



# **UNITED BY COMMON BONDS**

## **For a global International Criminal Court**

**CAMPAIGN CALL TO ACTION - NOVEMBER 2016**

**\*\*\*\*\*Information on new Coalition website below\*\*\*\*\***

### **STAND WITH VICTIMS - MAKE INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE TRULY GLOBAL**

We need your help to ensure justice for victims of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide around the world through the International Criminal Court (ICC) system of international justice.

Coming at a time of difficulty for the ICC system, and for the world more broadly, we believe that **a demonstration of unity and support** for the ICC and Rome Statute system of international justice is vital to ensure the protection global human rights in the face of rising tides of racism, discrimination, hostility, violence and repression around the world.

Drawing inspiration from the Rome Statute preamble declaration that "*all peoples are united by common bonds, but this delicate mosaic may shatter at any time,*" the Coalition for the International Criminal Court has launched a campaign called **United by Common Bonds**, with the intention of underlining the global nature of the Court's mandate and mission, of the worldwide movement that brought about its establishment, and of the continuing desire to see it deliver justice to victims in all parts of the world.

Civil society knows as well as anyone that access to justice remains uneven around the world and that the ICC can improve its delivery of justice. We remain convinced that the solution lies in more and better justice, not less. With the ICC facing mounting political opposition as it grows, **the time is now** for governments to make this system of international justice work for all victims no matter their location. This is the single most effective way to increase the acceptance of the ICC around the world and bolster the effectiveness of the Rome Statute system.



## **JOIN THE UNITED BY COMMON BONDS CAMPAIGN**

In this period of global uncertainty, let us unite in a spirit of cooperation, collaboration and solidarity around the principles laid out in the Rome Statute and make international justice truly global.

The United by Common Bonds [campaign video](#) seeks to tell the real story of international justice to counter the profound mischaracterization of the ICC and its mission to bring both justice and peace to the world. That story is of a global movement of civil society organizations and activists, working with small and middle sized 'like-minded' states, standing up to the rampant abuse of power and for the rights of victims around the world.

The Coalition's recently launched [new website](#) is acting as platform for resources and means of expressing solidarity, including by pre-prepared email to elected representatives, and a campaign logo.

United by Common Bonds is seeking to rally expressions of support (written, visual, video, demonstrations) from global civil society, states, representatives of international and regional organizations, academia, media, eminent personalities, celebrities, and the general public.

Participants in the campaign are encouraged to call for:

- Truly global ICC justice;
- A strengthening of the ICC; and
- Greater state support for the Rome Statute system.

## **HOW TO TAKE PART IN THE CAMPAIGN**

1. Disseminate this announcement in your networks;
2. Share the United by Common Bonds campaign video
  - **YouTube link** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FSLAe3jrCSg>
  - **Facebook link** <https://www.facebook.com/CoalitionfortheInternationalCriminalCourt/videos/10154062630138785/>
  - **Retweet link** <https://twitter.com/ngos4justice/status/794205144267313152>
3. Publicly join the campaign through official statements, opeds, social media posting, images, videos, events etc.

### **Suggested messaging**

- Through justice, peace
- I'm standing with victims of atrocities
- Let's make international justice truly global
- We need global justice, a strong ICC, and more state support for justice
- Unimaginable atrocities are on the rise - it's time for global justice
- Join the fight for global justice for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes



**Possible Twitter hashtags**

- #VictimsFirst
- #UnitedbyCommonBonds
- #AGlobalCC
- #CommonBonds
- #UnitedforJustice

4. Use the United by Common Bonds logo and share resources on the Coalition for the ICC [United by Common Bonds webpage](#)

## **NEW COALITION FOR THE ICC WEBSITE - KEY FEATURES**

In November 2016, the Coalition for the ICC launched a new website [www.coalitionfortheicc.org](http://www.coalitionfortheicc.org).

In bringing the project to life, we have distilled the collective knowledge, amassed over many years, of our civil society network. This includes civil society member organizations, activists, staff, interns, and volunteers past and present. Their tireless campaigning has got us to where we are today. In this respect, we have put particular effort into telling the story of [the fight for international justice, the ICC, the Coalition](#) and to [profiling civil society voices](#), along with [testimonials](#) of our supporters.

We intend for this site to be used as an online platform for all civil society Coalition members, and others. Our [current blog](#) has been completely transferred into the [GlobalJustice news center](#) of the new site. The old blog will still be available online for the time being, but we will no longer be posting there. As we have been doing for over two years, the GlobalJustice news center will continue to feature civil society views and related international justice news on a weekly basis.

We have made every effort to explain this often complex system of international justice in plain language, using visualizations and the latest digital technology and best practices

We have an extensive [take action page](#) that encourages social sharing and a pre-prepared email to send to Elected Representatives, and an action pack.

The [resources](#) page has a range of links to useful websites and a glossary of terms.

The ICC [situations and cases](#) pages are fully up to date with key information and civil society advocacy.

All Coalition key advocacy on our strategic objectives is to be found under the following headings:

- [Global justice](#) – our Campaign for universal ICC membership and national ICC laws.
- [A strong ICC](#) - our work for a fair, effective and independent Court
- [State support](#) - our work to garner greater state support and cooperation for the Rome Statute system



The old Coalition website is still available through the following link: <http://www.iccnw.org/?mod=home>

For more about our new website and its different features, please read this [overview](#).

We have also changed our Twitter handle to @ngos4justice.

Please contact [communications@coalitionfortheicc.org](mailto:communications@coalitionfortheicc.org) if you have any questions, suggestions for improvement.

## **ABOUT THE COALITION FOR THE ICC**

The Coalition for the ICC is a network of 2,500 civil society organizations, small and big, in 150 countries fighting for global justice for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide for over 20 years. We made international justice happen; now we're making it work. [Read our story](#).

## **ABOUT THE ICC**

The ICC is the world's first permanent international court to have jurisdiction over war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. Central to the Court's mandate is the principle of complementarity, which holds that the Court will only intervene if national legal systems are unable or unwilling to investigate and prosecute perpetrators of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

As the most historic advance in the protection of global human rights, the innovative system established by the Rome Statute is designed to punish perpetrators, bring justice to victims and contribute to stable, peaceful societies. The Court has already made significant progress in holding those most responsible for atrocities to account. Victims are already receiving help to rebuild their lives. But global access to justice remains uneven, and many governments continue to deny the ICC jurisdiction where it is most needed.

There are currently ten active investigations before the ICC: the Central African Republic I & II; Democratic Republic of Congo; Darfur, Sudan; Kenya; Libya; Uganda; Côte d'Ivoire; Mali and Georgia. The ICC has publicly issued 33 arrest warrants and nine summonses to appear. Four trials are ongoing. There have been two convictions and one acquittal. Eight preliminary examinations are currently ongoing, including into situations in Afghanistan, Colombia, Guinea, Palestine, Iraq/UK, Nigeria, Ukraine and Gabon. The OTP has concluded preliminary examinations relating to Honduras, Venezuela, Palestine, the Republic of Korea and the Comoros referral, declining in each case to open an investigation.