

COALITION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

ROME STATUTE @ 20
1998-2018

Twenty years of international justice: a toolkit for
commemorating a milestone in the fight against impunity

www.coalitionfortheicc.org

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– INTRODUCTION –

In the early hours of 17 July 1998, following four weeks of intense negotiations, the **Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court** (ICC) was adopted. Establishing for the first time a permanent international judicial mechanism to investigate and prosecute perpetrators of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity, the treaty created not just a single institution, but an entire system of international justice.

In recognition of the 20th anniversary of this groundbreaking achievement, the **Coalition for the International Criminal Court** (“Coalition”) is committed to observing, commemorating, and honoring this historic advance for international peace and security. This anniversary year provides an unparalleled opportunity to take stock of the first 2 decades of the Rome Statute system of international justice; implement concrete measures to address the most pressing challenges facing the system as a whole; renew support of, and commitment to, the ICC; and, perhaps most importantly, look ahead to the future of the fight against impunity for international crimes in an increasingly complex global climate.

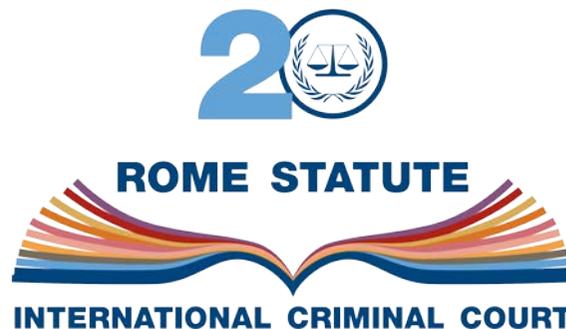
In light of this, the Coalition has put together this toolkit as part of efforts to encourage all stakeholders to join in using this anniversary to educate, to regenerate, and to advance national and global support for this historic treaty and one of the great tools for peace for the 21st century.

This toolkit aims to enable a variety of actors to make the most of the Statute’s 20th anniversary year. It offers concrete suggestions, specific targets for action, and resources to help inform what we hope will be a wide and diverse series of events and initiatives to bolster commitment to the Rome Statute system and the fight against impunity.

- RECOMMENDATIONS -

TO ALL STAKEHOLDERS

- **Organize, support, and participate in Rome Statute 20th anniversary events and initiatives** throughout 2018, at national, regional, or international levels.
- **Promote informed awareness and understanding of the ICC and the Rome Statute** by developing public information and communications tools and campaigns, including by publishing op-eds in national and international media and by maximizing the use of social media platforms.
- Ensure that **victims and affected communities, their rights and interests, are effectively, robustly, and sensitively included** in Rome Statute 20th anniversary events and initiatives.
- Use the **campaign logo** and the social media hashtags **#JusticeMatters**, **#RomeStatute20**, **#RS20**, **#MoreJustWorld** and **#GlobalJustice** for initiatives related to the 20th anniversary of the Rome Statute.



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TO STATES

- **Make statements stressing the importance of the ICC** and the broader Rome Statute system at 20th anniversary events and at appropriate high-level meetings, for example at UNSC debates, Human Rights Council sessions, and the UN General Assembly.
- Commit to **increasing diplomatic, political, and financial support** to the ICC, and to civil society and other organizations promoting justice and the rule of law.
- Express commitment to **defend the integrity of the Rome Statute**, and the **independence of the Court**.
- **Ratify the Rome Statute** and its **relevant amendments**, and ratify the **Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the ICC**.
- Renew efforts on **universality** of the Rome Statute by encouraging those states which have not joined to do so, and commit to mainstreaming Rome Statute membership in all relevant instruments with international partners.
- **Fully and effectively implement Rome Statute provisions** on complementarity and cooperation into national legislation.
- Update and publicly promote **national/regional instruments and policies on the ICC** and international justice, and work to **mainstream the fight against impunity into other thematic sectors** (human rights, peacebuilding, conflict prevention, development, etc.).
- Encourage Ministries of Justice, of Foreign Affairs, and other relevant government agencies, and members of parliament to issue reports and recommendations, propose resolutions and legislation, hold hearings, and **develop policies or review existing policies on the ICC** and international justice.

