

الاتحاد الوطني لنساء المغرب
Union Nationale des Femmes du Maroc

هيئة استشارية معتمدة لدى
هيئة الأمم المتحدة والإتحاد الإفريقي



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وزارة التضامن والإدماج
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KINGDOM OF MOROCCO

Ministry of Solidarity, Social Integration and Family

UN
WOMEN



FOR ALL
WOMEN
AND GIRLS

Concept Note

70th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

CSW70

Side Event Organized by the Kingdom of Morocco

**“Access to Justice for Women Survivors of Violence:
A Lever for Advancing Rights and Inclusive Development.”**

Tuesday, 10 March 2026, 15:00

Conference Room 2CR,

United Nations Headquarters, New York



Introduction

Violence against women and girls remains one of the most widespread and persistent human rights violations worldwide. It constitutes a structural obstacle to achieving gender equality, sustainable development, and social peace. The latest international estimates indicate that nearly one in three women globally has experienced physical or sexual violence during her lifetime.

Despite the magnitude of the phenomenon, the access-to-justice gap remains one of the most significant structural challenges. Global data show that fewer than 40% of women who experience violence seek help, while in many contexts no more than 10% report to formal institutions, including the police. Nearly half of women never disclose the violence they endure, underscoring the need for multisectoral approaches that place survivors at the center of public policies and institutional mechanisms.

United Nations literature confirms that strengthening access to justice for women survivors of violence extends beyond the judicial dimension. It also includes access to protection services, healthcare, psychosocial support, legal assistance, prevention mechanisms, and economic and social empowerment, within a comprehensive human rights-based framework grounded in equality and non-discrimination.

General Context

International reports highlight that persistent legal protection gaps, weak data collection systems, and insufficient funding for survivor support services limit the effectiveness of institutional responses. Comparative data indicate that many countries lack integrated systems to monitor survivor support pathways or ensure effective access to legal aid and protection services.

In this regard, the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), as the principal global intergovernmental body dedicated to gender equality and women's empowerment, plays a pivotal role in promoting women's full and equal enjoyment of their rights. It examines barriers to the effective realization of these rights, particularly access to justice, and proposes practical measures to remove them.

The 70th session of CSW (CSW70) is of particular importance as it places equitable and effective access to justice for all women and girls at the forefront of its priorities. It emphasizes strengthening legal frameworks, reinforcing and adapting relevant institutions, and developing practical mechanisms enabling every woman to claim and exercise her rights in conditions of equality and inclusion.

In alignment with CSW70's focus on strengthening inclusive and equitable justice systems, the Kingdom of Morocco also seeks to deepen dialogue at the continental and regional levels. Building on growing momentum in Africa around gender-responsive governance and justice system reform, Morocco aims to contribute to structured continental exchanges that translate global commitments on women's access to justice into coordinated actions that consider national contexts. This engagement helps strengthen peer learning, normative convergence, institutional accountability, and scalable approaches led by African countries and grounded in regional frameworks to advance women's rights. At the national level, access to justice is central to ensuring dignity, human rights, and sustainable development. However, access remains limited for many women, particularly those from socially and economically vulnerable backgrounds. Social, economic, and institutional barriers significantly hinder women's full exercise of their rights.

In parallel, Morocco recognizes the importance of enhancing cooperation within broader regional Arab frameworks and international intergovernmental platforms concerned with women's rights and justice system reform. Strengthening dialogue among Arab countries contributes to the exchange of experiences related to legislative modernization, survivor-centered services, and institutional reform, while consolidating approaches consistent with international human rights standards. This African-Arab engagement reflects Morocco's commitment to strengthening coherence across regions and supporting collective progress in ensuring women's and girls' access to justice.

Addressing these challenges requires adopting a comprehensive approach that not only tackles poverty-related discrimination and vulnerability but also addresses structural, legislative, cultural, and socio-economic barriers within a broader vision grounded in social justice.

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In line with its commitments to women's rights, the Kingdom of Morocco has made significant progress in establishing a supportive legal and institutional framework for women's access to justice. Under the enlightened leadership of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, Morocco has undertaken major legislative reforms, particularly in family protection, combating violence against women, and strengthening women's political participation, alongside institutional reforms aimed at overcoming structural barriers and discrimination to ensure women's full participation in social and economic development.

In his Throne Day Speech of 31 July 2021, His Majesty affirmed:

“Since ascending the Throne, We have been committed to improving the status of women, opening avenues for their advancement, and granting them the position they deserve. Among the most significant reforms we have undertaken are the Family Code and the 2011 Constitution, which enshrines equality between women and men in rights and duties, and establishes parity as a goal the State strives to achieve. This is not about granting women undue privileges, but about ensuring their legal and legitimate rights. In today's Morocco, women cannot be deprived of their rights.”

This orientation is reflected in the efforts of various governmental sectors and national institutions, including Parliament, to strengthen and adapt the legal framework to better protect and empower women—demonstrating Morocco's steady commitment to enhancing women's access to justice, supporting their participation, and building a society that criminalizes all forms of violence and discrimination.

In the same spirit, and to operationalize laws, strengthen protection mechanisms, and implement social and institutional policies that respond to women's expectations and safeguard their dignity, Her Royal Highness Princess Lalla Meryem, President of the National Union of Moroccan Women, launched in 2020 the “Marrakech Declaration 2020 for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls.” The Declaration and its territorial protocol generated renewed momentum among stakeholders, through the engagement of all relevant sectors in activating protection mechanisms and supporting women and girls survivors of violence, while also promoting a culture of non-violence within society.

