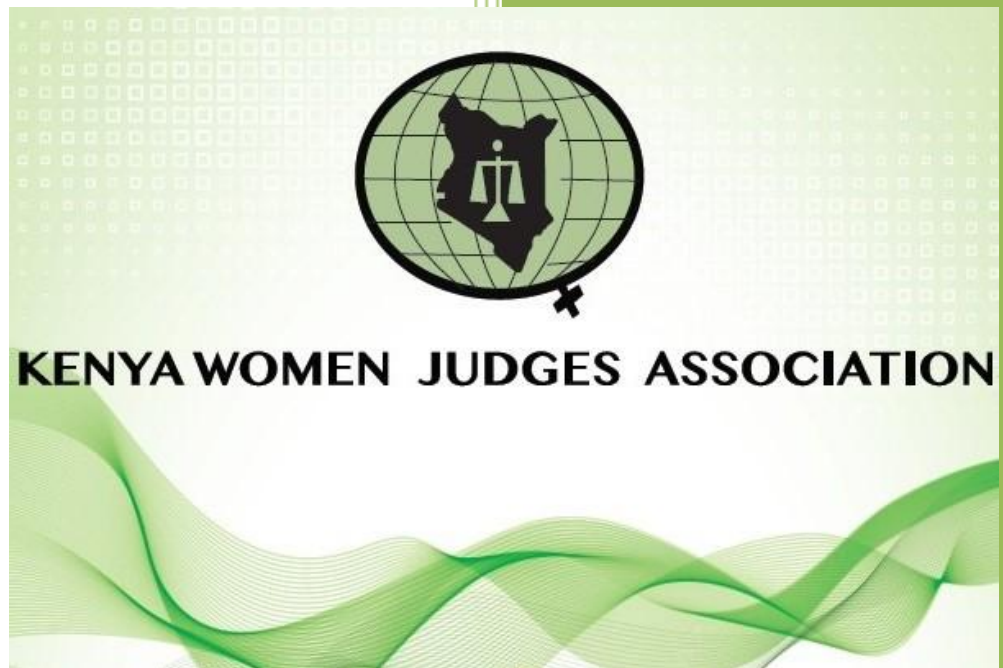


2018

REPORT – 14TH IAWJ BIENNIAL CONFERENCE – “Building Bridges between Women Judges of the World”



**HOSTED BY AMJA
(ASOCIACION DES MUJERES JUECES
DE ARGENTINA)
HILTON HOTEL,
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA.
2ND – 6TH MAY, 2018.**

Delegations in Attendance

A.

1. Afghanistan
2. Algeria
3. Angola
4. Argentina
5. Armenia
6. Australia
7. Austria

B.

8. Bahamas
9. Barbados
10. Belize
11. Benin
12. Bermuda
13. Bolivia
14. Botswana
15. Brazil
16. Bulgaria

C.

17. Canada
18. Chile
19. Colombia
20. Czech Republic
21. China

D.

22. Dominican Republic

E

23. Ecuador

F.

24. France

G.

25. Germany
26. Ghana
27. Great Britain
28. Greece
29. Guatemala
30. Guyana

H.

31. Haiti

I.

32. India
33. Indonesia
34. Ireland
35. Ivory Coast
36. Italy

J.

37. Jamaica
38. Japan
39. Jordan

K.

40. Kenya
41. Korea
42. Kyrgyzstan

L.

43. Lebanon

M.

44. Malawi
45. Mali
46. Mexico
47. Mongolia
48. Montenegro
49. Morocco
50. Myanmar

N.

51. Netherlands
52. New Zealand
53. Nigeria
54. North Ireland

P.

55. Pakistan
56. Palestine
57. Panama
58. Papua – New Guinea
59. Paraguay
60. Peru
61. Philippines

S.

62. Saint Lucia
63. Saint Vincent & the Grenadines
64. Samoa
65. Solomon Islands
66. South Africa
67. Spain
68. Sri Lanka
69. Suriname

T.

70. Tanzania
71. Tonga
72. Trinidad and Tobago
73. Tunis

U.

74. Uganda
75. United States of America

Z.

76. Zambia

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABBREVIATIONS.....	4
---------------------------	----------

OVERVIEW.....	5
----------------------	----------

Introduction to the 14 th IAWJ Biennial Conference.....	5
Representation & Participation.....	5

DAY 1: WEDNESDAY 2ND MAY, 2018

Opening Ceremony & Roll Call of Nations.....	6
---	----------

- Hon. Susana Medina de Rizzo, IAWJ President
- Mr Rodriguez Larreta, Chief of Government of the City of Buenos Aires
- Hon. Luis Lozano, Hon. President of the Supreme Court, City of Buenos Aires
- Hon. Germán Garavano, Minister of Justice of Argentina
- Hon. Stella Maris Martínez, National Public Defender
- Hon. Elena Highton de Nolasco, Vice President of the Supreme Court of Argentina
- Hon. Ricardo Lorenzetti, President of the Supreme Court of Argentina

DAY 2: THURSDAY, 3RD MAY, 2018

Opening of Academic Program.....	12
---	-----------

- Educational Session 1: Gender Violence.....13
- Educational Session 2: Developments in Gender-Based Violence Law:
Femicide, the Belem do Para Convention and other Innovations.....14
- Educational Session 3: The Legal Situation of Women: Perspectives from
Around the World.....18
- Educational Session 4: Human Trafficking: The role of IAWJ and its Members.....22
- Educational Session 5: Simultaneous Participatory Sessions.....25

Room A: The Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction

(In reference to the Conventions of The Hague 1980 and Inter American
Convention on International Return of Children (Montevideo 1989))

Room B: Environment, Sustainable Growth and Gender.

Room C: New Technologies and Gender.

Room D: Ruling with a Gender Perspective

Room E: Reproductive Health Rights

Room F: Global Judicial Integrity Network – Sextortion

Room G: “No me mates” – “Don’t Kill Me”- A story of Corina Fernandez

DAY 3: FRIDAY, 4TH MAY, 2018

- Educational Session 6: Building Bridges with Judges Who Belong to and / Or Serve Indigenous Communities: A Conversation with Canada’s Justice Minister Jody Wilson – Raybould.....34
- Educational Session 7: Digital Transformation of the Judiciary and the Legal Profession: Building Digital Bridges35
- Educational Session 8: Building Bridges with Male Allies: Conversation with Male Judges who have Supported Women Judges and the IAWJ.....39
- Educational Session 9: Gender Equality and Discrimination in the Workplace: Using Data from the World Bank’s Women Business and the Law Reports.....42

IAWJ Regional Meetings.....43

Meeting of Judges on International Courts.....43

DAY 4: SATURDAY, 5TH MAY, 2018

- Educational Session 10: Building Bridges between and among Women Judges: Conversation with U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg45
- IAWJ Business Meeting: Presentation of New Authorities 2018-2020.....45
- The New IAWJ Board of Directors 2018-2020.....46
- Closing Ceremony and Passing of the Banner.....47

DAY 5: SUNDAY, 6TH MAY, 2018

SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATIONS.....49

CONCLUSION.....49

ANNEXURES

- **LIST OF ATTENDEES.....50**
- **PICTORIAL**

ABBREVIATIONS

AMJA	Argentine Association of Women Judges (Asociacion des Mujeres Jueces de Argentina)
BA	Buenos Aires
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
eKLR	electronic Kenya Law Reports
GBV	Gender Based Violence
IAWJ	International Association of Women Judges
KWJA	Kenya Women Judges Association
RH&R	Reproductive Health & Rights
SRHR	Sexual & Reproductive Health Rights
SSA	Sub-Saharan Africa
TAWJA	Tanzanian Association of Women Judges
VAW	Violence Against Women

Legislative Instruments Referred to:

1. Belem do Para Convention
2. Budapest Convention
3. Child Abduction Convention on Trafficking Programs
4. Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
5. Palermo Convention - The Convention Against the Transnational Organize Crime 2000

The 14th IAWJ Biennial Conference was held between the dates of 1st May, 2018 to the 6th of May, 2018. The conference was hosted by the Association of Women Judges of Argentina (AMJA) in the beautiful city of Buenos Aires in Argentina. The theme of the conference was **“Building Bridges Between Women Judges of the World”**. The conference commenced on the 1st of May, 2018 with the registration of participants from the World over at the conference venue which was the Hilton Hotel as well as the dropping off of various silent auction items by the members present.

REPRESENTATION AND PARTICIPATION

The KWJA delegation was made up of 32 Judges and Magistrates and one Secretariat member Ms Angelica Awiti. There were over 1000 other Judges and Magistrates as well as guests at the said conference. Discussions were geared towards building bridges and sharing their experiences from their jurisdictions on the opportunities and the challenges that they face.

The conference was more of discussion based with members sharing and exchanging ideas on the challenges that they face, sharing experiences from their various jurisdictions and less of actual paper presentations.

With the generous support of the Judiciary as well as development partners, KWJA was able to send a team of 32 delegates to the conference. The list of those who attended is annexed to the report. Four (4) members from the team were panel discussants in different sessions at the conference:

- (a) Hon. Lady Justice Hannah Okwengu, EBS, Judge of Appeal
- (b) Hon. Mr Justice Patrick Otieno
- (c) Hon. Christine Njagi
- (d) Hon. Hellen Onkwani

The details of their presentations are captured in the report below.

DAY 1:

WEDNESDAY 2ND MAY, 2018

Opening Ceremony and Roll Call of Nations



Teatro Colon (Columbus Theatre) Buenos Aires: Venue for the 14th IAWJ Biennial Conference 2018

The conference started officially on the 2nd of May, 2018 with the opening ceremony at the famous Teatro Colon (Spanish for Columbus Theatre). Participants arrived at the theatre all dressed for the occasion representing their respective Associations and waving their respective country flags. The staff from the AMJA welcomed members and ushered them into the main theatre hall.

Once all were settled in, **Ms Lisa Davis, the Executive Director of the IAWJ**, welcomed all participants to Argentina and to the conference. She then asked members to stand in honour of the Argentinian National Anthem. After the National Anthem was played, Ms Davis welcomed Hon. Justice Susanna Medina, the President of the International Association of Women Judges, to give her opening remarks.

Hon. Susana Medina de Rizzo, IAWJ President

Hon. Justice Susana Medina welcomed all the delegates, both local and international, to the conference. She applauded the planning team for a job well done and also thanked all her colleagues and protocols observed for the assistance accorded to her and the IAWJ in planning this conference. She acknowledged the presence of government officials, country representatives, Chief Justices from various jurisdictions as well as the one thousand plus (1,000+) Judges and Magistrates from all over the world.

She went ahead to note that main purpose of the conference as well as that of the members of the IAWJ was to ensure justice for all and to make sure that justice in all its forms has, among other virtues, a broad (non-stereotypical), independent (non-sexist), affordable, effective and human face.

She emphasized the need to look at justice from the new ethical idea that on one hand the responsibility lays with us as judicial officers and on the other hand, it lay with all other stakeholders. She noted that **“It is our moral duty as Judges of the world to do away with the wars around us and build bridges among us because in our capacity, we make decisions for the world.”**

As women Judges of the world, it is our duty to ensure that it is understood by all, including our male colleagues, that we are not feminizing justice but working hand in hand to give it a human face. The number of members present was a show of nothing short of a commitment on both personal and institutional level. In her address, Judge Medina shared the slogan **“Mas Mujeres, Mas Justicia”** which translated in English means **“More Women More Justice”**. This slogan ran through the conference.

In conclusion, she paid tribute to the founders of IAWJ both present and absent and thanked them for creating such a forum for women Judges to share ideas, experiences and work together for the common good.

