



3<sup>o</sup> International Conference on  
**Access to Legal Aid in  
Criminal Justice Systems**

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Tbilisi, November 13-15, 2018





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*Promoting Rule of Law  
in Georgia (PROLoG)*



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THE PARLIAMENT OF GEORGIA  
and THE LEGAL AID SERVICE OF GEORGIA

together with THE INTERNATIONAL LEGAL FOUNDATION (ILF),  
the OPEN SOCIETY JUSTICE INITIATIVE (OSJI),  
the UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP), and  
the UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME (UNODC),

and in collaboration with the OPEN SOCIETY GEORGIA FOUNDATION (OSGF),  
the UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (USAID) Project  
“Promoting Rule of Law in Georgia” implemented by  
EAST-WEST MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE (EWMI-PROLoG),  
the EUROPEAN UNION (EU),  
the COUNCIL OF EUROPE (CoE) “Support to the Judicial Reform” Project,  
and the UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN’S FUND (UNICEF)

welcome you to the third

*INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON*  
**ACCESS TO LEGAL AID IN**  
**CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEMS**

## CONCEPT NOTE

### 1. Overview

The Parliament of Georgia and the Legal Aid Service of Georgia, together with The International Legal Foundation (ILF), the Open Society Justice Initiative (OSJI), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and in collaboration with the Open Society Georgia Foundation (OSGF), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Project “Promoting Rule of Law in Georgia” implemented by East-West Management Institute (EWMI-PROLoG), the European Union (EU), the Council of Europe (CoE) “Support to the Judicial Reform” Project, and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) will host the International Conference on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems in Tbilisi, Georgia from November 13 – 15, 2018 with the goal to address global challenges in ensuring access to quality legal aid services for the poor and vulnerable, particularly in criminal justice systems. This three-day event will be the third biennial global conference of its kind, following the inaugural conference held in Johannesburg, South Africa in June 2014, and the second conference held in Buenos Aires, Argentina in November 2016.

### 2. The Right to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems

The right to free legal assistance for criminal defendants who are unable to afford a lawyer is a widely accepted principle of law and an essential component of the right to a fair trial. Legal aid provides a foundation for a fair and effective justice system based on the rule of law. A functioning legal aid system, as part of a functioning justice system, may reduce the length of time suspects are held in police stations and detention centers, in addition to reducing the prison population, wrongful convictions, prison overcrowding and congestion in the courts, and reducing reoffending and revictimization. It may also protect and safeguard the rights of victims and witnesses.

This Conference will highlight global efforts to implement the *United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems* (the “UN Principles and Guidelines”), which provide that States should put in place a comprehensive legal aid system that is accessible and effective, has a nationwide reach and is available to all without discrimination. Consistent with article 14 of the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* (ICCPR) and the UN Principles and Guidelines, most States have laws guaranteeing the right to free legal representation for poor and vulnerable persons accused of crimes. Yet, all States face challenges in implementing this right, including limited financial resources, an inadequate number of lawyers, poor quality legal aid services, and insufficient training and awareness on the meaning and importance of effective legal representation. Further impeding access to legal aid is the fact that public awareness of legal aid is often low, and public trust and confidence in legal aid services may be compromised for a number of reasons, including bias, complexity, and concern about quality of services provided.

Legal aid is an essential tool in ensuring equal access to justice. When there is insufficient and inadequate access to legal aid and justice, people are unable to resolve their grievances and disputes peacefully and might opt for violence and conflicts. As a result of the global crisis in access to legal aid, millions of poor and marginalized people around the world face illegal and excessive pretrial detention, torture, coerced confessions, and wrongful convictions. The poor are more likely to be held in pretrial detention, which carries severe social, economic and health consequences, as they are unable to afford bail, fines, and other fees. Police disproportionately target members of marginalized groups, including racial, ethnic and religious minorities, for arrest in many countries. Members of marginalized groups may also face disproportionate prosecutions, unfair trials, and sentences that are disproportionate to the crime committed. Further, there is a significant and unmet need for legal aid services to meet the specialized needs of victims and witnesses of crime, women, children, persons with disabilities, and those facing civil and family matters

### 3. Objectives and Desired Outcomes of the Conference

By engaging national-level representatives, legal aid providers, civil society members, and other experts on common challenges to providing the poor and vulnerable with access to effective criminal legal aid services, and showcasing good practices and innovative solutions to common challenges this conference will focus on practical and achievable outcomes. The conference will build on the presentations and discussions from the first two conferences, and will highlight global, regional and national efforts to strengthen access to legal aid in recent years.

