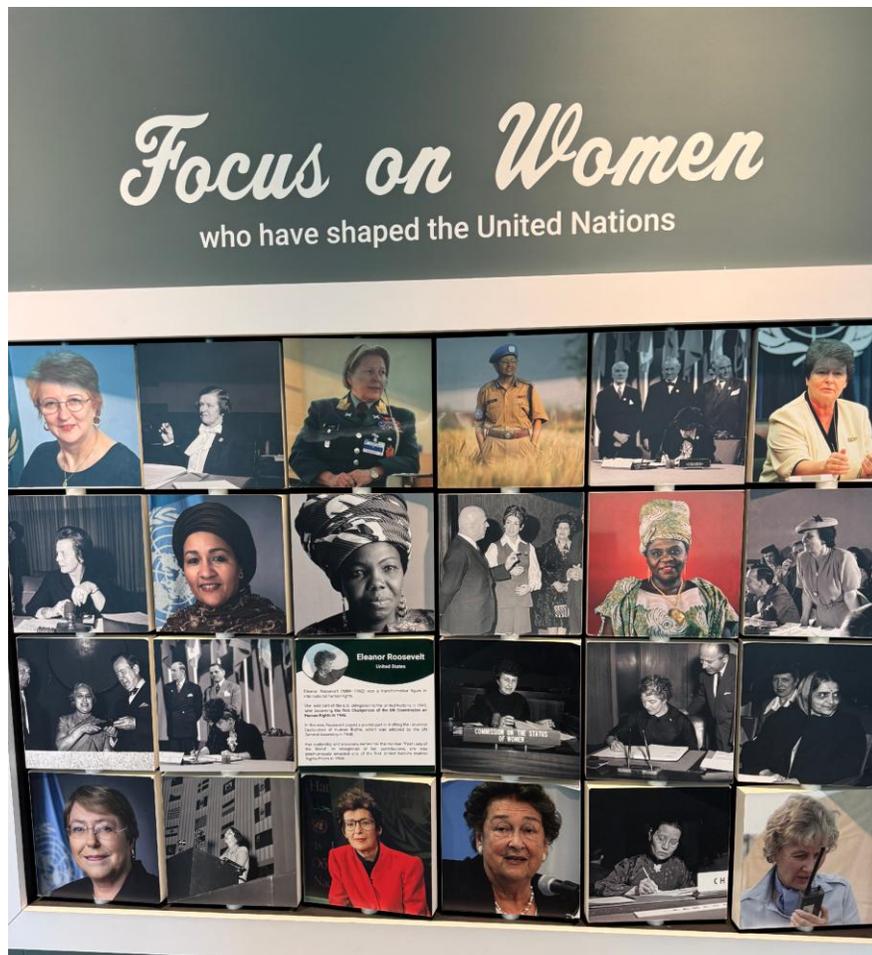


Photo attributed to J. Follows (Wall display at UNHQ General Assembly building entrance hall.) Jan. 2026

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Photo attributed to J. Follows

January 2026, Trusteeship Council, UNHQ



IAW Oral Statement at the First Session of the UN Preparatory Committee for Plenipotentiaries on the Convention for the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Humanity (CAH).^v

(Photo attributed to J. Follows. Photo depicts a wooden sculpture titled *Mankind and Hope*, designed by Danish artist Henrik Starcke and donated to the UN by the Danish government. It is held in the Trusteeship Council at UNHQ.)

Distinguished Dignitaries and Civil Society Organization

Colleagues:

International Alliance of Women supports your ambitious work to advance and strengthen a convention on the prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity.

Our Alliance works to secure every Member State's ratification without reservations, and implementation of the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

This Convention links with the UN Security Council's Women, Peace and Security Agenda and the UN Human Rights Working Group on Discrimination Against Women and Girls.

The Alliance joins the Working Group and distinguished bodies in their support for formal recognition of gender apartheid as a crime against humanity.