She then called upon a number of her colleagues in the government to make a few remarks. Among those who made remarks are the following.

Mr Rodriguez Larreta, Chief of Government of the City of Buenos Aires, started out by welcoming all present to Buenos Aires, Argentina and to the 14th IAWJ Biennial Conference. He reiterated the slogan “More Women More Justice”, and expressed his pride in the Argentina Association of Women Judges. In his remarks he welcomed the guests to the Colon Theatre and noted that for the first time, it is presided over by a woman. This to him showed the social acceptance of the important role of women in the society. He further noted that though more women were taking up leadership roles, there was still a long way to go in achieving our objective and this was a journey that we would travel together.

He referred to the conference theme which speaks to building bridges among women judges around the world. On this note he said that the concept of building bridges denotes collaborative and cooperative dialogue among us not just women judges but all judges and professionals in all sectors as well as the people whose rights we fight for in our daily work.

In conclusion, Mr Laretta said that they will be listening to us on how to deal with the ‘glass ceiling’ and how to work together for more resources and opportunities for women. Lastly he welcomed the participants to take in the culture of the City of Buenos Aires and enjoy themselves during their stay.

Hon. Luis Lozano, President of the Supreme Court of the City of Buenos Aires, welcomed the participants to the conference. He reiterated the remarks made by those who spoke before him stating that this conference, through its theme seeks to build bridges among us and in turn breed our desires for a better future for all globally. He noted that the important role of women began early from the time of Deborah in the Bible who is known to have held a few mediation sessions under a tree and hence referred to as the 1st woman Judge.

He also applauded Annie Mary Anne Henley Rogers who was the 1st woman to get a college degree from Oxford who in 1877 got a First Class Honours (Second Examination for Honours 'Examinations for Women' - Latin and Greek.) and in 1879 got a First Class Honours (Ancient History). Annie Rogers matriculated and graduated on 26 October 1920.

Minister of Justice of Argentina, Hon. Germán Garavano, expressed his joy in being part of this great occasion. He lauded the idea that bore the Argentina Association of Women Judges (AMJA). He also thanked the previous and current Presidents of the International Association of Women Judges for the great work they are doing in advancing the global collaborative agenda of the IAWJ. He mentioned marginalization of women that is still crippling the society and stating that they would work together in the journey ahead to curb and/ or totally eliminate the vice.

On the program he mentioned that our focus may be on Jurisprudence of Equality and promoting gender equality and the rights of women. He challenged us to work on also guaranteeing justice to all, that is, to provide public defence to all including those who can't access justice due to socio-economic and socio-cultural reasons. He took note of a case where the victim was not only compensated by the perpetrator but also by the Government of the City of Buenos Aires.

He also noted that though we have a long way to go in the fight against discrimination as women we should be encouraged not to keep quiet because we have work to do and we should note that the space we conquer will affect all of us.

Hon. Stella Maris Martinez, National Public Defender thanked the organizers for the invitation. She gave a brief history of her relation to the AMJA and expressed pride in its growth so far. She was quick to reiterate that having more women in the justice system was not feminizing justice but it is giving justice a more human face as those in the justice system should be empathetic people who put themselves in the victim's shoes. This is a character that is likened more to women than to men and hence the importance of more women not only in the justice system but also in positions of leadership within and without the judicial system. In her concluding remarks she stated that our role in our different countries is to push not only for justice but for one that is closer to the community.

Hon. Elena Highton de Nolasco, Vice President of the Supreme Court of Argentina welcomed the participants to Argentina and to Buenos Aires. Hon. Highton de Nolasco noted that she was present at the 1st meeting of the IAWJ to which we owe a lot of gratitude for the impact of our work. She lauded the work done by Ms Arline Pacht who worked tirelessly in dismal conditions, a basement office with little to no internet connection, trying to communicate with women all over the world. Seeing where the IAWJ has reached, it is clear that Ms Pacht's work paid off.

In addition to having more women in the justice system, she made a note by sharing her experience in Seoul where the Orchestra she watched was played by an all women band. This was a clear note of the progress made by the women that came before us.

She concluded by saying that we should continue our work towards access to justice for all especially for women & children and all vulnerable people and groups in the society. At this conference, she added, there is energy and power from one thousand plus (1000+) women Judges from all over the world.

The Hon. President of the Supreme Court of Argentina, Hon. Ricardo Lorenzetti expressed his pride in Hon. Justice Susanna Medina and all presidents who preceded her for their tireless effort and commitment in fighting for the rights women, work whose results are being witnessed globally. He further indicated that Argentina shares in the ideals highlighted in the conference agenda and that the fight against gender & other inequalities must move forward. He noted that there were societal expectations of our work as members of the Judiciary and justice sector and that our work should aim at improving access to justice for all and thus shifting retrogressive values into progressive movement.

After the remarks of the various government officials, Hon. Justice Susanna Medina took back to the podium to read the roll of nations present and called on them to register their presence at the conference. Participants did this by waving their national flags when their country was mentioned.

Kenya's delegation was represented by 31 members of the Kenya Women Judges Association - Judges and Magistrates - headed by our chairlady, Honourable Lady Justice Hannah Okwengu, JA, including one of our esteemed honorary members Mr Justice Patrick Otieno as well as one Secretariat member Ms Angelica Awiti.



L-R: Hon. Commissioner Emily Ominde, Hon. Lady Justice Hannah Okwengu, JA (Chairperson KWJA) and Hon. Lady Justice Jessie Lesiit seated at the main plenary hall of the Theatre ready for the opening ceremony

Members settled into one of the booths at the Teatro Colon ready for the Opening Ceremony.

(L-R): Judge Oundo, Hon. Njagi, Judge Agnes Murgor, JA, Judge Florence Muchemi and Hon. Winfrida Mokaya



At the end of the call of nations Hon. Justice Susanna Medina invited Mr Romano Romani and the BA Police Band to entertain the guests with some music. Mr Romani introduced the band and also applauded Hon. Justice Susanna Medina for this great gesture. He also welcomed the participants to the conference and referred to the conference theme saying that Hon. Justice Susanna Medina was indeed building a bridge between the speakers and the participants. He then invited the band to play the songs they had prepared for the guests.

The band leader introduced the two songs to be played. The first one played was one of the 1st tango songs created seeing as Argentina is the hub of tango and the second song played spoke of freedom and love. He said that the songs message is that “Eyes without love are dead eyes”

After the band played Hon. Justice Medina once again welcomed the participants to the conference, and invited them to enjoy their stay in Argentina as we work to strengthen human bonds. Lunch was served and thereafter members were treated to a Musical event at the Centro Cultural Kirchner (CCK). Members of the Kenyan delegation made a point of spending time together by meeting for dinner at one of the restaurants in town.



Hon. Justice Susana Medina (IAWJ President) addressing the participants and inviting the BA Police Band to play

DAY 2:

THURSDAY, 3RD MAY, 2018

Opening of the Academic Program:

The conference officially started at 9:00am with the ceremonial entrance of the IAWJ Ceremonial Flag.

This was followed by a welcome address by Maria Lucas, a co-founder of the Argentina Association of Women Judges (Asociacion des Mujeres Jueces de Argentina – AMJA). Her address focused on the intention of the theme **“Building Bridges between Women of the World”** and she stated that there is no law school in the world that teaches you to be a Judge or a Magistrate and that the experiences we have on the job is what moulds us for the roles we play. Thus this was a great opportunity for all to learn and grow from each other's experiences that have shaped our career paths and lives as Judges and Magistrates.

Ms Lucas reiterated the words of those who spoke at the opening ceremony on the great idea that is the IAWJ and the impact that the different Associations and regions of the IAWJ have had on the people whose rights we collectively fight for.

She emphasized on the words of the theme and said that members were there to learn, teach and build on their capabilities as Women Judges and Magistrates. She noted that women needed to speak in one voice, show their role in the World and contribute in discussions that will change the world view on women.



Maria Lucas, (C) co-founder of the Argentina Association of Women Judges (Asociacion des Mujeres Jueces de Argentina – AMJA)

In conclusion, she welcomed the participants to the conference and said she looks forward to the discussions that will be shared throughout the next few days. She emphasized that there is need for more women at the top so as to push the agenda on and address gender issues.

“More Women More Justice”

Educational Session 1: Gender Violence

This segment marked the beginning of the educational sessions. It provided a platform for participants to generally describe gender violence, its occurrence, and the trends as well as share jurisdictional work and experiences on the issue. Among the incidences of gender violence, cases of human trafficking especially that of women and children were reportedly increasing.

The session's main presenter was **Elena Highton de Nolasco - the Deputy Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Argentina**. She noted that psychological violence, human trafficking and femicide cases should also be considered as gender violence. She gave insights on how they dealt with these psycho-violence issues in Argentina noting that in one case, the report given by the victim was received, recorded and forwarded to the Court for its consideration.

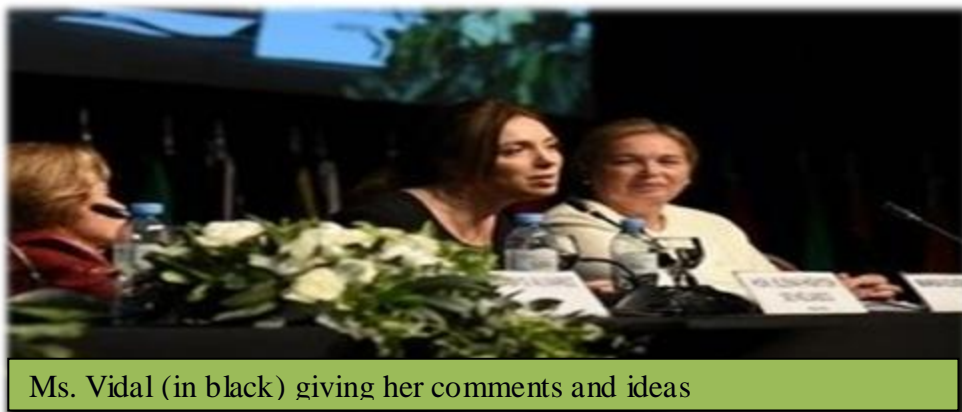
Statistics showed that over 90,000 gender violence cases had been registered in Argentina within a duration of one year and from the research and reports documented it was clear that wealthier families are best known to conceal incidences of gender and domestic violence. Due to these and other factors, Argentina is working to advocate for the mainstreaming of gender issues in the Judiciary to achieve gender equality.

She lastly advocated for the need to free women from gender violence. This she said can be done by women Judges and Magistrates by opening registers to have these cases recorded and also advocate for legislation that protects women against violence.

Her presentation made reference was made to the IBER AMERICA summit meeting with the Chief Justice and other judicial councils to discuss the recorded issues of gender violence. Among them was femicide whose number was increasing despite the decrease in the number of homicide. The discussion in this session was focused on having a conversation around implementing quick rules for a Gender Violence register and promoting our roles in protecting victims of domestic and gender based violence as well as the rights of children.

The **Governor of the Province of Buenos Aires Ms Maria Eugenia Vidal** gave a speech on Women and Justice. In her contribution to the session she also stated that women were not appreciated in their roles as women even though they held high positions. As the 1st woman to hold her position, her election by the people of Argentina was evidence of the change that is taking place in the society.

She further stated that corruption is still rampant especially among the police and that this affects how cases of gender based violence were handled by the force. Progressively, they have managed to send a few to prison. Further to that she stated that there was a need for removal of judicial biases in their province to ensure justice for all; **MORE WOMEN, MORE JUSTICE**.



In her final remarks she noted that it was time we ensure that the decision of the court that affects the victims of violence should be communicated to the victim in a manner they understand because numerous times the decision of the court ends with the understanding of the legal /judicial officer and the victim may not understand resulting in poor implementation of the court decision.