Throughout the conference participants will be encouraged to develop concrete, action-oriented plans to address challenges related to the provision of legal aid services and advance implementation of the UN Principles and Guidelines. Participants will also be encouraged to consider how additional frameworks and initiatives can integrate with that goal, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with its *principles of leaving no one behind, and reaching the furthest behind*

*first*, and specifically Goal 16, target 3 on rule of law and access to justice for all, the most recent General Assembly Resolution on Sustaining Peace, the Open Government Partnership's National Action Plans, the International Legal Aid Network, and similar platforms and networks.

At the conclusion of the conference, participants will have the opportunity to adopt a declaration in which they commit to take action on items related to improving access to legal aid at the domestic level, and cooperation and collaboration at the regional and international levels.

#### **4. Conference Topics**

Conference topics may include the following: (1) Effective models of governance or administration of legal aid systems; (2) Mechanisms for ensuring the independence of legal aid providers and systems; (3) The role of bar associations and the private sector in legal aid, and their cooperation with public legal aid providers; (4) Good practices for measuring and improving quality of legal aid representation; (5) Standards for the monitoring and evaluation of legal aid systems; (6) Best practices for setting legal aid eligibility standards; (7) Strategies for reducing pretrial detention, including providing early access to legal aid; (8) Special measures to ensure meaningful access to legal aid for the extreme poor and for marginalized and vulnerable groups, and groups with specific needs, in line with the principle of *leaving no one behind*; (9) Core components of a child friendly system of legal aid; (10) Role of legal aid in restorative justice processes, mediation and alternative dispute resolution; (11) Providing legal aid to victims and others; (12) Innovations in expanding access to legal aid; (13) Innovating strategies to safeguard the rights of the accused, including plea bargaining and strategic litigation; (14) Challenges regarding respect of legal aid and human rights in terrorism and other serious cases; (15) Developing the International Legal Aid Network; and (16) Measuring and improving access to legal aid under Sustainable Development Goal 16, target 3.

While the conference will focus on legal aid in criminal justice systems, it will also provide an opportunity to address some related civil legal aid issues, as States and non-State actors often coordinate the strategies, funding, and administration of both criminal and civil legal aid.

**Third International Conference on  
Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems**  
Tbilisi, Georgia • 13-15 November 2018