We challenge the position that Member States have the primary responsibility to prevent and punish crimes against humanity, because the fact is, that women are victims and survivors of systemic oppression and the principle that women and girls are at the center of the fight for justice.

We believe that a treaty on the prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity depends on a significant increase in women's meaningful participation in negotiations.

Our Alliance will continue to engage and support women in local communities around the world.

We ask you to stand in solidarity with us. Together we will raise awareness of the means to prevent and punish crimes against humanity and embolden women to claim their fundamental human rights.



**Statement of International Alliance of Women
to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference of Plenipotentiaries
on Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Humanity**

January 2026

Distinguished Dignitaries and Citizens of the World!

International Alliance of Women predates the establishment of the United Nations and was one of the original NGOs in the inaugural UN Commission on the Status of Women. We recognize and celebrate all women and girls, regardless of where they originate, and pursue actions that afford them the full enjoyment of human rights, with no one left behind.

On behalf of the Alliance, I, Jill Follows, state that we are committed to the work of this body to prevent and punish crimes against humanity.

Our organization works to secure every Member State's Ratification without Reservations, and implementation of the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. This convention links with the UN Security Council's Women, Peace and Security Agenda and the UN Human Rights Working Group on Discrimination Against Women and Girls in their recognition that gender apartheid, by definition, is a crime against humanity.

We challenge the UN's current draft position that Member States have the primary responsibility to prevent and punish crimes against humanity. This position merely throws the questions of prevention back onto Member States, many of whom are directly responsible for such heinous crimes.

We believe that prevention of such crimes against humanity will not occur when the power of half the world population - women's power- is left out of the equation. Therefore, we call for a significant increase in women's participation in human rights processes globally and this Convention specifically.

The support of an engaged and aware public in our work shall be promoted through general education in human rights and diversity, equity and inclusion throughout all public and political systems.

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IAW/IAF is in consultative status, category general, with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, enjoys participatory status with the Council of Europe, and is a member of the European Women's Lobby

**UN WORKING GROUP NEGOTIATIONS for a
UN CONVENTION ON THE PREVENTION AND PUNISHMENT of
CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY
(January 2026)**

UN General Assembly (GA) Resolution 79/122 (December 4, 2024)^{vi} established a multi-year schedule for formal UN proceedings on the negotiations of a convention on the prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity. The Resolution called for the convening of a preparatory committee and working group to facilitate consultations on the draft treaty in January 2026.

Most importantly the Resolution declared that the conference would be open to “relevant non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council in accordance with the provisions of Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.”^{vii}

This Resource Guide pays particular attention to the Preparatory Committee discussions on the gendered impact of crimes against humanity.

Member States

Member States delivered opening statements during the General Debate session on the opening days of the proceedings. Most poignant were reflections on past atrocities as well as praise for international courts, such as the Nuremberg International Military Tribunal, in advancing international law on the prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity.

There was also push back. Russian Federation’s repetitive procedural objections to the administration of the Preparatory Committee and its Bureau, along with its objection to the inclusion of civil society organizations, were voted down.

There was organized pushback by many Member States on gender proposals. They strongly supported a definition of gender as a binary construct (male-female). Other Member States kept an open mind and indicated willingness to discuss this issue. Still other Member States remained silent and seemingly did not want to give a lot of oxygen to the definition of gender during the Preparatory Committee sessions.

During the General Debate, Netherlands, Iceland, Costa Rica, Cameroon, Philippines and Mexico supported the addition of “slave trade” to the definition of a crime against humanity.

Several countries, including Philippines, Iceland, Spain, and Mexico stated openness to the addition of “gender apartheid” to the definition of a crime against humanity.

There was an uptick in the number of Member States referring to the topic of reproductive autonomy, including mentions by Australia, Colombia, France, Palestine, Brazil and Chile.

Germany and Cyprus stressed the importance of text in the convention on prevention, and not solely punishment.

Nigeria advocated for text that would strengthen alignment with the UN Charter.