There was also a video message from **Sonia Sotomayor, a Supreme Court Judge in the United States**. In her message Ms Sotomayor said that mentorship is important, whether it is institutionalized and / or informal on a person to person, person to institution or institution to person basis.

Educational Session 2: Developments in Gender-Based Violence Law: Femicide, the Belem do Para Convention and other Innovations

Femicide: is known among other definitions as the sexist violence against women and girls because of their gender and in an effort to re-establish a prior relationship or assert the male power in a relationship. This discriminatory crime of violence ends up in the murder of the woman or girl because of a patriarchal system that believes in the inferiority of women.

The **Belem do Para Convention** is an Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women. It was adopted in 1994 and defines violence against women as a violation of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, and impairs or nullifies the observance, enjoyment and exercise of such rights and freedoms. According to the spirit of the convention, violence against women is an offense against human dignity and a manifestation of the historically unequal power relations between women and men. It pervades every sector of society regardless of class, race or ethnic group, income, culture, level of education, age or religion and strikes at its very foundations. The Convention also establishes that women have the right to live a life free of violence and that the elimination of violence against women is essential for their individual and social development and their full and equal participation in all walks of life.

For this panel, the IAWJ was interested in learning about recent Court decisions; especially those relying on the **Belém do Pará Convention** and/ or other international obligations that States undertake to protect against gender-based violence, especially those decisions involving economic violence.

The session was moderated by Emilia Valle who introduced the session panellists from different parts of the world.

Hon. Aida Tarditti from Argentina started off by noting that there is need for creation of specialized agencies that deal with criminal matters related to gender based violence (GBV) cases. These agencies will be tasked to handle matters with regard to national and procedural laws on SGBV, the issue of not having probation in cases of SGBV, training of all justice and stakeholders on the SGBV matters, and the creation of jurisprudence by the bench on SGBV through ruling with a gender perspective among other issues. She stated that the Supreme Court of Argentina had created a report office which deals with domestic violence.

Hon. Janet Tello Gilardi of Peru emphasized that femicide is the death of a woman for being a woman and there is no justification for the crime. She also noted that there is a need for gender mainstreaming to ensure that these cases were on the decline. In Peru, various campaigns and demonstrations against such cases were carried out to ensure that the voice of women was heard in a patriarchal society.

Hon. Alicia Pucheta from Paraguay also shared the jurisdictional experience from her country. She highlighted that femicide was criminalized in Paraguay in 2010. Since then, people of Paraguay have campaigned against the crime and have prioritized mainstreaming of gender issues and removal of stereotypes in the country. In the same country, there were 100,000 cases reported on violence against women (VAW); of these 3 women suffered sexual violence and 10 suffered direct violence by their partners.

In December 2017, Paraguay passed a new law to protect women and girls from femicide and other forms of violence against them and also provide the much needed assistance to survivors including shelter and legal aid - Act 5777¹

Hon. Delia Marina Davila Salazar from Guatemala also gave her remarks on the issue. In her note, she said that rape and all forms of GBV should be categorized as crimes against humanity amongst the national and in turn international laws. In their country she noted that cases of rape, incest and abuse were categorized as minor offenses and there was mitigation by marriage. However, this was diffused by the passing of the Femicide Law in 2008 as well as the Human Trafficking Law in 2009.

She also highlighted that Guatemala has a register of sexual attackers where the offender's finger prints are taken and recorded in addition to the other personal information. These records are registered in the database and that clearance from the said register would have to be sought in order to find employment. She also emphasized that it is important to note that there is no justice or development without women.

From Mexico, **Hon. Margarita Luna Ramos** also gave remarks on the issue of femicide saying that it has been illegal in Mexico since 1995. On trial of the crime, she noted that the many cases were taken to court

¹ The new law recognizes femicide and obstetric violence (violence perpetrated against pregnant women or during childbirth) as criminal offences, and also outlaws online abuse against women and girls. It provides for comprehensive measures, such as free legal assistance, access to shelter and skills training for survivors. Furthermore, it calls for a unified standardized system to collect data on gender-based violence.

and were being prosecuted and of those taken to court, only 15 cases have so far been finalised since 2015. She noted that a number of challenges have been hindering the effective prosecution of these cases such as lack of adequate resources for the prosecution to try these cases lack of training, low registration of the cases and poor investigations as far as these cases were concerned. She said that for us to move forward, we should look keenly at ways of dealing with the said challenges that face the prosecution of these cases.

Hon. Fernando Ramirez from Argentina was notably one of our male allies and the only one in this panel. He emphasised the fact that violence against women is retrogressive as it affects the structure of the society. In one year, in the capital of Buenos Aires 13,000 allegations of GBV and 4 incidences of femicide were reported. His note made it clear that there is need for training on femicide and GBV and that in addition to sexual offence registers all courts should open registers on femicide.

He recommended that we should work to ensure that

- Just as the Rome statute notes rape is a crime against humanity then the same should be domesticated across countries globally.
- Information on SGBV should be disseminated to all as early as from childhood years so as to instil good social values as children grow while in the school system.
- Psychological values should be taken into account when the cases are heard to ensure that the victim is well taken care of.
- Benefits and procedures of repentance should not be considered as mitigation for allowing femicide.

What was clear from this discussion was that the term “Femicide” was created out of a need for identifying and filing of legal cases on homicides arising from domestic violence and the clear indication that the crime of femicide was on the increase as compared to that of homicide. The discussants agreed that this crime of passion has never and will never be proper.

The justification that was given time and again in defence of femicide perpetrators was that men in general needed to regain power that was being taken from them.

The Inter-American Court did not allow the justification of the crime. It stated that the crime was cruel violence against women adding that it is also a clear discrimination against women. In the trial of a femicide case, the court would not grant the perpetrators procedural benefits as this would sustain the status quo.

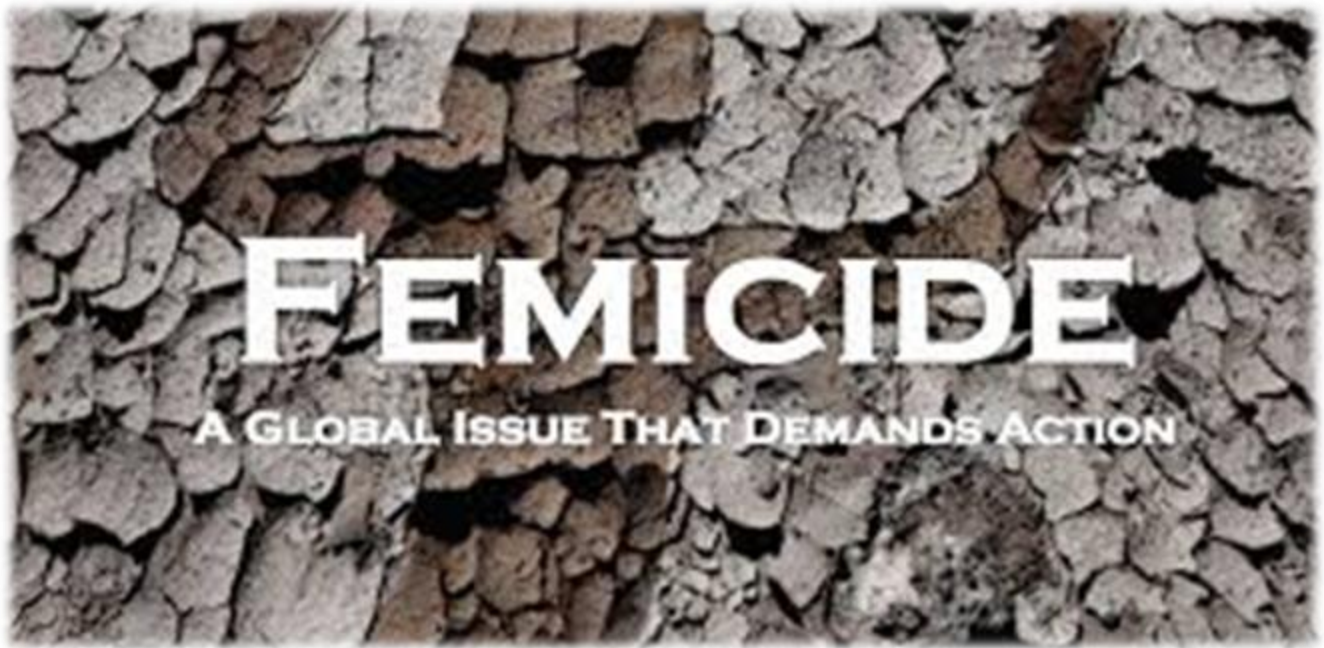


Margarita Luna Ramos (R), and Fernando Ramirez (2R) during the panel discussion

The main question and concern with regard to the way forward was how judges are interpreting certain behaviour in litigants.

The question, “Why did you kill her?” asked to perpetrators in a bid to unearth the reason behind the killing, was seen as pre-emptive and one that would invite the perpetrator to give a socially acceptable excuse / justification.

Femicide is an extreme expression of Gender Based Violence and should be declared and dealt with as a political problem.



Educational Session 3: The Legal Situation of Women: Perspectives from Around the World

The session was moderated by **Nora Luzi** who introduced the panellists of the session and invited them to make their presentations on the topic under discussion.

From the conversation, it was clear that the situation of women around the world, whether legal or not, is affected by a number of aspects such as the jurisdictional culture of the society in which the woman/ women find her/themselves, the societal regulations put in place, the support received from other women and the opinion of the leadership on the place and role of women.

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) create a direction in which the world aspires to move. Goal 5² in particular speaks to gender equality especially for women and girls. Other SDGs highlighted in the discussion were 16³ and 17⁴ which speak to justice systems and partnerships respectively.

In some societies around the world, there is still a lack in social and cultural norms that support women and girls is and no prevention of or protection from violence against women, suits such as divorce cannot be instigated by a woman but at the same time women can be victims of a divorce and also in case of a spouse's death widow's access to property is still a problem.

In the fight against VAW, 21 countries signed the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). However, as will be noted in the remarks highlighted below, the ratification of the CEDAW and other legislations by the signatories does not always translate to acceptance of the instruments therein and governments do not necessarily feel bound by the said provisions. In ensuring there is no accountability in cases of VAW in many countries caveats are usually put on the provisions that speak to the rights of women.

These are some highlights from their presentations:

Hon. Zar Li Aye from Myanmar noted that in their country there is still no prevention or protection of women against violence and that their current guiding document, the Constitution took 14 years to draft. Sections 15 and 34 (a) of the Constitution provided for rules against self-discrimination. On the different aspects of life, she noted that there are still limitations on the positions that women could hold professionally and in marriage, if a woman died before her husband he would take all the property and if the man died first then the sons would inherit the property.

² Sustainable Development Goal 5 – Gender Equality – Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women And Girls

³ Sustainable Development Goal 16 – Peace Justice and Strong Institutions - Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

⁴ Sustainable Development Goal 17 – Partnership for the Goals - Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Hon. Rabaa Al Zreqat from Syria noted that despite her country being constantly in and out of conflict, she was glad and excited to be able to attend the conference and share her experiences as a jurist in Syria. Hon. Al Zreqat noted that women-focused development in Syria was slow despite being a signatory of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and other international interventions.

To date, there are still limitations in the country against women despite signing of various international legislations that promote the advancement of women's rights. For instance, she noted that women are punished severely in case a murder happens during abuse by their partners even if it was in self-defence.