DAY ONE 13 November 2018	
8:00 – 9:00	Registration and Coffee/Tea
<p>9:00 – 10:15</p> <p><u>Session 1</u> Plenary Session</p> <p>Location: <i>The Grand Royal Ballroom</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Conference Opening Session</b></p> <p><b><u>Welcome Remarks/Moderator:</u></b> Mr. Meliton Benidze, Director, Georgia Legal Aid Service</p> <p><b><u>Opening Remarks:</u></b> Mr. Mikheil Sarjveladze, First Deputy Minister of Justice of Georgia Ms. Louisa Vinton, UN Resident Coordinator, UNDP Resident Representative Mr. Carl Hartzell, Ambassador of the European Union to Georgia Mr. Peter A. Wiebler, Mission Director, USAID Caucasus, U.S. Agency for International Development Mr. Cristian Urse, Head of the Council of Europe Office in Georgia Ms. Ketil Khutsishvili, Executive Director, Open Society Georgia Foundation Ms. Jennifer Smith, Executive Director, The International Legal Foundation</p> <p><b><u>Keynote Address:</u></b> Mr. Irakli Kobakhidze, Speaker of the Parliament of Georgia</p>
<p>10:15 – 11:00</p> <p><u>Session 2</u> Plenary Session</p> <p>Location: <i>The Grand Royal Ballroom</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Fundamental Necessity of Legal Aid in Guaranteeing Equal Access to Justice for All and Achieving Progress under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</b></p> <p>High level speakers on this panel will frame the central themes of the conference, make clear that the right to legal aid is a fundamental component of access to justice and the human right to a fair trial, and is necessary for States to achieve progress on Sustainable Development Goal 16.3 and the mandate to 'leave no one behind'. Speakers will also link the right to legal aid to successful efforts to reduce human rights abuses, including unlawful and excessive pretrial detention and torture. The conference outcome document and process for its drafting and adoption will be discussed here.</p> <p><b><u>Moderator:</u></b> Ms. Munkhtuya Altangerel, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Georgia</p> <p><b><u>Panelists:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mr. Sophio Kiladze, Chair of the Human Rights and Civil Integration Committee, Parliament of Georgia <i>Parliamentary oversight over human rights, and the work of the Human Rights Committee</i></li> <li>2. Ms. Isabelle Tschan, Istanbul Hub Head of Governance, United Nations Development Programme <i>Improving access to justice and legal aid to deliver the 2030 Agenda commitments for inclusive, just and peaceful societies</i></li> <li>3. Ms. Anika Holterhof, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer, Focal Point for Legal Aid, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime <i>The 14<sup>th</sup> UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice - Advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda</i></li> <li>4. The Hon. Dunstan Mlambo, Judge President, Gauteng Division of the High Court of South Africa; Chair of Board of Directors for Legal Aid South Africa <i>Access to Legal Aid: A necessary platform for effective access to justice</i></li> <li>5. Mr. Zaza Namoradze, Director, Berlin Office, Open Society Justice Initiative <i>Recent developments in legal aid and introduction to the Conference Outcome Document</i></li> </ol>

DAY ONE: 13 November 2018 (continued...)

**An Analysis of Good Practices and Practical Challenges in Creating or Reforming Legal Aid Systems**

The goal of this session will be to analyze best practices in structuring legal aid systems that are accessible, effective, sustainable and credible, and to discuss common impediments to reform as well as strategies for overcoming these impediments. Often countries' legal aid systems and structures have not been developed because they are the best possible model, but because of (i) a lack of awareness of good practices and options; (ii) vested interests; (iii) deeply-ingrained legal attitudes; and (iv) barriers to change. To illustrate best practices and challenges with various delivery models and systems of administration, this session will be structured as a moderated Q&A session in which panelist will be asked challenging questions about how to ensure legal aid systems are providing effective and efficient, high-quality, ethical, and independent legal aid services.

11:00 – 12:30

**Moderator:** Ms. Jennifer Smith, Executive Director, The International Legal Foundation

**Panelists:**

1. Mr. Meliton Benidze, Director, Georgia Legal Aid Service  
*On achievements and challenges in establishing an independent legal aid organization in Georgia*
2. Ms. Ivanna Smachylo, Deputy Minister of Justice, Ministry of Justice of Ukraine  
*On best practices and lessons learnt in reforming the legal aid system in Ukraine*
3. Ms. Emmanuelle Debouverie, Associate, Hirsch and Vanhaelst  
*On the early efforts to build support for the creation of public defenders offices in Belgium*
4. Mr. Mjuntaser Masri, Director of the Legal Aid, Minister of Justice of Jordan  
*On Jordan's new legislative framework for legal representation in criminal cases*
5. Ms. Caroline Amondi, Acting National Coordinator, National Legal Aid & Awareness Program (Kenya)  
*On Kenya's National Action Plan to expand access to legal aid*
6. Mr. Nicolás Laino, Public Defender, Office of the Federal Public Defender of Argentina  
*On maintaining independence and quality of legal aid services in public defender institutions*
7. Dr. Yoav Sapir, Chief Public Defender, Public Defense Office of the State of Israel  
*On establishing a mixed public defender system that integrates and supervises private attorneys*
8. Mr. Rick Jones, Executive Director, Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem, United States  
*On community-based public defender services and the contract model of legal aid delivery*

Session 3

Plenary

Session

Location:

*The Grand  
Royal Ballroom*

**Lunch**

12:30 – 13:30

***\*Please refer to the information in your registration packet for your assigned lunch location\****

DAY ONE: 13 November 2018 (continued...)