France and Japan expressed opposing views about the relevance of the Rome Statute to the success of the convention on crimes against humanity.

Lichtenstein advocated for the elimination of reservations to any eventual convention.

Andorra and Poland sought explicit inclusion of procedures and safeguards for children.

China expressed concern that the draft convention imposed on state sovereignty.

Canada, Austria, Luxembourg, Chile, and more, expressed support for civil society participation in the proceedings.

The Member States' decision to include **non-ECOSOC** NGO participation in future proceedings heralded increased attention to a victim-survivor centered convention.

Some Member States veered from the promise and procedure for the General Debate when they deposed other nations for crimes against humanity.

Civil Society Organizations-Gender Perspectives

In the years leading up to the Preparatory Committee sessions in January 2026, many civil society organizations and academics focused their attention on the grave injustices of forced marriage, reproductive violence and reproductive autonomy, slave trade, gender apartheid, and robust protections for victims and survivors.

During the Preparatory Committee sessions in January 2026, civil society organizations and academics submitted written statements, and some delivered oral interventions during the General Debate session. They advocated for a convention that will be intersectional, victim and survivor-centric, humanity inclusive, non-discriminatory, consistent with internationally recognized human rights, and solidly based on principles of gender justice.

CSO's sought an expanded definition of the list of crimes against humanity to enumerate the slave trade, gender apartheid, forced marriage and reproductive violence. They defined victims as human "rights holders" and not merely the source of

data, stories, and evidence. They sought a dedicated monitoring and complaints mechanism to ensure favorable implementation of the convention.

Non-ECOSOC accredited civil society organizations were given the opportunity to contribute to future proceedings, by a vote of acclamation by Member States.

International Alliance of Women

It was IAW's honor to accept the Preparatory Committee's invitation to deliver its intervention. IAW 's intervention supported collaborative efforts to create an effective, victim-centered treaty that will remain relevant for the 21st century. (See page 5 of this Resource Guide.)

IAW continues to engage with members of a coalition of academics and civil society organizations in concerted advocacy for a convention on the prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity.

Draft Convention is Broken Into Five Clusters for Ease of Review

During the working group sessions in January 2026, UN Member States proposed amendments to the draft convention. The working group sessions were stewarded by UN Special Rapporteur, Mr. Sean D. Murphy.

The Articles in the draft convention were divided into five clusters, for ease of review.

This Resource Guide reviews some draft articles of the convention in their thematic clusters. ^{viii}

CLUSTER 1: PREAMBLE and ARTICLE 1 The Preamble and Article 1 of the draft convention were written broadly to give historical perspective, reference the UN Charter, identify the goals for the convention, state determination to end impunity, adopt the definitions stated in the Rome Statute, and state the rights of victims, witnesses and alleged defendants. ^{ix}

The following examples set forth the [draft Article](#) and suggested amendment:

Example 1:

[DRAFT ARTICLE: Mindful that throughout history millions of children, women and men have been victims of crimes that deeply shock the conscience of humanity...](#)

SUGGESTED AMENDMENT: During the opening days of General Debate, some Member State delegations proposed an amendment to make this paragraph more inclusive by referring to “people” rather than “children, women and men”.^x

Example 2:

DRAFT ARTICLE: *Considering the rights of victims, witnesses and others in relation to crimes against humanity, as well as the right of alleged offenders to fair treatment...*

SUGGESTED AMENDMENT: Several Member State delegations proposed text that would integrate a gender perspective. (ex: Columbia, Mexico, Australia, Philippines, Costa Rica, Afghanistan)

Some Member States supported text that referenced the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and its language addressing impunity and protecting the rights of victims.^{xi}

Some delegations advocated vehemently for the text to clearly define gender as a male - female binary construct. These Member States claimed that any contrary definition affected the sovereignty of the State and gave its citizens a legal right to an abortion. (Ex: Cameroon, Burundi)

CLUSTER 2: ARTICLES 2-4: DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL OBLIGATIONS

The “definitions” of crimes against humanity in the draft convention are modeled on the language in the Rome Statute, paragraph 7. General discussion concerned the specific lack of a definition for “gender” in the draft convention. (paragraph 1 h) Guidance was sought to consider whether the definition of gender in the Rome Statute is obsolete and whether the specific omission of a definition for “gender” in the draft convention provides States with more flexibility.^{xii}

The following examples set forth the [draft Article](#) and suggested amendment.