In Syria, a patriarchal society, **Hon. Al Zreqat** noted that a number of discriminative issues stand out. For instance, men can grant citizenship to their children whether or not they live in Syria, women on the other hand do not have the liberty to grant citizenship to their children, they must seek approval from the children's father. Also, with regard to custody of children in case of divorce, women can't obtain custody of the children unless under certain legislative provisions stipulated by the government. The country's Constitution does not protect women's rights.

Despite all these challenges, the Syrian society is slowly but surely fighting to ensure that women are counted and start holding offices of influence but the same is still slow.

Afghanistan is also still facing discrimination and violence against women. **Hon. Fahima Amini** made a presentation on the state of her country with regard to the work being done in the fight for the rights of women. In her presentation she said that in the country there is still no social, cultural or financial support towards women empowerment. The Afghan society still has limitations on issues of access to educational opportunities and professional development for women. The justifications given for restricting women and girls' access to education and professional development have been among others;

- Social norms of the family and the community and also the reasoning that their safety is being considered and ensured.
- The location of the educational programs and professional opportunities
- The minimal number of scholarship and work opportunities available to women

As a result, women are forced to focus on gender ascribed roles such as being care givers of the home and family.

To advance the fight for women's rights, the Afghanistan Women Judges Association (AWJA) was recently launched. They have since established mentorship programmes within the University and are continuously advocating for special representation in the national forum.

The recommendations from Afghanistan were that as women judges, we should work towards:

- Ensuring and advocating for access to justice for women.
- Advocating for more women in the Judiciary.
- Ensuring fair promotions of all women in the Judiciary.

Hon. Rasha Ibrahim Hammad from Palestine State shared her experience in judicial work and noted that the fight for women's rights is gaining mileage in Palestine but still has a long way to go. In her country, women are allowed to study law but appointment of female prosecutors or Judges is still wanting. The community has for a long time been hostile towards women taking leadership positions but in the recent past things are seemingly changing for the better and an enabling environment for women to secure leadership posts is being created. Trust in women Judges and prosecutors has grown and litigants appear before them.

Patricia Rodrigues Torres of Colombia also shared a presentation. On her experience, she emphasized the issue of gender mainstreaming for improved access to justice for all and the elimination of stereotypes. Further she looked into the systemization of the guidelines and principles on femicide, the removal of geographic and economic barriers against women and the need to have a Central core database on SGBV cases.

The lack in social and cultural norms that support women and girls with regard to education as well as professional development e.g. legal development into judgeship may be owed to the perception of the place, role and abilities of women as well as the lack of safety and freedom of movement.

Participants watched a film on the situation in Iran. From the film it was noted that there is a National Council of Resistance which came to be because women still continue to experience discrimination across the social and professional areas. Women aren't allowed among other things to instigate divorce, to leave the home or to be involved in some jobs. Discrimination is also seen in form of violence and sexual exploitation; in cases of death following an incidence of sexual exploitation the perpetrator is not punished. This occurs not due to lack of knowledge but mainly because of the stereotypes about the position of men vs. women in the society regardless of having ratified legislations that advocate for the rights of women.

The situation of women around the world does not match our aspirations yet though it is getting better by the day. There is still a long way to go but it is work in progress. The percentage of women who are enrolled in different education fields has increased as compared to when the advocacy began. For instance, in an 80% enrolment into judicial training, a small percentage of this gets into the system as judges and magistrates. This may be characteristic of a system gap that we may need to deal with to ensure more enrolment of girls into the judicial system.

Besides the increased number of girls in education, the social acceptance is increasing by the day. More communities are seeing the need to empower and educate their women and girls. Recognition is also seen with regard to the positively different experience litigants have when they appear before a female judge as compared to that of going before a male judge. Women judges are known to be more empathetic as compared to their male colleagues.

A number of factors more often than not, play a role in the professional fields whenever a woman is involved in leadership or in making decisions:

- The overarching culture in the organization, which plays a major role in influencing acceptance of women in leadership and other spaces of development

- The leader opinion that men are the leaders and women should be the care givers, and
- The regulations in place which are still not supportive to women for various jobs and educational advancement.
- Women are still not supporting fellow women.

For instance, in the judicial system / occupation as with other sectors there are fewer women at the top as compared to those in the bottom tiers. This may be owed to a number of factors which among others are: the opinion; acceptance of the women judges and their judicial decisions and as explained earlier the difference in trial & judgements rendered which in turn play a significant role in the shaping of the judicial system and other social systems with regard to having women in leadership positions.

Many women judges and judicial officers who came before us and those in office currently can attest to being denied opportunities available for the simple fact of their gender. It is important to note that the legislations ratified expect governments to impact and advance gender issues in the legal instruments in place. It is therefore important and a great ideal for us to, collectively and also in our different jurisdictions, measure the judicial practice with a keen eye on observing justice from a gender perspective and giving a voice to the judges who advance justice in its totality.

Observed protocols help us identify negative stereotypes which are sometimes used to further gender based stereotypes which shows a lack of motivation in advancing gender equity and equality as it allows us to ultimately uphold them and thus ignore rights guaranteed to all including women and children.

From the cases mentioned above it is clear that in order to improve the situation of women and girls in whatever degree, there is need for collective collaborative work in advocating for:

- Respect of the rights of women and girls.
- Increase and improvement of opportunities and access to education and personal development opportunities.
- Recognition of the special role of women.
- A responsive justice system.

The ultimate result would be that by 2030 at the review of the Sustainable Development Goals no one will have been left behind.

Educational Session 4: Human Trafficking: The role of IAWJ and its Members

The session chair **Cristina Leiva** started the session by introducing the panel participants. The discussion during this session was on the role that a network of judges could play in addressing human trafficking. The IAWJ chapters in Argentina, Haiti, South Africa and Tunisia have worked under different forums such as the child abduction convention on trafficking programs, member Judges from many countries spoke at the Vatican in November 2017 on human trafficking, and IAWJ has multiple proposals outstanding on human trafficking.

Human trafficking can broadly be described as the unlawful and illegal migration of a person or persons from one location to another or simply the transnational organized crime as described in UN legal instruments. It can be done by road, water or by air. Human trafficking violates, attempts to and attacks the human dignity of its victims who more often are women and children.

Human trafficking is bred from cases of conflict or insurgencies where homes are destroyed, people die, children are left homeless and uncared for, camps of vulnerable displaced people crop up thus presenting a viable ground of victims available for trafficking. This is because the available resources are not enough to cater for the large number of people. In such situations, women may find themselves having to engage in prostitution and/or marry off their daughters so as to gain favour from the officials or get some resources to feed their families; baby factories also crop up where babies are made for purposes of organ sales, rituals, adoption or trafficking. In other cases, the youth opt to be trafficked due to promises of a better life in the new location.

Hon. Gitta Mital from India noted that in her country, there is massive exploitation of women and children for sex, labour, organ harvesting, adoption and begging and that in the world over, human trafficking is the 3rd most lucrative business.

During trafficking some victims voluntarily commit suicide due to the bad state of life or ultimately due to the realization that the promises of a better were not true and they end up being slaves.

The IAWJ recognized the paramount need for institutions to have airtight systems and policies in order to efficiently and effectively fight against human trafficking and has thus been working with the many countries this cause.

In the fights against human and other forms of trafficking, the 2000 Convention against the Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Convention) was adopted by way of a resolution by the UN General Assembly on 15th of November 2000. It, together with its 3 supplementary protocols, contains elements of the current international law on human trafficking, arms trafficking and money laundering.

From the presentations, it was clear that milestones have also been achieved in more countries in the world on this front. In certain countries in the world such as the Dominican Republic, the Palermo Convention was being domesticated. **Hon. Esther Agelan** noted this and added that in order to strengthen the fight, an inter-institutional committee was established to fight cases and instances of human trafficking. Through this

committee, it was clear that cross institutional coordination is effective and follow up activities such as the prosecution of those involved in the crime is also vital to ensure its complete eradication.

In Nigeria, trafficking is a commercial business in the country. Children are kidnapped and forced to bear children soldiers to add to the numbers of the Boko Haram. There were baby factories for illegal trade, human trafficking as well as organ harvesting. Developments and milestones achieved include the rescue of girls abducted by the Boko Haram. Of the 110 girls who were taken from school, 109 were rescued and of the total number abducted since 2014, 120 have been rescued and returned home.

Hon. Binta Nyako noted that criminals are advancing in this area of human trafficking and the Judiciary and relevant stakeholders have to be abreast of the developments in this morphing crime. Nigeria has a toll free line where incidences or plans of cases of trafficking can be reported. She suggested that the different chapters could take this up in their various countries to deal with the fear of reporting which is brought about by stigma shown to victims. She also emphasized that breaking the silence begins us.



Hon. Binta Nyako – Nigeria.

Another milestone achieved was made by Tunisia as the 1st Arab country to abolish slave trade. **Hon. Saida Chebili** also mentioned that Tunisia also ratified the Palermo Convention in 2003 and adopted a new law against human trafficking in 2012. Tunisia has allowed, in its legal instruments, the definition and investigation and prosecution of the crime by the police and the legal systems. Investigation of human trafficking has also been improved in the country. Members of the judiciary and other stakeholders are also trained on the issues surrounding human trafficking. She noted that this was a good time to learn from best practices adopted by other countries.

In Argentina, **Hon. Maria Fernanda Rodriguez** noted that the judges have taken up the objective of making rulings and court decisions with a gender perspective in mind and have gone further to advocate for a simplified reporting system for gender violence cases at the police station

Hon. Maguy Florestal from Haiti said that they consider human trafficking from the perspective of the victim as well as the trafficker. They continually engage other stakeholders to ensure that the vice was curtailed through activities such as constant training of the stakeholders as well as the Judiciary on the new trends on human trafficking. The crime was morphing as traffickers were finding new angles to evade the law.

IAWJ has and continues to have trainings that help in identifying the negative practice, give priority to the eradication of the crime and advances the recognition and realization of the work that needs to be done.

International Law organizations also have Human Rights trainings that aid in changing the mind-set of judges towards the prosecution of the crime as well as allow them to meet and share experiences of best practices.

The law both civil and traditional and on a global level prohibits human trafficking. In this case, judges need to be proactive to ensure the full achievement of rights violated by this crime. Countries represented were invited to be signatories of the Palermo Convention and instigate the creation and implementation of additional comprehensive legislations that among other things comprehensively define and give direction on the prevention, punishment and prosecution of involvement in the crime.

Recommendations from the session were that:

1. The IAWJ Trainings to be disseminated to all associations to cast a wide net on members trained on the issues of human trafficking.
2. New and emerging trends of human trafficking, such as bearing of children to be trained as soldiers by the Boko Haram and changes in the law on how to deal with these new emerging trends in trafficking should be identified and the information cascaded
3. Cross-border linkages between associations and governments in dealing with the issues of human trafficking should be harnessed.

Educational Session 5: Simultaneous Participatory Sessions

This session involved the delegates attending simultaneous sessions covering a range of topics as follows:

Room A: participants had a discussion on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction- in reference to the Conventions of The Hague 1980 and Inter American Convention on International Return of Children (Montevideo 1989)". Jurisdictional experiences from Argentina (Graciela Tagle de Ferreira), France (Inés Cherichi), Mexico (Josselyne Bejar), Philippines (Estela Perlas-Bernabe) and the USA (Mary Sheffield) were shared with those who attended this session.

Room B: Environment, Sustainable Growth and Gender.

Participants had a discussion on the correlation between these three elements. Panellists in this room made presentations from Argentina (Clara Falcone), Australia (Fleur Kingham & Peta Stilgoe, Mexico (Carolina I. Alcala Valenzuela) and South Africa (Anna Shane Kgoele)



Clara Falcone from Argentina making her presentation on Environment Sustainable Development and Gender

Room C: New Technologies and Gender.