**Good Practices and Lessons Learned for Improving the Quality and Effectiveness of Legal Aid**

Access to legal aid services means little if legal aid providers lack the time, resources, or skills to be effective advocates. This session will explore standards and good practices in ensuring the quality and effectiveness of legal aid services, including the role of professional standards, and qualifications, training, and supervision in strengthening the quality of legal aid services delivery. It will also explore important structural elements of quality legal aid, including independence and adequate funding. Finally, this session will explore the role of judges and other justice agencies in putting in place a culture of defense that puts a premium on ensuring quality, effective legal aid representation rather than expediency and mass plea bargaining.

13:30 – 15:00

**Moderator:** Ms. Anika Holterhof, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer, Focal Point for Legal Aid, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

**Panelists:**

1. The Hon. Dunstan Mlambo, Judge President, Gauteng Division of High Court; and Chair of the Board of Directors for Legal Aid South Africa  
*Quality legal aid services: The need for global consensus*
2. Mr. Jago Russell, Chief Executive, Fair Trials  
*The impossibility of a fair trial without quality legal aid services*
3. Professor Avrom Sherr, Professor Emeritus, Institute of Advanced Legal Studies  
*Quality and funding: Proving value for money*
4. Ms. Natalie Rea, President, The Court Access Project; Founder and Senior Advisor, The International Legal Foundation  
*Changing the practice: Lessons in developing a culture of quality defense in post-conflict and transitioning countries*
5. The Hon. Justice Sapanda Pradhan Malla, Justice, Supreme Court of Nepal  
*The role of the judiciary in ensuring quality and effectiveness of legal aid services*
6. Ms. Minh Nguyen, General Director, National Legal Aid Agency, Vietnam  
*Legal regulations on quality of legal aid services in Vietnam: Practice of effective cases of victims of gender-based violence*
7. The Hon. Joana Qeleshi, Judge and Head of Durres District Court, Albania  
*Piloting free legal aid in district courts, and ensuring quality services to marginalized women and men in Albania*

Session 4

Plenary Session

Location:

*The Grand Royal Ballroom*

15:00 – 15:30

Tea Break

15:30 – 16:15

**Q&A Session on Plea Bargaining**

This session will provide an opportunity for participants to deepen their understanding of the growing use of negotiated pleas or plea bargaining around the world, the role of plea bargaining on the fairness of criminal justice systems and the crucial role of early access to effective legal aid services.

**Moderator:** Mr. Jago Russell, Chief Executive, Fair Trials

**Panelists:**

1. Mr. Rick Jones, Executive Director, Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem, United States
2. Mr. Kakha Tsikarishvili, EU-UN Joint Programme, Expert
3. Ms. Madhurima Dhanuka, Coordinator, Prison Reforms Programme, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative

Session 5

Plenary Session

Location:

*The Grand Royal Ballroom*

16:15 – 18:00

**Breakout Sessions:**

*\*Details regarding topics and speakers for breakout sessions are provided in the “Programme of Breakout Sessions” in your registration packet\**

Session 6

19:00 – 21:00

**Gala Reception at the Parliament of Georgia**

*\*Details regarding the Gala Reception can be found on the flier in your registration packet\**