Ex. 1:

DRAFT ARTICLE: *Article 2 (1) (g)*

1. For the purpose of the present draft articles, “crime against humanity” means any of the following acts when committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population, with knowledge of the attack:

(g) rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilization, or any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity.

SUGGESTED AMENDMENT: Create a new stand-alone subparagraph on forced marriage and add the term reproductive violence. Diverse forms of reproductive violence include forced abortion, forced contraception and forced suppression of breast feeding.

Ex: 2:

DRAFT ARTICLE: Article 2 (2)(f)

(f) “forced pregnancy” means the unlawful confinement of a woman forcibly made pregnant, with the intent of affecting the ethnic composition of any population or carrying out other grave violations of international law. This definition shall not in any way be interpreted as affecting national laws relating to pregnancy.

SUGGESTED AMENDMENT: Delete the carve out for national laws; Add the word “girl”, or “other person” to the definition to avoid misinterpreting the word “woman” in the draft text to mean only people over the age of 18.

Ex. 3:

DRAFT ARTICLE: Article 2 (2) (h)

(h) “the crime of apartheid” means inhumane acts of a character similar to those referred to in paragraph 1, committed in the context of an institutionalized regime of systematic oppression and domination by one racial group over any other racial group or groups and committed with the intention of maintaining that regime

SUGGESTED AMENDMENT: Add text that will criminalize gender apartheid, such as: “the crime of apartheid” means inhumane acts of a character similar to those referred to in paragraph 1, committed in the context of an institutionalized regime of systematic oppression and domination by one racial group over any other racial group or groups, **or by one gender group over another gender group or groups**, and committed with the intention of maintaining that regime.”

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Many UN Member States supported inclusion of the term “gender apartheid” in the Convention. ^{xiv}

CLUSTER 3: ARTICLES 6-10: NATIONAL MEASURES

The draft text under Cluster 3 addressed the prevention and deterrence of crimes against humanity, criminalization under national law, establishment of national jurisdiction, investigation, preliminary measures when an alleged offender is present, and extradition. ^{xv}

France and other European Member States expressed concern about extraditing suspects to States that could impose the death penalty.

Columbia and Eritrea sought text on reparations and restorative justice respectively.

Greece reinforced the value of the universal jurisdiction clause.

Cote d'Ivoire punctuated the need for solutions for displaced persons.

Russian Federation claimed that a Member State's refusal to extradite a suspect should not lead to that nation's obligation to prosecute the suspect. It also sought revised text on the responsibility of commanders for their subordinates' crimes.

CLUSTER 4: ARTICLES 13-15: INTERNATIONAL MEASURES

The draft text of Cluster 4 addressed extradition, mutual legal assistance, and settlement of disputes. ^{xvi}

CLUSTER 5: ARTICLES 5, 11,12: SAFEGUARDS

The draft text of Cluster 5 addressed the forcible return of refugees and asylum seekers to countries where they are likely to be persecuted (draft Article 5), fair treatment of the alleged offender (draft Article 11), and victims, witnesses, and others (draft Article 12) ^{xvii}

Selected International Trials, Conventions, and Writings on Crimes Against Humanity

United Nations Charter: Article 13, paragraph 1 (a) of the UN Charter grants authority to the General Assembly to "initiate studies and make recommendations for the purpose of: (a) promoting international co-operation in the political field and encouraging the progressive development of international law and its codification." ^{xviii}

The UN Charter defines crimes against humanity in gender-neutral terms (murder, extermination, enslavement, deportation, other inhumane acts against any civilian population, persecutions on political, racial or religious grounds).