The Marrakech Declaration serves as a national roadmap structured around three pillars: prevention; protection and support; and women's economic and social empowerment. It provides a practical and sustainable response to the social and legal challenges faced by women through a comprehensive and coherent approach that ensures equitable access to justice, supports women's empowerment and social inclusion, and strengthens cooperation among public institutions, civil society, and the media.

Within this framework, the Government and several stakeholders committed to sustaining reform momentum, strengthening institutional capacity, and expanding territorial coverage of multifunctional centers—through the establishment of shelters for women survivors of violence, the recruitment and training of qualified social workers, and the development of a reference guide to standardize procedures for shelter-based support and economic empowerment.

To facilitate access to services provided to women and girls survivors of violence, including shelter, the nationwide rollout of the digital system “Amane Lak” was launched in December 2025 during the 23rd National Campaign to End Violence Against Women. The system enables requests for support services to be submitted directly by the survivor, by another person, or through an institution or association.

The National Union of Moroccan Women (UNFM) also launched the “Kolona Maaki” (“We Are All With You”) platform, providing guidance and support through the national hotline 8350 and its associated mobile application, and delivering support and empowerment services through UNFM's territorial network of centers, as well as through its Empowerment Academy as a digital training and empowerment platform.

Morocco further strengthens its efforts, including through partnerships with civil society organizations and bilateral and multilateral partners, notably UN Women and UNFPA, both key partners in advancing gender equality and combating violence against women and girls.

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Objectives of the Side Event

In light of ongoing challenges related to protecting women and girls from violence, and growing international awareness of the importance of ensuring equitable and effective access to justice, there is a need to develop comprehensive and integrated approaches that place women's rights at the center of public policies and ensure coordination among national and international stakeholders. Strengthening gender-responsive justice systems is essential to guaranteeing effective protection for women survivors of violence and enabling them to reclaim their rights and fully participate in economic and social development pathways.

This side event, entitled "Access to Justice for Women Survivors of Violence: A Lever for Advancing Rights and Inclusive Development," forms part of international efforts to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 5 and SDG 16.

Organized in partnership with the National Union of Moroccan Women (UNFM), and in cooperation with UN Women and UNFPA, the event aims to create a high-level platform for dialogue and for the exchange of experiences and best practices, thereby contributing to strengthened national and international efforts to ensure women survivors' access to justice as a key lever for advancing human rights and inclusive, sustainable development.

Specific Objectives

- Exchange international and national experiences on mechanisms ensuring access to justice for women survivors of violence.
- Strengthen discussion on the role of legislation and public policy in ensuring effective protection for women.
- Highlight Moroccan and international experiences in survivor support and access to justice.
- Discuss the role of digitalization and innovative services in facilitating access to justice.
- Strengthen continental and regional dialogue and cooperation through structured Arab and African platforms, to promote harmonized and scalable approaches that take different contexts into account, and to enhance coherence between global commitments and regional implementation frameworks in gender-responsive justice systems.
- Strengthen international partnerships to develop gender-responsive justice systems.
- Contribute to the outcomes of CSWV by showcasing integrated national pathways that translate international commitments on women's access to justice into practical, scalable, rights-based solutions.

Proposed Discussion Themes

I. Legal and institutional frameworks for ensuring women's access to justice

II. Effective access to justice services for women survivors of violence

III. Innovation and digital transformation in facilitating access to justice

IV. Multi-stakeholder partnerships, including African and Arab regional cooperation mechanisms, to advance harmonized and scalable models that take different contexts into account and strengthen women's access to justice across regions.

Expected Results

The side event is expected to contribute to qualitative outcomes at political, institutional, knowledge, and operational levels, including:

- Strengthened knowledge accumulation and international exchange on successful and innovative models for improving women survivors' access to justice, including multisectoral approaches, coordination mechanisms, and integrated support pathways.
- Highlighting best practices and effective policies at national and international levels—particularly those related to simplifying judicial procedures, facilitating legal aid, and strengthening survivor-centered services.
- Reinforced high-level political commitment to integrating gender equality approaches into justice systems and supporting legislative and institutional reforms to ensure comprehensive and sustainable protection for women survivors of violence.
- Development of practical and actionable recommendations aligned with international human rights standards and attentive to national contexts, to improve access to justice and strengthen prevention, protection, and support mechanisms.
- Enhanced coordination and complementarity among governmental and non-governmental actors, including law enforcement institutions, judicial bodies, civil society, and international organizations, contributing to comprehensive and integrated response systems.
- Increased visibility of Moroccan and international experiences in combating violence against women, particularly survivor support mechanisms and government–civil society partnerships, strengthening the international outreach of national experience.
- Strengthened integration of a human rights and gender equality approach into relevant public policies and programmes in justice, social protection, and development, aligned with SDGs 0 and 17.
- Encouraging the development of innovative tools, including digital solutions, to facilitate reporting, track justice pathways, and improve women's access to legal information and services, particularly in contexts of vulnerability.
- Strengthened international partnerships, as well as South–South and North–South cooperation partnerships, to enhance policy coherence and collective advocacy for gender-responsive justice systems.
- Contribution to strong messages for CSWV· outcomes, advancing global advocacy for gender-sensitive justice systems.
- Generating policy-relevant insights to enrich ongoing global dialogues on women's access to justice beyond the CSW process.

Participants and Partners

- National institutional mechanisms and official bodies
- Elected institutions, including legislative bodies
- Bilateral and multilateral cooperation partners
- United Nations agencies participating in CSWV·
- Civil society organizations
- Researchers and experts from universities, institutes, and research centers.

Languages

Interventions will be delivered in Arabic, French, and English, with simultaneous interpretation provided in all three languages.