DAY TWO 14 November 2018	
<b>8:30 – 9:00</b> <u>Session 7</u> Plenary Session  Location: <i>The Grand            Royal Ballroom</i>	<b>Rapporteurs Report Back from Day 1 Breakout Sessions</b>
<b>9:00 – 9:30</b>  <u>Session 8</u> Plenary Session  Location: <i>The Grand            Royal Ballroom</i>	<b>Keynote Address</b>  <b>Mrs. Tonier Cain-Muldrow</b> <b>Founder and President of Neen Cares, Inc.</b> <b>Formerly incarcerated expert on trauma-informed care and criminal justice reform</b> <i>Her Story, Trauma, Incarceration and Recovery</i>
<b>9:30 – 11:00</b>  <u>Session 9</u> Plenary Session  Location: <i>The Grand            Royal Ballroom</i>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Strategies for Reducing Excessive Pretrial Detention</b></p> <p>This session will explore different country strategies to reduce pretrial detention in practice, and the fundamental role of legal aid providers in challenging pretrial detention decisions.</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Ms. Jennifer Smith, Executive Director, The International Legal Foundation</p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ms. Anika Holterhof, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer, Focal Point for Legal Aid, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime <i>Reducing the scope of imprisonment and excessive use of pre-trial detention through effective legal aid and the application of non-custodial measures</i></li> <li>2. Ms. Nina Solas-Iloniemi, Chief Public Defender, Helsinki Legal Aid Office (Finland) <i>Free until proven guilty: Finland's pretrial detention rates</i></li> <li>3. Ms. Roberta Alvim, Federal Public Defender, Office of the Union Public Defender of Brazil <i>Legal aid providers' role in reducing pretrial detention by improving the success of pretrial release</i></li> <li>4. Mr. Alexander Shalom, Senior Supervising Attorney, American Civil Liberties Union - New Jersey <i>Eliminating cash bail to promote liberty: mechanisms, benefits, and challenges</i></li> <li>5. Ms. Madhurima Dhanuka, Prison Reforms Programme Coordinator, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) <i>Legal aid measures to reduce pretrial detention: India</i></li> <li>6. Ms. Holly Hobart, Program Director, The International Legal Foundation <i>The right against arbitrary detention and the remedy of release: Challenging illegal detention through pretrial motions practice</i></li> </ol>
<b>11:00 – 11:30</b>	<b>Tea Break</b>

**DAY TWO: 14 November 2018 (continued...)**

**Barriers and Solutions to Ensuring Early Access to Legal Aid**

Most countries provide for the right to prompt access to legal aid at or near the time of arrest, but face challenges in guaranteeing this right to indigent and vulnerable accused persons in practice. This session will explore barriers and solutions to ensuring early access to legal aid services in practice.

**11:30 – 13:00**

**Moderator:** Mr. Giorgi Burjanadze, Georgia Public Defender/ Deputy Ombudsman

**Panelists:**

1. Ms. Nora Katona, Researcher, Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights (Austria)  
*Access to a lawyer in police custody: Findings of the Inside Police Custody research in Austria*
2. Dr. Yoav Sapir, Chief Public Defender, Public Defense Office of the State of Israel  
*24/7 public defense: Ensuring access to legal counsel during interrogation*
3. Mr. Konstantin Bushuev, Deputy Chief of National Police, Ukraine  
*Introducing IT solutions to increase rights guarantees during the first hours in police detention: Experience in Ukraine*
4. Mr. Michael Mrozinski, Staff Attorney, National Legal Aid & Defender Association (USA)  
*Access to counsel at first appearance: A promising practice for pretrial safety and justice*
5. Ms. Nicole Taylor, Managing Director, The International Legal Foundation  
*Strategies for introducing early access mechanisms in post-conflict and transitioning countries*
6. Mr. Clifford Msiska, Director Paralegal Advisory Services Institute, Malawi  
*The role of paralegals in promoting early access to justice*

Session 10  
Plenary  
Session

Location:  
*The Grand  
Royal Ballroom*

**13:00 – 14:00**

**Lunch: Please refer to the information in your registration packet for your assigned lunch location**

**14:00 – 15:30**

**Parallel Sessions: The following three sessions will take place simultaneously; please choose one session to attend (11A, 11B, or 11C)**

**Models and Good Practices for Monitoring the Quality and Effectiveness of Legal Aid Services**

To ensure the efficient use of both financial and human resources, and to ensure equal access of beneficiaries to high-quality services, monitoring and evaluating the quality of legal aid is crucial; it is also an important component in the effort to constantly improve the quality of services, and can bring about more uniform quality of legal aid services. This session will explore models and good practices for assessing the quality of legal aid systems and providers in different legal aid systems.

**Moderator:** Professor Avrom Sherr, Professor Emeritus, Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, University of London

**Panelists:**

1. Ms. Anika Holterhof, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer, Focal Point for Legal Aid, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime  
*Purposes, outcomes and tools for evaluation: Approaches and good practices from legal and legal aid delivery systems across the globe*
2. Mr. