

Ensuring the Full, Meaningful, and Safe Participation of Diverse Civil Society in the UN Crimes against Humanity Treaty Process

We, the undersigned organizations and individuals, represent civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations, victim/survivor associations, and academic institutions from around the world. We have technical expertise on the prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity, including their adjudication before national and international courts and tribunals. Many of us have also directly experienced or witnessed the commission of crimes against humanity. We welcome the opening of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Humanity, a vital step towards closing a long-standing accountability gap in international law.

We commend the inclusion of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (“ECOSOC”) in the Preparatory Committee and the Conference of Plenipotentiaries as observers under Resolution 79/122.¹ However, we regret the absence of a clear proviso ensuring the equal participation of non-ECOSOC accredited organizations and individuals with relevant experiences and expertise. Their participation is essential to ensure a robust treaty process and final outcome. Broader participation will strengthen the diversity of voices in the room, including survivors and others who are often underrepresented; bolster the transparency and credibility of the treaty-making process; and facilitate a victim and survivor-centric, intersectional, and gender-competent approach to the treaty.

We urge Member States to support the full, meaningful, and safe participation of civil society throughout the preparation and negotiation of the treaty, in accordance with international law and UN practice and guidance.² This requires that ECOSOC-accredited organizations be able to participate in a meaningful manner,³ and that in addition, non-ECOSOC accredited organizations and individuals be able to do so as well, with the same rights of participation. Taking into account the principles of transparency, accessibility, diversity, equitable geographical representation, and gender parity, the possible modalities for all civil society participation should include, at a minimum, oral interventions, individually and jointly, written statements and other documentation made available to all delegates and observers in-person and online, remote participation and streaming options, and intersessional consultations. Further, due effort should be made to ensure and facilitate broad civil society participation by maintaining flexibility in registration deadlines and allocations. These modalities are necessary in light of the obstacles often faced by civil society, including resource constraints, travel restrictions, physical, communication, and other accessibility barriers, and state reprisals.

¹ UN General Assembly Resolution 79/122, paras. 16-17.

² See, e.g., Civil Society Participation, ABILA Study Group on Crimes against Humanity (Oct. 16, 2025), <https://www.ila-americanbranch.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/ABILA-CAH-Civil-Society-Participation-Final-with-cover-v2.pdf>, paras. 3-8 (citing, *inter alia*, the UN Charter, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and UN Guidance Note on the Protection and Promotion of Civic Space).

³ See UN General Assembly Resolution 79/122, para. 8.

During the eightieth session of the Sixth Committee, more than 50 Member States noted that civil society had already “enriched the [crimes against humanity treaty] process with invaluable expertise,” including in the very call for a treaty and in “legal analysis, practical recommendations, and innovative ideas for the content and structure of a future convention.”⁴

We respectfully urge Member States to facilitate a transparent, inclusive, and effective procedure for our continued participation, in recognition of our shared commitment to the prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity.

Sincerely,

Organizational Signatories (160)

8AM MEDIA

Abuja Network of NGO

ACPDH Burundi

Action des Chrétiens Activites des Droits de l'Homme à Shabunda (ACADHOSHA)

Action pour la Protection des Droits de l'Enfant (APDE)

ADIFEVEA World

Afghan Women's Network International (AWNI)

Africa Legal Aid (AFLA)

African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies

African Law Foundation (AFRILAW)

Al-Haq

ALTSEAN-Burma

Aman against Discrimination (AAD)

Amnesty International

Arus Pelangi

ASEAN Civil Society Conference/ASEAN People's Forum Philippines 2026

Asia Justice and Rights (AJAR)

Asia Justice Coalition

Asia-Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect

Asian Muslim Action Network (AMAN Indonesia)

Asian Resource Foundation (ARF)

Avaaz

Azadi Network

Bangladesh Society of International Law

Banglar Manabdhikar Suraksha Mancha (MASUM)