Participants were engaged in a panel discussion around the new innovations in Gender Based Violence (GBV) cases such as panic buttons for potential victims, ankle bracelets and in-home monitoring for defendants. Participants also discussed the weight of the potential that these innovations hold in improving the justice sector's response to GBV and the overall improvement of access to justice.

Participants from Argentina (Natalia Marcela Molina & Daniela Dupuy), Chinese Taipei (Liling Lee), Japan (Tejima Asami), our very own delegates from Kenya (Hellen Onkwani & Christine Njagi) and Tanzania (Joaquine De Mello) also held discussions on the possible threats created by new technologies some with particular ramifications on women and girls.

A number of crimes of new technology that affect women were identified. Among those mentioned were:

(i) Child Pornography in which there is distribution and commercialisation of videos depicting sexual context among children. 80% of these videos are of girls whose age ranges from as little as 2 years – 15

years. Then older age group 8 – 15 years are taught that it grooms them for future sexual contexts. As a result, teenagers end up taking sexual videos of themselves with their age mates. In such areas there is a thin line between child pornography and sexual grooming.

(ii) Revenge pornography in which when sexual context videos are taken consent is given by both parties though many times the said videos are leaked /distributed without the knowledge or consent of one partner who most probably would be a woman. This occurs as a form of intimate partner violence. The Budapest Convention requires all countries to adapt criminal law, adapt procedural legislation (in which sexual integrity and dignity of children as persons compromised by these crimes are upheld.) and to cooperate internationally due to the trans-border nature of the crime.

Panellists also discussed the use of devices in preventing the occurrence of GBV and protecting victims from recurrence. Devices such as panic buttons and electronic bracelets were among those identified.



In Taiwan it was noted that Court proceedings are typed in real time and thus it is possible to get the transcript immediately after the Court session. Documents and submissions are filed virtually and all proceedings are done online. The Court proceedings are also displayed online on monitors inside the Court rooms and so it is easy to follow the proceedings in real time. The Taiwanese judicial system has allowed for the use of video conferencing, Skype and one sided mirrors in court rooms in cases involving vulnerable witnesses or witnesses who were far to protect the victims.

In Argentina it was noted that there was a lot of cyber bullying and harassment of teenage girls and women who either posted nude images on the Internet or whose images are being posted on the internet by their male counter parts as a form of shaming and/or blackmail. The challenge noted in this case was ways in which evidence would be gathered due to the complexities of software as well as the intricacies of adducing such evidence before the Court. It was noted that to avoid the near occasion of re-victimisation, evidence can be collected in a definite manner such as from, among other areas, the victim's phone and social media history. This should be done in line with the Budapest Convention and without breaching the rights of other jurisdictions.

Hon. Joaquine De Mello shared that Tanzania in its governance structure has an ICT policy in place which forms part of their strategic plan. They also have an active case management system to assist in reporting, and prosecuting GBV cases.

Pakistan also has specialized Courts to deal with SGBV cases. This allows the cases to be dealt with in a timely manner and concluded within a day or a week at the most. In addition to the specialized courts, they also have forensic mobile units and pre-planned questions for victims of SGBV to enable them gather data as quickly as possible. The forensic mobile unit enables them to preserve the evidence at the source and at the ease of access to the victim.

From Kenya, the net effect of ICT has been felt across the country's judicial system. **Hon. Hellen Onkwani and Hon. Christine Njagi** shared with the participants what the Kenyan Judiciary has so far done in this area. One of the major reforms that the Judiciary has enacted is the incorporation of Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) whose reforms have enabled access to justice for Women and children especially in matters related to Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and succession matters in family law.



Hon. Christine Njagi and Hon. Hellen Onkwani at the New Technologies and Gender panel session

In addition to this, it was noted that through the Judiciary Integrated Court Management System (ICMS) there has been a steady reduction in incidences of lost or misplaced case files, timely provision of statistics on case progression and performance, growth in the efficiency of the turn-around time with regard to the registry operations and incorporation of new technologies such as the e-Diary, and the e-Case Registration. E-File Movement Tracking, E-Court fees Management, E-Case Documents Management, E- Cause list & Case Activities, E-Reporting, Video conferencing for witnesses outside the jurisdiction of the Court and one-way windows to protect vulnerable witnesses especially children in SGBV cases have also been incorporated in the strategy of improving access to justice in Kenya. The Kenya Women Judges Association (KWJA) advocated for the e-case registration in succession matters. This has reduced the multiplicity of filing similar cases in different Courts.

Challenges highlighted in the Kenyan context were

- Lack of sensitization and adequate information, amongst the Judiciary, key implementers and stakeholders, on the judiciary technological innovations and the vital nature of harnessing technology for improved access to justice,
- Financial constraints, such as reduced budgetary allocation to the Judiciary which hinder any further progress,
- Weak coordination and poor inter-agency cooperation
- The threshold of production of electronic evidence. Section 78 (A) of the Evidence Act, Cap 80, Laws of Kenya, clarity on best practice with regard to providing electronic evidence in court, proving the authenticity of the evidence
- The pending Bill on Computer and Cyber Crimes is yet to be passed.
- The need to input the serial number of all electronic devices used to take the video clips or recordings on the Certificate of Production of electronic evidence.

Recommendations proposed by the Kenyan facilitators included:

- Frequent Dissemination of information on technology and gender. This can be done through the Mobile Courts, Court Users Committees and Judiciary Open days.
- The need to constantly train key stakeholders and implementers on use of technology.
- Governments and other funding organizations and agencies to look into providing adequate financial support to the Judiciary to advance technology and innovation in the justice sector.
- Enhancement international cooperation through bench marking to learn best practices from other jurisdictions such as;
 - ✓ how countries like Taiwan, Australia, New Zealand and the USA have a centralized criminal system in which access to criminal records of a person are available at the click of a button, more like a one stop shop of the Criminal Justice System;
 - ✓ how the forensic mobile unit for evidence collection works;
 - ✓ how other jurisdictions came to establish GBV registries and registers on convicts and how these help reduce the instances of recidivism and help in the provision of information to local authorities on where such convicts are within the country and;
 - ✓ how jurisdictions have been able to install and use panic rooms, panic buttons and ankle bracelets in the prevention and protection of victims from GBV

Room D: Ruling with a Gender Perspective

Panel participants represented countries all over the world. Vesna Medencia from Montenegro, Ayesha Malik from Pakistan, Amel Arfaoui from Morocco, Teresita Leonardo de Castro from Philippines, Kim Yunsun from Korea and Gloria Poyatos Matas from Spain led the discussion by presenting papers on their jurisdictional best practices, experiences and research and reports done and shared so far.

Room E: Reproductive Health Rights

The discussion in this room sought to discuss the area of Reproductive Health & Rights (RHR) the challenges, statistics and the way forward with regard to improving the situation being experienced in the world. **The KWJA Chairperson, Hon. Lady Justice Hannah Okwengu, JA** was part of the panel. Other panellists were Graciela Medina, and Roberto L.M. Godoy from Argentina, Norah Jean Francois from Haiti, and Dr. Ademola Olajide (UNFPA).

The discussion included the definition of Reproductive Health (RH) which is a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing, not merely the absence of disease or infirmity, in all matters relating to the reproductive system and to its functions and processes. It was explained that people have the ability and right to safe and satisfying sex life; capacity to reproduce and the freedom to decide if, when and how often to do so.

It was noted that Reproductive Health embraces certain human rights already recognized in laws and legislative instruments on a national, regional and international level; that RH also recognizes the right to make decisions concerning reproduction including pursuit of a satisfying, safe, and pleasurable sexual life free of discrimination, coercion and violence; that Reproductive Health & Rights have promising benefits to all across the world.

For instance, they enable and advance the creation of a just, equitable and inclusive world, an issue that is central to the UN SDGs. In addition to this, they increase the demographic dividend of a country through the increased number of the population and thus, due to an increase in the healthy and productive nature of its workforce, accelerate the growth of its economy.

Further, in enabling the global access to Reproductive Health & Rights, countries will be able to reduce or totally eliminate social vices such as child marriage, female genital mutilation/cutting, sexual violence and exploitation, as well as increasing access to family planning education and services, safe and legal abortions, and rights-based comprehensive sexuality education for girls and boys.



Hon. Lady Justice Hannah Okwengu, JA (in yellow) at the RH&R panel discussion

One of the challenges identified as still hindering progress in the attainment of universal health standards in Reproductive Rights is that medical knowledge is still wanting especially with regards to gender issues. This may be because in certain instances such as medical training, gender issues are ignored when coming up with training curricular and / or the study is divided restricting training to dealing with curative mechanisms / damage. There is no provision in medical study on preventive mechanisms.

It was recommended that in dealing with this challenge there is need for providing prevention and protection mechanisms, putting into consideration the population being addressed by the training and the end-user, full & responsible exercise of maternity and paternity with guiding laws, policies and regulations as well as the recognition and respect for all.

The Belem do Para Convention also came up in this discussion. It was noted that 32 countries ratified the convention and that many countries have passed comprehensive protection laws, specific to the RHR area of law, covering both domestic and institutional levels. In Latin America, 12 countries have passed such laws. In the spirit of the Convention it is established that women have the right to live a life free of violence and that the elimination of violence against women is essential for their individual and social development and their full and equal participation in all walks of life.

The responsibility of the state in coming up with and implementing laws on RH&R was also discussed. It was noted that the 3 arms of government have independent though collaborative functions with regard to legal documents in a country/state. The Legislative arm of the state is responsible for drafting bills, the executive arm is responsible for passing the bills into laws, and the judicial arm is responsible for enforcement of the said laws.

Statistics on the situation of RH&R through the years were also shared.

On Maternal Health, Maternal Mortality Rates (MMRs) were noted as follows;

- Between 1990 and 2015, dropped by 44% from 385 to 216 maternal deaths per 100 000 live births;
- In this time, there was an annual drop by 43% from approximately 532 000 to 303 000;
- The lifetime risk of a maternal death fell considerably in this space from 1 in 73 to 1 in 180;

It was also noted that the Developing regions account for 99% (302 000) of the global maternal deaths recorded in 2015; with Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) = 66% (201 000); and Southern Asia 21% (66 000); having the highest MMR.

On Child Birth / Child Bearing Statistics show that 8,000+ women have died and 166,000 have been maimed during child birth. 15% of these are girls & women aged between 15- 49 years. Also one in every five girls aged between 15 and 19 has given birth.

On Abortions it was noted that 464,690 unsafe abortions occurred in Kenya in 2012. A rate of 266 per 100,000 unsafe abortions were recorded which resulted in deaths in 2012, giving an estimated number of 1,290 deaths in that year.

On Gender Based Violence, it was noted that it starts early in the lives of women. Girls as young as 15 to those as old as 69 years of age experience GBV. In Kenya about 41% of women have experienced Gender Based Violence (GBV).

Statistics on **Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)** show that globally about 200 million girls and women alive today in 30 countries have undergone FGM; in Kenya 21% have undergone the practice and in some regions in the country it is at percentage of 97%.

The highest prevalence of the practice is performed on girls at the age of 14 years or less translating to about 44 million+. The highest prevalence of FGM recorded among this age is in Gambia at 56%, Mauritania

54%; Indonesia 50%. Among girls and women aged 15 to 49, the highest recorded in numbers are in Somalia 98%, Guinea 97% and Djibouti 93% ;

The statistical presentations also noted **Child Marriage** statistics. For instance, globally in 2010, one in three young women aged between 20-24 years were married when they were still young girls by their 15th birthday. This translated to about 34% = 67 million girls. Asia recorded the highest prevalence of child marriage at 50% followed by Africa at 20%. Niger recorded the highest number of child marriages in Africa (12%) at a rate of 75%.

