

NEWSLETTER ISSUE 3
JANUARY-MAY 2022

GENDER ACCREDITATION PROGRAMME

United Nations Human Rights



UPHOLDING THE RIGHTS OF ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS ARE AT THE HEART OF CREATING A MORE JUST AND SUSTAINABLE WORLD.

The programme has continued its implementation in 2022 in two new offices, UN Human Rights Office Guatemala and Syria and in our accredited offices (UN Human Rights Office in the oPt, UN Human Rights Office Colombia and Cambodia and in the Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU). Our staff have continued receiving support through the programme to strengthen their capacities to integrate gender into programmatic and substantive work, as well as to translate our commitments to gender equality into very concrete actions in relation to country offices' composition, culture, structure and processes. Participating offices have undertaken considerable efforts in their women's human rights and gender equality work and have achieved excellent results. See below our third update!

IN THIS ISSUE:

International Women's Day

International Day Against
Homophobia, Biphobia and
Transphobia

Capacity building activities

I STAND
WITH HER

Upholding the rights
of all women and
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Michelle Bachelet
UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

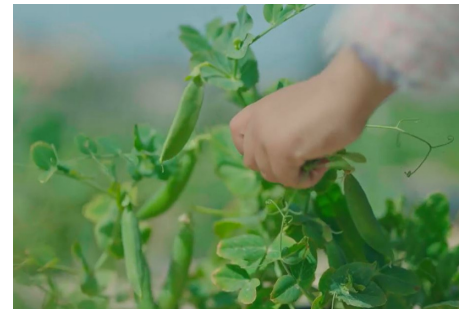
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2022

Gender equality for a sustainable tomorrow

Gender equality is at the heart of a just, equal and sustainable world. Women and girls' heightened risks, exposure and vulnerability to environmental degradation, including climate change, are the result of intersecting social, cultural and economic systems that deny the power of their diversity and exclude them. In International Women's Day 2022, we recognize the contributions of women and girls human rights defenders, in all their diversity, who are at the forefront of climate and environmental justice movements around the world, demanding rights, and leading efforts for equality and against oppression to the benefit of all our societies.

The Human Rights Office in the oPt, in partnership with the Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC) marked International Women's Day 2022 by producing a video highlighting the stories and resilience of women farmers in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The video promoted gender equality for women entrepreneurs in the agricultural sector. It was posted on the Office's Facebook page, generating more than 288,000 views.

At OHCHR Guatemala, we believe that art can be a powerful tool to promote human rights and particularly women's human rights. To mark International Women's Day 2022, young Guatemalan artists painted a mural on OHCHR's Office. This artistic production of mixed media (muralism and graffiti) reflects the importance of promoting Guatemalan women's human rights, by ensuring the meaningful involvement and participation of women and young women and girls of diverse origins.





"Through storytelling we open the door for sharing, for listening, for healing because storytelling is an important tool in regaining identity. Listening to stories makes us part of a community."

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2022

Gender equality for a sustainable tomorrow

OHCHR Cambodia supported the event hosted by the Raoul Wallenberg Institute (RWI) in Phnom Penh, entitled "Left Behind? Indigenous Peoples Women in Cambodia". Participants discussed the challenges faced by Cambodia's indigenous women, particularly issues such as domestic violence and early marriage. The event featured storytelling by indigenous women through song performances. The performances celebrated the resilience of indigenous women in Cambodia and explained the struggle of indigenous communities to protect their land and resources, and its centrality to cultural identity.

OHCHR Cambodia office released a video on March 8 entitled 'No Perfect Body' a body-positive song written and performed by young Cambodian women musicians raising awareness about discrimination against women.

In addition, the office supported a six-month regional Asia-Pacific campaign. The 'Gender Equality' video launched on 8 March raised awareness about the situation of women and girls in East Asia and the Pacific and how they are seeing decades of growth in their rights and equality reversed by today's explosion of social and economic inequalities unleashed in the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 8 March, the Human Rights Office in Syria launched a virtual photo exhibition on Facebook jointly with four Syrian civil society organizations to mark the International Women Day. For this joint advocacy initiative, titled "364 364" (يوم للمرأة, "Days for Woman"), each Syrian organization published three pictures reflecting the various forms of violence and discrimination that women are exposed to in Syria. Each picture was accompanied by a text, in both English and Arabic. This initiative promoted awareness raising on this issue and the active participation of civil society organizations.





INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA, BIPHOBIA AND TRANSPHOBIA

On 9 and 13 May, OHCHR Guatemala’s Gender Unit, in coordination with the Civic Space Unit, conducted a training on the rights of women and LGBTIQ+ people to staff of the Human Rights Unit of the National Civil Police, which is in charge of investigating cases and conducting human rights capacity-building activities within the police institution. The LGBTI ombudsperson of the National Human Rights Institution supported OHCHR’s team.