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- Establish **national focal points**, parliamentary groups, and committees dedicated to the promotion of international justice.
- Bring greater attention to the need for **robust cooperation** with the ICC, including in the arrest of fugitives.
- Work to **conclude cooperation agreements** with the ICC (enforcement of sentences, interim release, acquittal, witness protection); make pledges in that regard at the 2018 Assembly of States Parties session pledging ceremony, among others.
- Pledge to allocate sufficient resources and funding for the rehabilitation and protection of victims, and make voluntary contributions to the **Trust Fund for Victims**.
- Uphold the principles of equality of arms and defense rights; make voluntary contributions to **Trust Fund for Family Visits**.
- Actively engage with civil society, academia, and the media to facilitate the **circulation of accurate and pertinent information related to the ICC**, including its current work in relevant regions.
- Recall the **key role of civil society** in the Rome Statute system; commit to **protecting human rights defenders** threatened by their work on international justice; commit to safeguarding the inclusion and participation of civil society in ASP discussions.
- Support **independent media** in their efforts to monitor and report on investigations and prosecutions at the ICC and at the national level.
- Send **ministerial-level representation to the 2018 session of the Assembly of States Parties**, and consider hosting or participating in a ministerial-level side event. Participate actively and at high-level in the dedicated plenary session on the 20th anniversary.

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TO INTERNATIONAL & REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- **Co-organize high-level panels, seminars, and other events** with member states, civil society, and other IOs/RIGOs to mark the 20th anniversary of the Rome Statute. Encourage and support individual member states to do the same.
- **Make statements stressing the importance of the ICC** and the broader Rome Statute system at 20th anniversary events and at appropriate high-level meetings, for example at regional conferences and thematic debates.
- **Establish commissions, focal points, or special representatives on the ICC** and international justice.
- **Disseminate information, updates, and reports on the ICC** and other international justice mechanisms internally and to member states.
- Update and **publicly promote regional instruments and policies on the ICC** and international justice, and **work to mainstream the fight against impunity** into other thematic sectors (human rights, peacebuilding, conflict prevention, development, etc.).
- Bring greater attention to the need for **robust cooperation** with the ICC, including in the arrest of fugitives.
- Actively engage with civil society, academia, and the media to **facilitate the circulation of accurate and pertinent information related to the ICC**, including its current work in relevant regions.
- Recall the **key role of civil society** in the Rome Statute system; commit to **protecting human rights defenders** threatened by their work on international justice; commit to safeguarding the inclusion and participation of civil society in ASP discussions.

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- Support **independent media** in their efforts to monitor and report on investigations and prosecutions at the ICC and at the national level.
- Send high-level **representation to the 2018 session of the Assembly of States Parties** and participate in the dedicated plenary session agenda on the 20th anniversary.

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TO THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

- **Participate in 20th anniversary events and initiatives** around the world.
- **Engage with local and international civil society** to ensure dissemination of accurate information in local languages.
- **Mobilize field offices** in situation countries to be proactive in outreach and communications – in local languages - to affected communities.
- Ensure that 20th anniversary materials are **translated into local languages**, particularly those of situation and preliminary examination countries.

