INVITATION

Women and Customary and Informal Justice Systems: A Global Consultation on Navigating Complex Pathways to Justice

Side event of the 63rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

Friday, March 15, 2019
15:00 - 16:15
Ex-Press Bar, UN Headquarters, New York

In the developing world, 80% of disputes are resolved by customary or informal justice systems (CIJs). This means that a majority of women rely on dispute resolution outside of the formal courts. Issues of significance to women, such as inheritance, family formation, divorce, property rights, control and governance over land and natural resources, and even violence against women and girls, are resolved or adjudicated in these systems. Despite their perceived advantages, CIJs are often skewed against women, favoring male-dominated structures, patriarchal values, and discriminatory and harmful outcomes for women. While understanding the need to enhance justice delivery, these challenges compel placing women’s issues and concerns at the center of any conversation on CIJs.

This event will provide space for an open consultation on the relationship between women and CIJs, on legal pluralism and on the intersection of formal and informal justice systems. With a gender lens and a focus on challenges and opportunities of engagement, participants will discuss the specificities of promoting women’s rights within plural legal systems.

This event is part of a series of global consultations being initiated by IDLO to inform policy and programming on CIJs, plurality and access to justice.

Please RSVP to newyork[at]idlo.int by Tuesday, March 12, 2019 For non-UN Pass holders, a Special Event Ticket (SET) is required to attend the event. Please request your SET in your RSVP email.