OHCHR Guatemala shared the message of the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in its social media platforms, recalling the obligation of the State to guarantee the human rights of LGBTIQ people.

On 24 May, OHCHR Guatemala, together with UNAIDS Guatemala, organized a webinar to address the rights of LGBTIQ+ people and mechanisms to protect them. OHCHR Guatemala’s Deputy Representative made a presentation on international norms and standards on the topic.



I STAND WITH HER



Join All Women
at the Heart of Climate Justice

CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

From 26 to 29 April, OHCHR Guatemala provided technical assistance to the delegate of the National Weavers' Movement of Guatemala in her participation in the 21st session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York. Her participation and advocacy activities resulted into the inclusion of a paragraph in the [final report of the Forum's session](#), urging the State of Guatemala to comply with the ruling issued by the Constitutional Court to legislate on the protection of the collective intellectual property of indigenous women weavers.

OHCHR Colombia provided technical assistance to Petra Mujeres Valientes, an organization of women survivors of forced displacement, sexual violence and other forms of gender-based violence, for the submission of a report to the Special Jurisdiction of Peace. The report describes the impact of the Colombian armed conflict in their lives and the multiple human rights violations they endured. The Office supported the organization of a series of workshops on transitional justice and gender-based discrimination and violence.

OHCHR Colombia, together with UNICEF, UN Women and UNFPA, developed a Concept Note on Child Marriage and Early Forced Unions (CMEFU) in Colombia, which contains a compilation of the international standards, an analysis of the situation in Colombia and recommendations to strengthen the State's response to this human rights violation. The Concept Note was shared with State institutions in charge of protection of children's rights at a high-level meeting, where UN Agencies provided specific recommendations on how to apply international standards on CMEFU in a practical way.

The Human Rights Office in the oPt concluded a series of workshops targeting Women Human Rights Defenders, enhancing their skills to advocate for gender equality and women's rights and to seek accountability for human rights violations. The participants also learnt about available tools and mechanisms to protect them from reprisals and to enhance their digital safety and security.



CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

From 10 to 13 February, an OHCHR Guatemala team conducted a mission to Puerto Barrios and Livingston (Izabal department). The team met with a wide range of stakeholders from public institutions and civil society organizations to gather first-hand information about the human rights situation of Garifuna people and Afro-descendant women. In the framework of the mission, OHCHR Guatemala Representative participated in an event organized by Afroamerica XXI, where he stressed the importance of the right of participation of Garifuna people and Afro-descendants, particularly women, in all spheres of life and the need for strategic actions to advance the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent.

The Human Rights Office in oPt, continued to build capacities of Palestinian lawyers, most of whom women, to efficiently represent women who are victims of human rights violations. Training sessions for lawyers of MUSAWA - The Palestinian Center for the Independence of the Judiciary and the Legal Profession were delivered on the UN Individual Communications under CEDAW, as well on the prohibition of torture, the right to freedom of opinion and expression, and the right to freedom of peaceful assembly.

Additionally, the Human Rights Office in oPt, in cooperation with the Palestinian Ministry of Women Affairs, engaged with the Palestinian Ministry of Interior and trained representatives of Gender Units of relevant institutions of the Palestinian Security Sector. The training focused on how to integrate human rights standards enshrined in CEDAW into relevant policies and practices of law enforcement.



CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES



On 24 December 2021, the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 76/228 requesting the Secretary-General, in coordination with OHCHR, to “conduct a study on how to bolster efforts, including through existing measures and mechanisms, to clarify the fate and whereabouts of missing people in the Syrian Arab Republic, identify human remains and provide support to their families”.

In implementing this resolution, and as part of a broad consultative process with all relevant actors, the UN Human Office for Syria sought to ensure that the gender impact of missing persons was reflected in the report, from the specific challenges and gaps to shaping solutions, including support to respond to particular needs.

The Office focused part of the consultations on reaching out to victim, survivor and family associations, including speaking to former female detainees and women with missing relatives, as well to women’s organisations to gather relevant information and show the full spectrum of the gender dimensions of the issue of missing persons in Syria. These discussions illustrated the many facets of the gendered impact of missing persons. Women may go missing because they are specifically targeted due to their gender, for example due to the chilling effect this would have over a family and the shame associated with it. There are also additional challenges, with relatives less likely to report cases and search for them because of the stigma associated with possible sexual violence suffered by missing women. This stigma and related marginalisation also continue if women are found. In other cases when a male relative goes missing, it impacts the daily lives of spouses and children who may have to take on additional work in a context of social discrimination. Women in particular face such additional hardships such as obtaining needed civil documentation due to existing discriminatory laws.





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