Banu Anvari and Hejran Handicrafts Company

⁴ Joint Statement on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Humanity, Delivered by Costa Rica on behalf of Austria, Australia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chile, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Ireland, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Timor-Leste, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Vanuatu, and the European Union,

https://www.un.org/en/ga/sixth/80/pdfs/statements/cah/12mtg_costarica_group.pdf

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Biladi Human Rights Observatory
Boston University International Human Rights Clinic
Brij Peace Empowerers
Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS)
Center for Gender & Refugee Studies
Center for Human Rights Advocacy
Center for Migrant Advocacy, Philippines
Center for Peace Education and Community Development
Centro de Investigación y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos, CIPRODEH
Civil Centre for Peace, Justice and Development
Clinique de droit international pénal et humanitaire, Université Laval
Coalition for Genocide Response
Coalition for the International Criminal Court
Coalition for the Prevention of Hazara Genocide (CPHG)
Coalition of Somali HRDs (CSHRD)
Collectif des familles de disparus en Algérie / Fédération euroméditerranéenne contre les
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Comrades of Rohingya Youths (CRY)
Concern for Integrated Development
Conference of Non Governmental Organizations, Nigeria
Congrès Mondial Amazigh / Amazigh World Congress
Congress of Nations and States
Dameer Foundation for Rights and Freedoms
Darfur Network for Human Rights
Development for Peace Education
DITSHWANELO - The Botswana Centre for Human Rights
Divine Foundation for Disabled Persons
Edge Hopebuilders for Youth and Women Initiative
Educational and Health Organization for Afghanistan Woman
Educational and Health Organization for Afghanistan Women
Egbema Clean and Green Initiative
Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR)
Emergent Justice Collective
End Gender Apartheid Campaign
European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR)
Every Woman
Farida Global Organization
Foundation "OPORA in Poland"
Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI)
Foundation for the Promotion of Rights
Foundation Sunflowers
Fundación Internacional Baltasar Garzón –FIBGAR–
Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect
Global Initiative Against Impunity (GIAI)
Global Justice Center

Global Rights Advocacy
Global Survivors Fund
Gulf Centre for Human Rights
Health Awareness and Rural Girls Education Initiative
Hemayat Hope
Her Future Afghanistan
Human Asia
Human Rights Advocacy Centre Ghana
Human Rights Watch
ImPact Coalition on Strengthening International Judicial Institutions
Independent Medico Legal Unit
Initiative Africaine pour le développement durable
Inmaa for Development
Interest of Justice
International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL)
International Bar Association (IBA)
International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute
International Commission of Jurists
International Community for Georgia Development and the Progress
International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)
International Helping for the Young
International Humanitarian Law and Youth Initiative (IHLYI)
International Service for Human Rights (ISHR)
International Truth and Justice Project
Investigator Organization for the Rule of Law
Justice Access Point (JAP)
Justitia Center for the Legal Protection of Human Rights in Algeria
Kalyanamitra
Keen and Care Initiative (KCI)
Kenya Human Rights Commission
KINNAPA Development Programme
Konfederation of Indonesian People's Movement
LAKAS
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MBAKITA-Mission of Beneficence Agriculture of Kubango Inclusive Technologies and Environment
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Progressive Voice
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REDRESS
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Safe Empowered Communities Association
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Strategic Litigation Project
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Tanzania Community Health Information and Support (TaCHIS)
The Common Good Foundation, Inc.
The Congress of Nations and States
The West African Transitional Justice Centre
Transitional Justice Working Group (TJWG)
TRIAL International
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Urban Morgan Institute for Human Rights
Visions for Development and Human Rights
Voices for Change (Mgbakor Development and Relief Initiative)
Water Aid for Afghanistan (WAFA)
Women Child Youth Health and Education Initiative, Nigeria
Women's Action Network Sri Lanka
Women's Association for Women and Victims' Empowerment (WAVE Gambia)
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World Institute on Disability
World Peace Alliance
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