Nuremberg Trials- International Military Tribunal, 1945-1946: Women were not identified as a specifically protected group. The International Nuremberg Tribunal did not expressly prosecute sexual violence.

The subsequent Nuremberg trials (1946-1949), held by US military tribunals, expanded the list of crimes against humanity to include torture and rape. Rape was framed as part of the category for "inhumane acts against any civilian population" rather than as a gender targeted crime. ^{xix}

International Military Tribunal for the Far East (Tokyo Tribunal) 1946-1947: Crimes against humanity were defined as murder, extermination, enslavement, deportation, persecutions on political or racial grounds, and other inhumane acts committed against any civilian population before or during the war. The Tokyo Tribunal passed over the Japanese army's enslavement of "comfort women." ^{xx}

The Geneva Conventions of 1949 stated that all persons " who do not take a direct part or who have ceased to take part in hostilities, whether or not their liberty has been restricted, are entitled to respect for their person, honour, and convictions and religious practices....It is prohibited to order that there shall be no survivors..." and they shall be protected "against rape, enforced prostitution, or any form of indecent assault." (Article 4) ^{xxi}

International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY): This Tribunal was set up by the UN Security Council in 1993. It recognized sexual violence as a crime against humanity although "gender" was not expressly listed as a ground for persecution. ^{xxii}

International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR): This Tribunal was set up by the UN Security Council in 1994. The case of *The Prosecutor vs Jean-Paul Akayesu* marked the first time that rape was included in the charge of genocide in a court of international law.^{xxiii} The ICTR determined that the crime of rape was a “physical invasion of a sexual nature, committed on a person under circumstances which are coercive” and that sexual assault constitutes “genocide in the same way as any other act as long as it was committed with the specific intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a particular group, targeted as such.”^{xxiv}

Women’s International War Crimes Tribunal for the Trial of Japan’s Military Sexual Slavery: The trial was held in Tokyo, Japan in December 2000. Hundreds of women across the Asia-Pacific region, who had been tortured, raped, trafficked, and enslaved by the Japanese military during WW II, broke their fifty years of silence and testified against Emperor Hirohito, the Government of Japan and many individuals who had been found guilty in the International Military Tribunal for the Far East (IMTFE) at the end of World War II. One year later, on December 4, 2001, the final Judgement of the Tribunal was delivered in The Hague. The Judgement made it crystal clear that any peace agreement that failed to take account of gendered harm was inherently flawed. The IMTFE’s failure to redress women’s claims was unconscionable and discriminatory, and a violation of international norms and law. The Judgement redressed the women’s grievances and upended Japan’s culture of impunity.^{xxv}

Rome Statute: The Rome Statute entered into force in 2002 and created the International Criminal Court (ICC). At the present time the ICC has jurisdiction over crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression.^{xxvi}

Crimes against humanity include rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilization, persecution on gender grounds, and any other forms of sexual violence of comparable gravity when directed against others because of their gender, including socially constructed gender roles and norms, and when committed as part of a widespread or systemic attack on civilians.

The Rome Statute defines gender as a binary construct “within the context of society.” This quoted phrase has been interpreted to mean that definition of gender includes sexual orientation and gender identity in international law.^{xxvii}

CEDAW Committee: CEDAW experts call for the recognition of gender apartheid as a crime against humanity. The CEDAW Committee investigates State parties’ history of wartime sexual violence, human trafficking, forced sterilization, and conflict-related sexual violence in humanitarian crises. The CEDAW Committee seeks victims’ access to reparations as well as data and protective measures for gender-based crimes. The CEDAW Committee’s work links with the UN Security Council’s Women, Peace, and

Security agenda. (See CEDAW General Recommendations #19 (1992) and #35 (2017).
xxviii

CEDAW Article 8 obligates State Parties to take all appropriate measures to ensure that women have the opportunity to represent their governments at the international level and to participate in the work of international organizations on an equal basis with men and without any discrimination. xxix