With regard to estimates done on child marriage, it was noted that if nothing is done, by 2020 about 142 million girls will be married by their 18th birthday which translates to 14.2 million girls married annually and 39,000 girls married daily. By 2030, the number of girls married by their 18th birthday will rise to 15.1 million annually. In Sub-Saharan Africa, an estimated 70 million girls in are at risk of being married in the next two decades (by 2030).

An idea also fronted during the panel discussion was whether Reproductive Health Rights offered cover maternity by substitution (surrogacy) and whether the reproductive capacity of another person can be retained regardless of a person's social class. It was noted that the inherent RHR benefits are rarely accessible to the poor.

In such cases the validity of the contract entered into by the genetic and the bearing mother may face a few issues such as the fulfilment of the terms therein especially in consideration of the laws of the country in which surrogacy is taking place from which the issue of registration may arise - adoption registration vs. direct registration and the implications on the health officer and the institution. For instance in France, the registration of children born of substitution is an issue.

Another issue that may arise would be the possibility of a conflict of interest between the bearing parents and the genetic parents on their rights over the baby. In case of a conflict of interest, the validity and parameters available in place to enforce the terms of the contract and whether we are allowed/able to force the fulfilment of the terms of the contract on the parties.

On this issue, there has been legislative silence that does not help to resolve conflicts that arise from such cases. It was noted that going forward there may be need for regulations that are specific to this area of RHR to deal with the abuse of the poor by the rich and enable assessment on a case to case basis.

The following quote by Professor Mahmoud Fatallah appropriately summed up the dilemma;

“Women are not dying of diseases we cannot treat. They are dying because societies have yet to decide that their lives are worth saving”.

In conclusion, it was noted that despite the challenges mentioned above and in other forums including socio-cultural traditions, societal attitudes and prejudices that face women in the fight for RH&R, judges and judicial officers have the inherent obligation, as duty bearers in implementing reproductive health & rights, to, among other factors:

- ensure that fundamental freedoms and the bill of rights are observed, respected, protected and promoted;

- adopt an interpretation of the Constitution that most favours the enforcement of a right or fundamental freedom; and
- use the opportunity available to them to interpret the law in a manner that advances the rule of law, the human rights and fundamental freedoms in the bill of rights and thus develop the law in the area of reproductive health and rights and innovatively apply it.

National Chapters can help the realization of RH&R by adopting training & sensitization, engaging in strategic partnerships that hold duty bearers accountable and enlightening right holders, mentoring their members, colleagues and the young & upcoming legal professionals and initiating structured operational programs to advance this and other forms of advocacy.

Women judges are known to have a different way of enforcing jurisprudence. They should use the strategic opportunities available to them to advance access to justice as well as collaborate with each other in the area of RH&R

A quote from an unknown source provided an appropriate conclusion to the panel discussion:

“Here’s to strong women; May we know them, may we be them, may we raise them.”

Room F: Global Judicial Integrity Network - Sextortion

The discussion was led by UNODC through their representative Roberta Solis. Other panel discussants included Mina Sougrati (Morocco), Shiranee Tilakawardane (Sri Lanka), Nancy Hendry (USA).

Room G: “No me mates” – “Don’t Kill Me”- A story of Corina Fernandez

A movie called **“No me mates” – “Don’t Kill Me”- A story of Corina Fernandez** was screened and participants engaged in a debate on the issues highlighted by the movie. The movie was an Argentinian documentary about gender based violence and the role of the Judiciary.

DAY 3:

FRIDAY, 4TH MAY, 2018

Educational Session 6: Building Bridges with Judges Who belong to and/ or Serve indigenous Communities: A Conversation with Canada's Justice Minister Jody Wilson -Raybould

This discussion was held in the main plenary hall. The discussion was introduced by the **Canadian Ambassador to Argentina Robert Fry** and **Lucy Lavigne** also from Canada.



Ambassador of Canada to Argentina, Mr. Robert Fry welcomes Ms. Jody Wilson-Raybould (Minister of Justice Canada)

The discussion was to deliberate on issues arising among the indigenous communities around the world and ensure that the justice sector responds effectively and efficiently to their needs. In turn with the inclusion, involvement and consideration of the indigenous communities, the result would be a global improvement of access to justice that ensures no one is left behind.

Here the Minister noted that the indigenous system of governance involved looking at their rights to self-governance and using what resembles the Village elder system in Kenya. She noted that people from these communities could not hire counsel or get legal representation. They were also denied education. She noted that she is the first woman to be the Minister of Justice in Canada and that the indigenous people were the ones in jail more for offenses.

The country was looking at bail and bond of these communities considering their circumstances as well as considering other forms of incarceration other than sentencing. Sentencing circles within the community were encouraged as well as restorative justice. Their Judicial Training Institute was training Judges and Magistrates on how to deal with these communities as well as they encouraged sentencing circles to be done for perpetrators of such crimes within their community.

They had so far 5 indigenous Judges and Magistrates on the bench. It was also noted that the University of Pretoria is now offering degrees in indigenous studies.



Ms. Jody Wilson-Raybould, Minister of Justice Canada, makes her presentation on indigenous communities and the role of judges who serve among them

Educational Session 7: Digital Transformation of the Judiciary and the Legal Profession: Building Digital Bridges

In looking at the transformation that is taking place in the Judiciary, it is clear to see that there are both positive and negative impacts to it. The panel in this session discussed the positive and negative effects of technology and sought to strategize on ways that we can work together to harness the positive effects and reduce / totally eliminate the negative effects in a bid to enhancing the judicial mandate, access to justice and have total social inclusion.

The session was chaired by Susan Glazebrook who introduced the panelists of the session: China (Jing Xu) Latin America – Microsoft (Erica Chavez Castillo) Lebanon (Hania Helweh), Nigeria (Helen Moronkeji Ogunwumiju), Paraguay (Vivian Lopez Nunez) United Kingdom (Anisa Dhanji) and USA (Catherine Hoskins)

From the discussions it was clear that digitization of the court system has on one hand brought many positive effects within and without the justice system. Among many other multiple benefits, it has allowed the speedy dispensation of justice and also access to justice & information is no longer limited to the court house as parties can acquire the needed information and also litigate the smaller cases remotely.

Hon. Erica Chavez Castillo, a representative of Microsoft-Latin America noted to this saying that currently there is a lot of data within the digital platforms that can be utilized to promote and enhance access

to justice for all. She also noted that there is need to find a way to utilize this data by also presenting in court in a way that the Court shall understand it. This shall ensure that justice is served to all.

Hon. Helen Moronkeji Ogunwumiju from Nigeria shared the work that has been done in her country. She noted that so far, digitization of the judiciary is on course. In her presentation she highlighted that Nigeria had incorporated an electronic Case Management System (CMS) for the 3 levels of the court which is also incorporated in the national judicial email system. All judges and judicial officers are mandated to subscribe to the CMS. They also have a digital record of all decided cases much like the eKLR reporting system in Kenya. Using their digital mechanisms allows the judiciary to alert advocates and litigants on their cases (filing, when they are ready for trial and progress). Similar models have been piloted in some court stations in Kenya e.g. the Eldoret Law Courts in Kenya and can be rolled out to other Courts within the Country region and the world over.

To ensure the continuity of these systems, the full management of the judicial technology platform has been put in the hands of the judiciary and the Judiciary in Nigeria has gone ahead and signed MOUs with other institutions in a bid to collaborate and share ideas on more ways of improving the efficiency of CMS.

The United States of America, technological advancement has also proven to be beneficial to the country in a number of ways. **Hon. Catherine Hoskins** noted a number of innovations in the digitization of the judicial system in America. For instance, the country has implemented an e-filing system as an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism. In this system, cases whose claim amounts to less than \$10000 USD are filed online as small claims, adjudicated online and the judgment is rendered online. The country also has a robocall system, which has been incorporated as a way to communicate to parties concerning their cases. The Robocall System is used to send text messages, call and / or email defendants, litigants and advocates reminding them on the date of their next court appearance and alert litigants on when an order has been signed.

The US also has a video conferencing system which enables the litigation of cases from the incarceration premises. This reduces the cost incurred in transporting inmates to and from jail and also reduces cases of security lapses.

In addition to the above the US Judiciary has a language line toll free call line. This helps in making court proceedings easier to follow for all involved as it helps to find court interpreters for cases which involve testimonies from foreigners who may not be able to speak English.

Last but not least the system has also advanced with regard to notifying judges and judicial officers on a number of issues such as the review of evidence e.g. in DUI cases, the blood sample results are uploaded onto the online case file.

Hon Vivian Lopez Nunez noted that Paraguay has experienced a lot of socio-economic and socio-political challenges. For instance, there have been 2 international wars in less than a century and discrimination and violence against women has been rampant over the years. Case research report statistics show that in 2017 – every 4 days 1 woman was killed.

In the country, there has been an increase in the number of opportunities given to women. The Paraguay President is a woman, Hon. Lopez Nunez was the 1st digital Judge in the country. Paraguay started the first digital litigation of an online case that was filed in 2016 and are still working and developing on the digital platform.

Currently, there is a 50/50 chance of having a woman in the different levels of professional leadership. Parliament is also discussing the issue of gender parity. The judicial system has also incorporated women; 49.8% of judges are women and 3 out of 9 judges in the Supreme Court are women.

Technology in Paraguay has proved to be an ally to women judges and judicial officers. Women are responsible for incorporating technology in the office space. With these advancements they are able to balance their professional life and their home life as there is an allowance of working remotely and the time is also flexible. This also allows positive competition between women and men.

In the United Kingdom, there is recognition of the important role played by technology on the lives of everyone. **Hon. Anisa Dhanji** noted that this has led to the aspiration to fully embrace the digital age in the court system. As with any other advancement, huge investments have been made to digitize the court system in the next few years. Among the digital transformations expected to take over the judicial system are the incorporation of online and digital programs to enable judges and judicial officers to work remotely; incorporation of a judicial interface where they can access information work on their cases remotely from anywhere in the world in real time, incorporation of a virtual online court system to enhance and simplify access to justice as well as have a paperless system where submissions are filed and proceedings are followed in a paperless model.

In view of the above, the UK has been able to have a number of technological initiatives. These include the advancement in sharing information and having an online Q&A platform. Through this platform, litigants are able to ask question on how to approach the court and issues of best practice with regard to standard operating procedures of the court, paperless training is also enabled owing to the availability of online content, litigants are also able to file submissions online and a telephone management of cases (video links and phone calls) is enabled. Through this telephone management system judges and judicial officers are allowed to attend court even when not everyone is present for the court appearance. This helps in minimizing case adjournments.

This global advancement in technology has allowed and enabled a comprehensive judicial system and enhanced the judiciary's mandate & independence through enhancing access to justice and information.

On the other hand, digitization has also brought with it some negative effects. For instance, in trial of a case where there is claim of disability, the judge or judicial officers may find it difficult to determine truth to this claim. Also, online litigation loses the human interaction which is paramount to any lawsuit and in some cases the litigants may not see the need to be truthful and/or take the judicial system seriously. Additionally, as much as we are looking into digitizing the judiciary, we need to consider the speed at which technology. In this regard we may need to either keep changing the judicial system as technology changes or move at a feasible pace which may mean that we will be left behind even after making huge investments.

Also, in addition to the above, there is also the issue of cybercrime – criminal activities done remotely using computers and the internet – and internet theft which in most cases is characterized by identity theft and loss of personal information and / or funds. Both pervade the legal, moral and physical aspects of any social system.

