



Judicial Literacy Through Education: Advancing Gender Equality and Access to Justice

Date and Time: 12 March 2026, 8:30–9:45 a.m.

Venue: Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the United Nations, One Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza, 885 Second Avenue, 48th Floor, New York, NY 10017

Organizers: Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the United Nations

in cooperation with UNESCO and UN Group of Friends for Education and Lifelong Learning

Background and Rationale

Ensuring effective access to justice for all women and girls requires more than legal frameworks alone. Judicial literacy - understood as the knowledge, skills and confidence to understand rights, navigate justice systems and engage with legal institutions - plays a critical role in enabling individuals to seek protection, remedies and equal treatment under the law.

In line with the priority theme of the 70th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW70), this event will explore how education, both formal and non-formal, can serve as a foundational tool for strengthening judicial literacy from an early age. Education systems not only equip women and girls with essential knowledge but also contribute to building trust in and engagement with justice systems and legal institutions, addressing systemic and structural barriers, and fostering inclusive and rights-based societies.

The discussion will explore the opportunities and challenges in implementing global agreements such as the UNESCO Recommendation on Education for Peace, Human Rights and Sustainable Development. This policy and advocacy framework supports governments and educators in reshaping education systems to address persistent inequalities and discrimination, including gender-based barriers that limit women's full and equal participation in justice processes. Participants will also emphasize the need to engage men and boys through education as part of broader efforts to advance gender equality and access to justice. Ultimately, education approaches that foster respect for the rule of law and gender equality are essential to creating environments where women and girls can fully realize their rights.

Objectives

The event aims to:

- Examine the role of judicial literacy in advancing effective access to justice for all women and girls across different contexts.
- Explore how formal and non-formal education systems can strengthen judicial literacy from an early age.

- Discuss the role of schools and educational institutions in building trust in justice systems and legal institutions.
- Highlight the importance of engaging men and boys through education.
- Identify key barriers to equitable access to judicial literacy and policy-relevant approaches to overcoming them.

Format

The event will take the form of an expert-level moderated discussion, encouraging interactive exchange among speakers and participants. The format will prioritize practical insights and policy-relevant reflections.

Speakers

Opening remarks:

H.E. Mr. Jakub Kulhánek, Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the United Nations in New York

Ms. Begoña Lasagabaster, Director of the Gender Equality Division in the Office of the Director-General of UNESCO

Panel Discussion:

Ms. Priyadarshani Joshi, Senior Research and Policy Analyst with UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report

Ms. Zofia Kierner, Founder of the Girls Future Ready Foundation, CEO of impact agency 50one and visiting lecturer at Harvard University and UC Berkeley

Ms. Maya Hammoud and Ms. Lara Hammoud, Co-Founders & CEOs, Perception Foundation, Harvard University

*Moderated by **Mr. Martin Pizinger**, Director of the United Nations Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic*

Guiding Questions

How does judicial literacy contribute to effective access to justice for all women and girls across different contexts?

What role can formal and non-formal education systems play in strengthening judicial literacy from an early age?

How can schools and educational institutions help build trust in and engagement with justice systems and legal institutions?

Why is engaging men and boys essential for advancing women's and girls' access to justice?

What barriers prevent equitable access to judicial literacy, and how can education systems help overcome them?

Expected Outcomes

- Enhanced understanding of judicial literacy as an enabler of access to justice.
- Identification of promising educational approaches and partnerships.