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TO CIVIL SOCIETY

- Maximize the occasion of the 20th anniversary for **ratification and implementation campaigns** calling on states to join the ICC and to fully and effectively implement Rome Statute provisions on complementarity and cooperation into national legislation.
- Encourage governments to **ratify the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court** and **relevant amendments to the Rome Statute**.
- Continue to **raise informed awareness** of the work and mandate of the ICC, addressing misconceptions and/or concerns, and using the 20th anniversary to **educate** all stakeholders. **Raise and commemorate the 20th anniversary in events and meetings** at the national, regional and international level on various human rights, justice, and other related issues.
- Reflect and strategize on the **challenges** ahead, including effective cooperation with the ICC; universality of the Rome Statute; threats of withdrawal from the Court; and the poor track record of the UNSC in supporting the work of the ICC; among others.
- Advocate for legitimate and transparent **national investigations and prosecutions** of crimes under the Rome Statute, in full support of the **principle of complementarity**, whereby states have the primary obligation to pursue international crimes.
- Assess the role of individual states and organizations in facilitating **cooperation** with the Court and addressing instances of **non-cooperation**.
- Encourage further **political, diplomatic, and financial support** to the Court by states as an opportunity for recommitment to the ICC and international justice.

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- Request states to share their plans on how they will concretely **support the ICC** in the future.
- **Organize meetings with Foreign Ministries, Ministries of Justice, and other relevant government entities**, such as National Committees on International Humanitarian Law (IHL), Attorney General's Office, Parliaments, etc., to call for robust support to the ICC.
- **Disseminate advocacy letters** to heads of state or government, legislative representatives, Ministries of Justice and Foreign Affairs to request support for and participation in commemoration events.
- **Share information** with states, relevant institutions and other NGOs on **specific thematic issues** related to the ICC (victims' participation and representation; reparations; legal aid; budget; cooperation/non-cooperation; etc.), as well as on **preliminary examinations and ongoing investigations**.
- Encourage **regional organizations** to further engage with the ICC, including through the negotiation of MOUs, Model Legislation, and the appointment of focal points or special representatives, etc.
- Liaise with ICC field offices in situation countries to **provide expertise** and advocacy regarding preliminary examinations and ongoing investigations.
- **Organize national workshops, conferences, seminars** on Rome Statute ratification or cooperation/complementarity legislation with key stakeholders (governments, media, parliamentarians, academics, a broad range of civil society organizations).
- Collaborate with **local and international media** by contributing op-eds, blog posts, press releases, and participating in interviews and media briefings.

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- **Share images, videos or written statements** reflecting on the 20th anniversary and civil society's role in promoting / supporting the ICC and the Rome Statute system.
- Reconnect with key actors and stakeholders from the Rome period and the processes thereafter to **organize collections of historical accounts, posters, books and publications, op-eds, awards, videos and social media campaigns**.
- Aid in the accessibility of key documents by **preparing simplified summaries and translations** into languages other than English and French.
- **Record and publicize statements** from high-level officials in support of the Rome Statute through the use of social media channels as well as through the Assembly of States Parties and the Coalition for the ICC.
- **Engage with the Coalition for the ICC** by becoming a member; establishing national or regional coalitions or joining existing ones; sharing relevant updates including events and publications; and following, liking, and re-publishing the Coalition on social media.

TO THE MEDIA

- Attend, **report and publish articles and editorials** on 20th anniversary events.
- **Record and publicize statements** from high-level officials in support of the Rome Statute through the use of government social media channels as well as through the Assembly of States Parties and the Coalition for the ICC.
- Conduct **interviews with state officials** about their engagement with the Court.
- Conduct **interviews with Court officials** to help raise awareness of the challenges and the opportunities in the work of the ICC.
- **Invite local and international civil society to contribute** op-eds and blog posts and to participate in interviews and media events.
- **Report on the actions of human rights defenders** advocating for justice through the ICC, particularly in situation and preliminary examination countries.
- Invest in **stationing journalists** at the seat of the Court.
- Support **multilingual media coverage** of ICC developments.
- Cooperate with the ICC, states, civil society, and international and regional organizations in the **diffusion of accurate information** regarding the work of the Court and other international justice-related matters, in a language that is accessible to the general public.
- Continue to **monitor developments** at the ICC and investigations and prosecutions of Rome Statute crimes at the national level.

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- TEMPLATES -

SAMPLE CALL TO ACTION TO STAKEHOLDERS

Despite calls of “Never Again,” the world continues to bear witness to genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity that shock the conscience of humankind.