In the case of cybercrime, the work rests on the burden on proof. This is because the way in which the crime is committed is very different from that of the normal cases.

- In cybercrime and internet theft it may not be possible to find and settle on a particular the crime scene. This is because it can be anywhere in the world because the crime is committed remotely.
- Evidence preservation is also an issue that would pose a challenge in the burden of proof
- Procedural law with regard to the requisite steps to be taken in case trial may not be adhered to due to the minimal to lack of the required parameters in need for information, its collection, preservation, retention and assistance in acquiring the said information.

In the case of Lebanon, **Hon. Hania Helweh** shared that in her country there are cyber- crime laws as well as real time collection of data. She also noted that the Lebanese judicial system has developed a cyber-crime digest and also relies on the Budapest Convention on Cyber Crime Laws

China has automated the Courts have incorporated the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the Courts. In addition to this the Chines Judiciary have also gone ahead to digitize the investigation system by having an online investigations and control system. China also has a Judicial online platform through which case proceedings are broadcast, judgments are rendered, the orders / instructions of the court are enforced.

In order to have a global impact on the advancement of technology, we should consider including the disadvantaged groups, constantly share information between institutions, countries and regions as well as constantly and consistently train and sensitize judges, judicial officers and professionals in other fields on technology, its effects (both positive and negative) as well as how to manage it and mitigate the risks therein. The 21st Century belongs to women and we must take the initiative to drive progress in the right direction.



Hon. Jing Xu (China)



Hon. Érica Chávez Castillo (Microsoft, Latin America)



Hon. Catherine Hoskins (USA) & Hon. Helen Ogunwumiju (Nigeria)



Hon. Hania Helweh (Lebanon)



Hon. Anisa Dhanji (United Kingdom)



Hon. Vivian López Núñez (Paraguay)

Education Session 8: Building Bridges with Male Allies: Conversation with Male Judges who have Supported Women Judges and the IAWJ

While the vast majority of IAWJ's members are now and always have been women judges, IAWJ does not discriminate based on sex, and has always welcomed male judges as colleagues and valued friends. In this session, the IAWJ had a panel of male Judges and colleagues to share their ideas and experiences on working with women and the social repercussions therein.

IAWJ sought to find out what attracted their interest in working with women and / or on women's rights or gender-based issues such as violence and gender equality, why they have become a supporter and member of IAWJ, and what the experience has meant to them.

The panel included panellists from Argentina (Fabian Cardoso & Luis Maria Palma) Brazil (Rafael de Menezes) **Kenya (Hon. Mr Justice Patrick J. Otieno)** and Mexico (Alvaro Augusto Perez Juarez & Ricardo Suro Esteves).

The discussion in this session brought up a few issues that are being experienced similarly in the different regions around the world. The panellists deliberated on issues, challenges and gains they have experienced in their journey as members and / or colleagues of Women Associations around the world. In the sentiments shared by the panel discussants, it is clear that one of the challenges ailing the judicial system is that judicial members didn't work together but as two separate teams based on

gender. This brings about a dysfunctional system and thus there is need to sensitize all Judges and judicial officers on the importance of working together as one team in the achievement of our aspirations as an institution. This will enable the review of gender issues at the workplace, and include women in the leadership and decision making processes.



In Pakistan, the judicial system has been able to review the gender policies in place, included female judges in the committees, given top leadership and management positions to both men and women and included female judges in the reform agenda. As evidence of this inclusion of women in the transformation of the judicial system, Pakistan sent a delegation of 25 female judges to the IAWJ Conference. This is the largest delegation that has ever left Pakistan.

It was also noted that there is need to establish a Gender Based Violence Court to deal specifically with cases of GBV. In this court, the questions posed should be assessed to avoid re-victimization and humiliation of the victim and/or the witnesses. Children perpetrators of GBV /in conflict with the law should also be dealt with as such – children. This may be done by creating a diversion that is accommodative / considerate to them being children in conflict with the law.

On the question as to why they saw the need to attend the conference, the panellists said that it is important to note that, in order to live a full life, people must encounter one another and share their thoughts, ideas and experiences. It has been noted through the years, that women have a unique leadership trait that should be harnessed. They also noted that gender issues are closely related to human rights and thus for all to live in a better world, we should consider having one where women and girls live in peace without fear of discrimination and/or violence.



Another question posed to the panellists was whether there was any difference in judgments made by the different genders. It was noted that women may be more empathetic to the case in question thus giving the judicial system a more human face. At the same time, it was noted that women understand the judicial system and so they work in accordance to the policies put in place. Additionally, the work done by women judges has brought a discussion on human rights, GBV, sexual offences and domestic violence to the forefront and thus there should not be any discrimination with regard to allocation of cases based on gender

The panellists also shared their sentiments on why they believe they are allies. In this segment they said that working with women is something that started long before the complete social realization of this need. Most of the panellists have worked with women all through their socio-professional life. In their work, an admiration of women and the interest to improve their working conditions was bred. For instance, admittedly, there is a clear connection between their previous and current work with women and the improved access to justice.

The panellists also noted that women and children time and again have a valid case in court though more often than not, they may have a problem conveying their cases. And so, in working with women in all spheres of society, we are moving forward in the right direction.

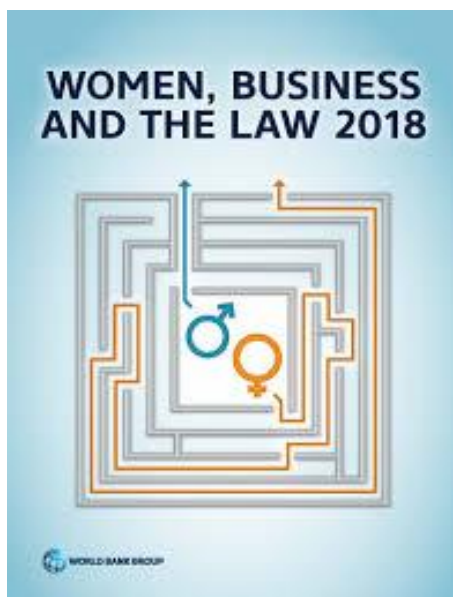
Challenges the panellists have faced because of being allies to women were also discussed. Noted was the fact that there was resistance among the other male judges and judicial officers, jokes were made about them working with women, but with persistence, determination & knowledge acquired through time, as well as constantly training their colleagues, there was a positive shift in mentality. This is owed to the realization that for there to be progress we must work through the social prejudices, a task that is part of the judicial mandate in which women play a central role. It was also clarified that their working with women and the advancement and increase in the opportunities available to women is waging a war, not against men but against perpetrators of discrimination and gender based violence.

In conclusion they noted that experience is important as it affects everyone and effects change. Hence going forward it is important to transfer and share this experience to those in their different jurisdictions.

Education Session 9: Gender Equality and Discrimination in the Workplace: Using Data from the World Bank's Women Business and the Law Reports

This panel built on the work of IAWJ's very successful panel at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in March 2017, and introduced the World Bank's biennial reports on "Women, Business and the Law". These reports are a valuable yet largely untapped resource for judges, especially those dealing with labour and employment law. The purpose of this discussion is to share jurisdictional and recent developments concerning gender equality in the workplace.

Ms Nayda Almodovar-Reteguis from the World Bank – Women Business and the Law Program gave a brief presentation on the "Women, Business and the Law" Report which was availed to all participants in the conference. Ms Almodovar-Reteguis was joined in the panel by Susan Booth (Australia), Lilia Monica Lopez Benitez (Mexico), and Hyunhee Han (South Korea).



The World Bank "WB&L Report - 2018"

The World Bank report showed that the areas under review have a correlation with the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). In some areas around the world, basic access rights such as the right to work, have a bank account, and / or have an identification card are not directly granted / allowed to women. In some areas, this and other rights require prior authorization, in most cases by men, before they can be granted.

The panel also highlighted the fact that security of a woman/ women at the workplace is vital for the realization and retention of their rights. For instance, when a woman complains of unfair treatment in the workplace and is offered better pay so as to silence her, the burden of proof shifts from her employer to her.

From the panel discussion it is clear that there is need for us to work further for women's rights to allow women to have more negotiating power. There is hope in a better future for women. Participants were therefore urged that if and when they see a closed door they should not walk away but should 'kick it open'. This will pave way to enable us to 'break the glass ceiling'.

IAWJ REGIONAL MEETINGS

As per the IAWJ by-laws, IAWJ members in each of the 5 IAWJ Regions across the world – Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe and the Middle East/North Africa, Asia and the Pacific and North America - convened their regional meeting. Judicial matters important in the region were discussed and regional directors to represent each region in the IAWJ were elected.

The African region had their meeting and minutes of the proceedings were noted. Hon. Lady Justice Hannah Okwengu, JA from Kenya chaired the meeting as the President of the IAWJ Africa Region. Members then presented their country reports. Members didn't read through the country reports to save on time.



This being an election year for the African Region to elect a member to the Board of Directors of IAWJ, members were geared to vote in their representatives for the next 2 years. We are proud to state that alongside Hon. Justice Ngozi Priscilla Emehelu of Nigeria, our very own **Hon. Lady Justice Hannah Okwengu, JA – Chairperson, KWJA** was voted in to represent the Africa Region in the **IAWJ Board of Directors**.



Hon. Lady Justice Hannah Okwengu, JA – President of the IAWJ Africa Region



Hon. Lady Justice Hannah Okwengu, JA and Hon. Justice Shane Kgoele of South Africa share a congratulatory hug after the elections.

Kenya was also received accolades for its efficient Secretariat and as a result were proposed and nominated as the **Permanent Secretariat of the African Region.**

Meeting of Judges on International Courts

There was also a closed door meeting for members of the IAWJ serving on international tribunals.

DAY 4:

SATURDAY, 5TH MAY, 2018

Educational Session 10: Building Bridges between and among Women Judges: Conversation with U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

Due to unavoidable circumstances, this session would not proceed.

IAWJ Business Meeting: Presentation of New Authorities 2018-2020

In this session, IAWJs intended to explain how it makes decisions about which chapters to engage in projects and what they require from our partners chapters. Often decisions are shaped by donor priorities and opportunities. IAWJ also looked to explore a priority of both Lisa Davis and Susana Medina which is, ways in which they could expand opportunities for members from chapters with which the IAWJ does not have projects.

In the recent past projects, IAWJ was able to create opportunities, for example, there were collaborative activities between judges from Argentina and the IAWJ in the Dominican Republic. The IAWJ also brought judges from the United States and Tanzania to the Middle East/North Africa region.

Going forward, the IAWJ considered how to broaden, lengthen, deepen and strengthen the “bridges” that connect members, chapters, staff, and the Board of Directors.

The new Board of the IAWJ that included the new President Hon Vanessa Ruiz Judge District of Columbia Court of Appeals and Board Members who represent the different regions of the IAWJ were introduced to the delegates. Later the Board held its first meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to have a preliminary sitting to know each other and strategize on the way forward with regard to the business of the IAWJ across the world with the help of its regions, chapters and members under the able leadership of their heads.