CEDAW General Recommendation #40, paragraph 21, states that the “representation of women in civil society is essential for integrating a gender perspective in decision making and for advising States in the development of gender-responsive legislation and policies.” xxx

UN Human Rights Working Group on Discrimination Against Women and Girls:

The Working Group called for the long overdue codification in international law of gender apartheid as a crime against humanity. xxxi

United Nations General Assembly: The UN General Assembly passed Resolution 79/122 (December 2024) that convened a Preparatory Committee and Working Group to facilitate consultations on the draft articles for a convention on prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity. The Resolution emphasized that crimes against humanity are among the most serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole. The Resolution further emphasized that UN Member States have the primary responsibility to prevent and punish crimes against humanity. xxxii

FURTHER READINGS

ARTICLES:

Adams, Kelly. 2024, *Progress on Gender Justice Continues as States Consider Next Steps on Draft Crimes Against Humanity Treaty*, Just Security, 11-18-24 [Gender Justice in Proposed Crimes Against Humanity Treaty](#)

Atlantic Council and Global Justice Center, 2024, *Amending the Crime Against Humanity of Apartheid to Recognize and Encompass Gender Apartheid* <https://endgenderapartheid.today/download/brief/Gender-Apartheid-Expert-Legal-Brief-CAH-Treaty.pdf?v=20240812>

Davis, Lisa and Kirby Anwar. 2025, *Three Definitions, One Choice: Defining Gender Apartheid in the Draft Crimes Against Humanity Treaty*, OpinioJuris, 2/12/25, [Three Definitions, One Choice: Defining Gender Apartheid in the Draft Crimes Against Humanity Treaty - Opinio Juris](#)

Global Justice Center, 2023, *Toolkit/August 2023 Advancing Gender Justice in the Draft International Crimes Against Humanity Treaty* [20230816 GenderCAH Toolkit FINAL.pdf](#)

Manulak, Daniel. 2024, *Student Protests and Lessons from the Anti-Apartheid Movement*, August 22, 2024, Epicenter, Harvard University <https://epicenter.wcfia.harvard.edu/blog/student-protests-and-lessons-anti-apartheid-movement>

Ryan, Christine, Richard Dicker, and Akshaya Kumar. 2026, *Critical Juncture for the Proposed Crimes Against Humanity Treaty*. Available at <https://opiniojuris.org/2026/01/16/critical-juncture-for-the-proposed-crimes-against-humanity-treaty/>

Thompson, Lauren. 2025, *Gender Persecution: The ICC's Landmark Judgment Against Al Hassan and its Global Implications*; The American University International Law Review. Available at [Gender Persecution: The ICC's Landmark Judgment Against Al Hassan and its Global Implications - American University International Law Review](#)

UNITED NATIONS:

CEDAW COMMITTEE (UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women) General Recommendation #40

<https://docs.un.org/en/CEDAW/C/GC/40>

Paragraph 11. Patriarchal structures impede the equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems. Patriarchy is a system of power deeply embedded in political, social, economic and cultural structures. It creates a hierarchy, historically assigning distinct roles, worth and qualities to women and men. It results in a division of labour whereby women are primarily responsible for the private sphere of the home and family, while men are the main actors in the public sphere of politics and economy, based on differential weights assigned to efforts in the two domains. Patriarchy permeates all societies. At its most severe, it takes the form of an institutionalized regime of systematic oppression and domination of women, committed with the intention of maintaining a regime that is increasingly referred to as “gender apartheid”. It is therefore crucial to codify the crime of “gender apartheid” to create full accountability for gender-based crimes.

