

PANEL DISCUSSION

A Renewed UN Approach to Transitional Justice - The Role of Civil Society Organizations

 **Wednesday, 6 December 2023, 8:00 – 10:00 AM**
(light breakfast served from 7:45 AM)

 Belgian Mission to the United Nations in New York

AGENDA

Welcome

H.E. Philippe Kridelka

Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations

Presentation of the new Secretary-General Guidance

Note on Transitional Justice as a Strategic Tool for People, Prevention and Peace

Panel discussion

Moderated by **Rio Hada**, Chief of the Equality, Development and Rule of Law Section of OHCHR

- **Emily Kenney**

Policy Specialist, Rule of Law and Transitional Justice, UN Women

- **Rosalina Tuyuc**

Guatemalan grassroots leader and founder of the National Association of Guatemalan Widows

- **Reem El Gantri**

Head of Programs on Libya and Afghanistan, International Center for Transitional Justice

- **Brisna Caxaj**

Gender Coordinator, Impunity Watch

Questions and discussion

Closing

Arlene Tickner

D. Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
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KINGDOM OF BELGIUM
Federal Public Service
**Foreign Affairs,
Foreign Trade and
Development Cooperation**



Misión Permanente de Colombia
ante la ONU en Nueva York



**Impunity
Watch**



Justice
Truth
Dignity



**Global
Justice Center**

Human Rights Through Rule of Law



To attend, please register by Monday, 4 December at
<https://forms.office.com/e/VURMDijvbP>



BACKGROUND

For fractured societies in fragile, crisis or post-conflict settings that are grappling with legacies of large-scale human rights violations and abuses and/or atrocity crimes, transitional justice can constitute a strategic tool to help build sustainable peace and enable more just and inclusive futures. This transformative potential of transitional justice – as a pragmatic human rights-based victim and people-centred policy tool that helps acknowledge experiences, reaffirm dignity, build trust, enhance inclusion, tackle root causes of violent conflict, and thereby enable reconciliation – is often underutilized by States and other stakeholders. Its holistic approach, recognizing that true justice goes beyond criminal justice and affirming the interlinked nature of the rights to truth, justice, reparation, and guarantees of non-recurrence, can have catalytic positive impacts on people and societies.

In October 2023, the United Nations launched the new Secretary-General Guidance Note on Transitional Justice as a Strategic Tool for People, Prevention and Peace. The Guidance Note promotes transitional justice as a strategic, flexible, and catalytic policy instrument for prevention, accountability, social cohesion, reconciliation, and sustainable development. It highlights key features of the UN approach to transitional justice, including the need to be normative, strategic, inclusive, gender-responsive, and transformative. Its launch offers a window of opportunity for renewed interest and investment in transitional justice, including from civil society organizations.

Civil society organizations can play multiple roles in transitional justice processes, including as organizers, data providers, mobilizers, educators, and/or monitors. They can also be strong advocates for further policy developments at local, national, and multilateral levels, to ensure that best practices and state-of-the-art expertise on transitional justice are reflected, and to achieve truly inclusive, innovative and transformative policies and processes, with tangible impacts on people and communities. This includes, for example, the promotion of an approach that facilitates women's leadership and addresses the gendered dimension of root causes of violence. The new Guidance Note highlights the key role of civil society in transitional justice and in building just and inclusive futures. It includes key messages and principles which civil society can use and carry into policy fora.

Shining a light on the new Guidance Note, this panel aims to further explore the role of civil society in strengthening transitional justice policy setting, including in the multilateral space, and the usefulness of the Guidance Note to civil society in transitional justice advocacy and programming. It is co-organized by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Permanent Missions of Belgium, Colombia and Sierra Leone to the United Nations in New York, Impunity Watch, the International Center for Transitional Justice and Global Justice Center.

The Guidance Note is available at <https://www.ohchr.org/en/sg-guidance-note-transitional-justice>.

EVENT DETAILS

The event will take place at the Permanent Mission of Belgium to the United Nations in New York on **Wednesday, 6 December between 8:00 and 10:00 AM** (light breakfast served from 7:45 AM).

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