The victims of these crimes are demanding justice.

Don't let their calls go unheard.

The International Criminal Court is the world's only permanent institution able to prosecute war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide.

It is an important mechanism for ensuring that international crimes no longer go unpunished and that victims receive redress.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Rome Statute – the treaty which established the Court. Twenty years have passed, but the fight against impunity needs global support now more than ever.

What can YOU do to support international justice?

- Use the 20th anniversary to get the word out about the ICC and the need for accountability for international crimes.
- Support the fight against impunity by liking and sharing Rome Statute 20th anniversary materials on social media.
- Join the conversation on social media with the hashtags [*#JusticeMatters*](#), [*#RomeStatute20*](#), [*#RS20*](#), [*#MoreJustWorld*](#) and [*#GlobalJustice*](#)

– ADDITIONAL RESOURCES –

- Coalition for the International Criminal Court: www.coalitionfortheicc.org
 - ▶ Coalition *Rome Statute@20* webpage: www.coalitionfortheicc.org/fight/Rome-Statute-20-anniversary-2018
 - ▶ Coalition *Twitter*: <https://twitter.com/ngos4justice?lang=en>; https://twitter.com/_CICC_fr; https://twitter.com/_CICC_sp
 - ▶ Coalition *Facebook*: <https://www.facebook.com/CoalitionfortheInternationalCriminalCourt/>
 - ▶ Coalition *Flickr*: www.flickr.com/photos/coalitionforicc/
 - ▶ Coalition *Instagram*: <https://www.instagram.com/coalitionfortheicc/>

- International Criminal Court (ICC): www.icc-cpi.int
 - ▶ ICC *RomeStatute@20* webpage: <https://www.icc-cpi.int/romestatute20>
 - ▶ ICC *Rome Statute@20* video: <https://youtu.be/C8edKtRqDw>
 - ▶ ICC *Twitter*: <https://twitter.com/IntlCrimCourt>; <https://twitter.com/CourPenaleInt>
 - ▶ ICC *Facebook*: <https://facebook.com/InternationalCriminalCourt/>

- Trust Fund for Victims (TFV): www.trustfundforvictims.org
 - ▶ TFV *Twitter*: https://twitter.com/TFV_FPV

- Assembly of States Parties (ASP): <https://asp.icc-cpi.int>
 - ▶ ASP *Rome Statute@20* webpage: https://asp.icc-cpi.int/en_menus/asp/asp%20events/20a/Pages/default.aspx
 - ▶ ASP *Rome Statute@20* Toolkit: https://asp.icc-cpi.int/iccdocs/asp_docs/Events/20A/20A-Toolkit%20for%20States-ENG.pdf

- Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court: <https://www.icc-cpi.int/NR/rdonlyres/ADD16852-AEE9-4757-ABE7-9CDC7CF02886/283503/RomeStatutEng1.pdf>

- ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS -

There is no doubt that the International Criminal Court and the Rome Statute system of international justice would not be where they are today without the dedicated efforts and support of a variety of committed individuals, states, institutions, and organizations from around the world.

The same is true of the Coalition for the International Criminal Court – a network of civil society organizations established in 1995 in the aim of ending impunity for perpetrators of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and the crime of aggression.

The Coalition is therefore pleased to honor all of those who have contributed to and supported these efforts throughout its 23-year history..

The Coalition would also like express its gratitude to donors who have supported its work throughout the last 23 years, and those which continue to support its efforts: the **European Union**, the **Planethood Foundation**, **Workable World Trust**, **Anonymous US Foundation**, **Irish Aid**, the governments of **Australia**, **Austria**, **Finland**, **Liechtenstein**, **Norway**, **The Netherlands**, **Switzerland**; the **City of The Hague**, and a number of committed individuals.

The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of Coalition for the International Criminal Court and should in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union, Irish Aid, or any other donor.

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