Citing footnote 26: In article 7 (1) (h) of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, persecution against any identifiable group or collectivity on gender grounds is identified as an act that constitutes a crime against humanity. There is a growing call, including among human rights mechanisms of the Human Rights Council and civil society, for the codification of the crime of gender apartheid under international law, including in the definition of apartheid in article 2 (2) (h) of the Proposed International Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Humanity

DURBAN DECLARATION AND PROGRAMME OF ACTION (DDPA) - a political statement

https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Publications/Durban_text_en.pdf

“The DDPA is a victims centered document that emphasizes the plight of victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. It reaffirms that States have the duty to protect and promote the human rights of all victims and should apply a gender perspective, recognizing the multiple forms of discrimination.” <https://www.un.org/en/fight-racism/background/durban-declaration-and-programme-of-action>

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (ICC) OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR

For information pertaining to the historical failure of international criminal courts to recognize children’s experiences, see: <https://www.icc-cpi.int/sites/default/files/2023-12/2023-policy-children-en-web.pdf>

Nelson Mandela Day - The United Nations - Partner in the Struggle Against Apartheid
https://www.un.org/en/events/mandeladay/un_against_apartheid.shtml

Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and Relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflict. Available at [Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and Relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts \(Protocol II\) | OHCHR](#)

UN General Assembly - Crimes against Humanity: available at [Document Viewer](#)

UN Working Group on Discrimination Against Women and Girls – Gender apartheid
<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/02/gender-apartheid-must-be-recognised-G-crime-against-humanity-un-experts-say#:~:text=They%20noted%20that%20existing%20forms,oppression%20of%20women%20and%20girls.>

UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Afghanistan

<https://www.justiceinfo.net/en/153634-richard-bennett-gender-language-apartheid-afghanistan.html#:~:text=He%20spoke%20to%20Justice%20Info,7%20min%2035>

UN WOMEN – Executive Director Sima Bahous-Statement on Afghanistan

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/statement/2023/08/statement-on-afghanistan-by-un-women-executive-director-sima-bahous>

ⁱ <https://legal.un.org/diplomaticconferences/cah/prepcom.shtml>

ⁱⁱ <https://docs.un.org/en/CEDAW/C/GC/40>

ⁱⁱⁱ https://legal.un.org/diplomaticconferences/cah/prepcom_1sess/ngos.pdf

iv <https://cahtreatynow.org/advancing-gender-justice-in-the-crimes-against-humanity-convention-a-declaration/>

v January 20, 2026, <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1p/k1pnayisj2> (start minute 51:58)

vi <https://docs.un.org/en/A/RES/79/122>

vii <https://docs.un.org/en/A/RES/79/122> (Paragraph 16)

viii [Draft articles on Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Humanity, 2019](#)

ix <https://docs.un.org/en/A/C.6/78/2>

x <https://docs.un.org/en/A/C.6/78/2> at page 5

xi <https://docs.un.org/en/A/C.6/78/2> at page 9

xii <https://docs.un.org/en/A/C.6/78/2> at page 12

xiii <https://docs.un.org/en/A/C.6/78/2> at page 13

xiv

<https://endgenderapartheid.today/download/2025/Member%20State%20Comments%20on%20Gender%20Apartheid.pdf>

xv <https://docs.un.org/en/A/C.6/78/2> at pages 16-23

xvi <https://docs.un.org/en/A/C.6/78/2> at pages 23-28

xvii <https://docs.un.org/en/A/C.6/78/2> at pages 28-34

xviii <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/full-text>

xix <https://museums.nuernberg.de/memorial-nuremberg-trials/the-nuremberg-trials/the-international-military-tribunal>

xx <https://peacepalacelibrary.nl/research-guide/tokyo-trial>

xxi <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/protocol-additional-geneva-conventions-12-august-1949-and-0>

xxii <https://www.icty.org/en/features/crimes-sexual-violence>

xxiii <https://legal.un.org/avl/ha/ictr/ictr.html>

xxiv <https://legal.un.org/avl/ha/ictr/ictr.html> at page 598 and 731

xxv <https://www.lse.ac.uk/women-peace-security/research/Gendered-Peace-the-legacy-of-the-Tokyo-Womens-Tribunal>

xxvi <https://www.icc-cpi.int/publications/core-legal-texts/rome-statute-international-criminal-court>

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