The New IAWJ 2018-2020 Board comprised of the Executive Council and Board of Directors with 18 members representing the five regions of IAWJ membership

The IAWJ Board of Directors'

The Executive Council

As per the guiding documents that govern the IAWJ, Executive Council officers are elected by the full board members every two years. The 2018-2020 Executive Council are:

- Hon. Vanessa Ruiz, District of Columbia Court of Appeals, Washington DC, United States – **President**
- Hon. Susan Glazebrook, Supreme Court, Auckland, New Zealand - **President–Elect**
- Hon. Binta Nyako, Federal High Court, Abuja, Nigeria - **Vice President**
- Hon. Margarita Beatriz Luna Ramos, Supreme Court of Mexico, Mexico City, Mexico - **Vice President**
- Hon. Mina Sougrati, Administrative Tribunal of Casablanca, Casablanca, Morocco - **Secretary/Treasurer**

Ex Officio Members to the Council are:

- Hon. Susana Medina de Rizzo, Superior Court of Justice of Entre Rios, Argentina - **Past President**
- Lisa Davis, International Association of Women Judges, Washington DC, United States - **Executive Director**
- Hon. Arline Pacht, International Association of Women Judges, Washington DC, United States - **Founder**

The IAWJ Board Members

IAWJ Board members are elected by the membership at each Biennial Conference. The 2018-2020 Board Members are: (inclusive of members of the Executive Council)

Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) Hon. Lady Justice Hannah Okwengu, EBS, Court of Appeal, Nairobi, Kenya & Hon. Justice Ngozi Priscilla Emehelu, High Court of Enugu, Enugu, Nigeria

Asia and the Pacific - Hon. Maria Theresa M. Arcega, Sandiganayan, Quezon City, Philippines & Hon. Robyn Tupman, District Court of New South Wales, Haymarket, New South Wales, Australia

Europe and the Middle East/North Africa Hon. Gloria Poyatos Matas, High Court of Justice of the Canary Islands, Las Palmas de Gran Canarias, Spain & Hon. Saida Chebili, Court of First Instance, Sousse, Tunisia

Latin America and the Caribbean Hon. Esther Elisa Agelan, Supreme Court of the Dominican Republic, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic & Hon. Jovita Alicia Rojas de Bortoletto, Court of First Instance for Children and Adolescents, Asunción, Paraguay

North America Hon. Julie Thorburn, Superior Court of Justice, Toronto, Canada & Hon. Lisette Shirdan-Harris, Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas, Pennsylvania, United States

Closing Ceremony and Passing of the Banner

The Argentina Association of Women Judges (AMJA) hosted a gala dinner to officially close the conference. The ceremony was held at the Hilton Hotel ballroom. Members arrived ready for the gala dinner dressed in their national colors and outfits.

The dinner began with a final roll call of nations which was characterised by a celebratory entrance of the different chapters showcasing their outfits. The Kenya delegation was dressed in the National colors, a testimony of our pride and patriotism and was ushered in with their signature tune of “Twajivunia Kenya, (Proud to be Kenyan)” and later “Hakuna Matata (No Worries/Problems)” a song that is known globally and is representative of Kenya whenever played. The delegation sang proudly as the songs were played.

As is tradition, the results of the ‘Global Treasures’ silent auction were also announced at the gala dinner.

The IAWJ Vice President, Hon. Susan Glazebrook, a Judge of the Supreme Court of New Zealand, made a welcome note to all members inviting them to Auckland New Zealand in 2020 for the next Biennial Conference.

After this members then danced the night away as they further exchanged contacts and trinkets with new friends.



Hon. Susan Glazebrook, addressing members and welcoming them to Auckland New Zealand in



Hon. Susan Glazebrook, IAWJ Vice President (L), Hon. Susana Medina, former IAWJ President (C) and Mr Robert Fry Ambassador Canada-Arg. (R)

DAY 5:

SUNDAY, 6TH MAY, 2018

9.00am- 5:00pm: Delegates who were interested were taken on a tour of Buenos Aires aboard the city tour buses at different times of the day.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND LESSONS

Achievements

1. Kenya was commended for the great job it is doing and was thus appointed as the permanent secretariat of the African region. This is a great opportunity to advance projects under the strategic plan 2017-2021.
2. Lady Justice Hannah Okwengu was elected as a board member to represent the Africa Region in the IAWJ Board of Directors.

Lessons Learnt

1. **More women More Justice:** As women judges and judicial officers, we have the opportunity to advance and advocate for better living and working conditions for women and children around the world. Increasing the number of women in the justice system as well as other sectors will ultimately increase the social acceptance and inclusion of women in the decision making processes and thus help in attaining the global objectives such as the Sustainable Development Goals
2. **Building Bridges** is a sure way to go. Through the experiences shared by the representatives of the different jurisdictions, it was clear that there is a vast pool of knowledge that can be used to positively effect change globally. Benchmarks and shared experiences will result in a positive global turn over in the fight against social vices such as GBV. Bridges should be built intra/inter-agency, across regions, continents and the world.
3. **We are one:** As noted in the discussions, building bridges between us and our male counterparts is also vital in ensuring we achieve our aspirations for those whose rights we fight for in our daily work. We should work as a team and not as two separate bodies based on gender because our objective is similar: Ensuring timely, efficient and efficient justice to all and for all.

They say all work and no play makes jack a dull boy; With this in mind the members also took the opportunity to learn more about the Argentine culture. For instance, members took up the opportunity to learn the Tango, a dance that is deeply rooted in the local culture in Argentina. The conference organizers had organized free classes for those interested in learning some basic skills. This helped members unwind after intense training sessions.

Being a Spanish speaking country, it was inevitable for members to learn a few Spanish words e.g.

Buenos Dias / Hola / Como estas?	– Good morning or Good day/ Hello / How are you?
Avenida / Calle	– Avenue / Street
Buenos Tardes / Buenas Noches	– Good afternoon / Good night
Uno Cambio	- Forex
Uno Peso	- One Peso
Cuantos Dólares?	- How many dollars?

CONCLUSION

KWJA is grateful to the Judiciary, our development partners and the IAWJ for the support that they accorded to enable us attend and indeed participate in the said forum. A lot was shared from which we learnt new possible ways of diversifying and enhancing our work. We were also able to make new connections with jurists from different jurisdictions around the world. Our experience at the conference enabled us to appreciate use of technology in dispensing justice and also in gender issues within the justice sector.

We wish to sincerely thank the His Lordship the Honourable Chief Justice, and President of the Supreme Court, Mr Justice David K. Maraga, EGH, the Chief Registrar of the Judiciary, Hon. Anne Amadi, the Principal Judge of the High Court Hon. Mr Justice Richard Mwongo and the Registrar of the Magistrates Court Hon. Peter Mulwa for the support and assistance accorded to the Association in sending the delegation to Argentina.

ANNEXURES

Annex 1: List of members of the Kenyan Delegation

	NAME	STATION
1.	Hon. Lady Justice Hannah Okwengu, EBS, JA	COA – Kisumu
2.	Hon. Lady Justice Jamila Mohammed, JA	COA – Kisumu
3.	Hon. Lady Justice Roselyn Nambuye, JA	COA – Nairobi
4.	Hon. Lady Justice Agnes Murgor, JA	COA – Nairobi
5.	Hon. Lady Justice Millicent Odeny	ELRC – Eldoret
6.	Hon. Lady Justice Florence Muchemi	Embu Law Courts
7.	Hon. Lady Justice Lilian Mutende	Kitui Law Courts
8.	Hon. Lady Justice Hellen Wasilwa	Milimani Commercial Courts
9.	Hon. Lady Justice Lydia Achode	Milimani Law Courts
10.	Hon. Lady Justice Rose Ougo	Milimani Law Courts
11.	Hon. Lady Justice Grace Ngenye	Milimani Law Courts
12.	Hon. Lady Justice Jessie Lesiit	Milimani Law Courts
13.	Hon. Mr. Justice Patrick J. Otieno	Mombasa Law Courts
14.	Hon. Lady Justice Anne Omollo,	Mombasa Law Courts
15.	Hon. Lady Justice Roselyne Korir	Nakuru Law Courts
16.	Hon. Lady Justice Roselyne Wendoh,	Nyahururu Law Courts
17.	Hon. Lady Justice Mary C. Oundo	Nyandarua Law Courts
18.	Hon. Lady Justice Abigail Mshila	Nyeri Law Courts
19.	Hon. Lady Justice Lucy N. Gacheru	Thika Law Courts
20.	Hon. Anne Amadi, CBS	Chief Registrar of the Judiciary
21.	Hon. Winfrida Mokaya	Judicial Service Commission
22.	Hon. Irene Kahuya	Machakos Law Courts
23.	Hon. Comm. Emily Ominde	Makadara Law Courts
24.	Hon. Christine Njagi	Milimani Law Courts
25.	Hon. Zipporah Gichana	Milimani Law Courts
26.	Hon. Hellen Onkwani	Milimani Law Courts
27.	Hon. Rosalynn Aganyo	Milimani Law Courts
28.	Hon. Joyce Gandani	Kibera Law Courts
29.	Hon. Jane Kamau	Kibera Law Courts
30.	Hon. Judith Wanjala	Nyahururu Law Courts
31.	Ms. Angelica R.A. Omondi	KWJA Secretariat

Annex 2: Pictorial



First stop: Some of the delegates registering our presence at the Conference



Lady Justices (L-R):
Judge Ngenye, Judge Gacheru, Judge Muchemi and
Judge Mshila



A true representation of the growing numbers of opportunities for women in the Judiciary: The Kenyan Delegation in KWJA shirts and scarves



Photo with our Argentine colleagues at the Opening Ceremony



Members all smiles as they await the commencement of the Opening Ceremony



A photo with our Pakistani friends



Our sisters from Pakistan: For the 1st time the country has sent out a large delegation of women (25) to an international conference



Mexico was also represented at the Conference



A Photo with the Kenyan Delegation at the Conference Banner during health break



Our sisters from TAWJA



A photo with the BA Governor



**At the flag station - My land is KENYA
Hon. Mr. Justice P.J. Otieno**

Also at the flag station:

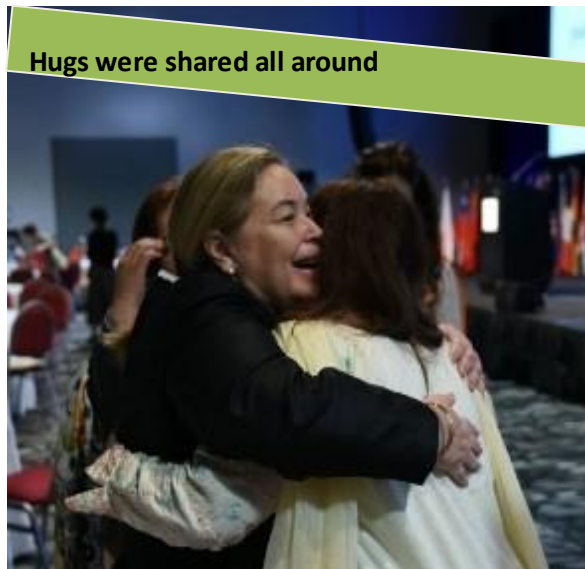
**Hon. Lady Justice Roselyne (L) Korir and
Hon. Lady Justice Agnes Murgor, JA (R)**



**(L-R) Hon. Lady Justices Mohamed, JA, Murgor, JA, Mshila, J, Korir, J, Okwengu JA and Nambuye, JA
following the panel discussion.**



**Hon. Lady Justice Murgor, JA, Hon. Mr. Justice P.J.
Otieno and Hon. Kahuya**



Hugs were shared all around



Hon. Maria Eugenia Vidal and Hon. Justice Susana Medina



A photo with the IAWJ President 2016/18: Hon. Christine Njagi, Hon. Justice Susana Medina, Hon. Joyce Gandani and Hon. Hellen Onkwani



The end of the Academic Program: Participants in the main plenary hall congratulate each other for a job well

GALA DINNER PICTURES

(Creativity at its best; all delegations put their best foot forward in portraying and representing their country in various outfit designs. Concept....The country national outfit / flag and colors)



















Building Bridges between Women Judges of the World will ensure

“MORE WOMEN MORE JUSTICE”