

CLOSING THE JUSTICE GAP:

Innovation, evidence and action to enhance access to justice for women with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities in Asia and the Pacific

20 October 2022 | 12:30 - 13:40 PM (Indochina Time)

Virtual event - hosted on Zoom

International Sign Language interpretation and real-time captioning will be provided.



Concept Note

Overview:

In the margins of the ESCAP High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities 2013-2022 (19-21 October, Jakarta, Indonesia) UN Women Regional Office Asia and the Pacific and cosponsors will host a side event, 'Closing the Justice Gap: Innovation, evidence and action to enhance access to justice for women with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities in Asia and the Pacific,' 20 October 2022, 12:30 - 13:40 PM (Indochina Time).

The event will be an opportunity to share challenges encountered by this group of women, good practices, and the emerging learnings of a pioneering legal needs survey conducted in the Philippines, Nepal, Indonesia, and Fiji to identify the legal needs of women with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities.

Background:

Women with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities have historically been denied equal access to justice. Legal frameworks limit their right to exercise legal capacity; they are more likely to have their credibility questioned owing to harmful gender norms and disability stereotypes; and, they lack of accessible information and judicial support systems, among others. Such barriers not only limit the ability of women with disabilities to use the justice system, but also their ability to contribute to the administration of justice to society as a whole.

A number of international human rights treaties, including the [Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities \(CRPD\)](#), and the [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women \(CEDAW\)](#), affirm and underpin the right of women with disabilities to access justice. Yet, legal frameworks and justice pathways for access to justice for women with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities have not been sufficiently advanced to deliver on these commitments. There remains a need to develop a deeper understanding of the legal needs of women with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities to better inform prevention of legal problems, support justice journeys, and a gender- and disability responsive justice sector.

Led under the regional '[Enhancing Access to Justice for Women in Asia and the Pacific](#)' Programme, UN Women and the University of Galway has co-produced a legal needs survey in collaboration with persons with disabilities, to identify the legal needs of women with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities in the Philippines, Nepal, Indonesia, and Fiji. The survey has directly engaged women with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, their representative organisations, justice actors, service providers, and other key stakeholders. As one of the first legal needs surveys conducted in the region with women with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, the results will provide a new and emerging evidence base to identify key legal needs, gaps and opportunities for preventing and resolving justice problems, and ensuring that no one is left behind in closing the justice gap for women in Asia and the Pacific.

Objectives:

- Highlight and raise awareness on the current justice gaps and barriers faced by women with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, and the importance of closing the gap.
- Share the early learnings of the legal needs survey of women with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities conducted in the Philippines, Nepal, Indonesia, and Fiji.
- Demonstrate the value of participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities in the legal needs survey process.
- Engage and mobilize event participants to join women with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities to advocate for and take action to the prevent legal problems, support justice journeys and ensure a responsive justice sector.

Agenda:

Time	
	Welcome
12:30	<i>Introduction of speakers and format of the session.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Doreen Buettner, UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
	Opening Remarks: Setting the Scene
12:35	<i>An introduction to the barriers to justice for women with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• H.E. Marina Berg, Ambassador of Sweden to Indonesia
	Promoting and Protecting the Rights of Women with Disabilities
12:40	<i>Exploring the work of Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and existing international frameworks on access to justice.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Miyeon Kim, Vice-Chair Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
	Lightning Presentation: Towards Inclusive Justice
12:45	<i>Insights on how Asia and the Pacific are leading the way on identifying the legal needs of women with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities through pioneering legal needs surveys.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anna Arstein-Kerslake, Centre for Disability Law and Policy, University of Galway, Ireland
	Disability Rights Self-Advocates Speak-Up on Justice
13:00	<i>Self-advocates speak about the production, design, delivery and localisation of the legal needs surveys and why it's important. A representative from Transforming Communities for Inclusion (TCI) outlines possible future actions.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mona, Petra, Amaysa• Sera Osborne on behalf of Transforming Communities for Inclusion
	Closing Remarks
13:35	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Amba Salelkar, International Disability Alliance

Registration: https://unwomen.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_xEvrIDMsQ_a3cKFB6IDTVA

For further information on the event, please contact:

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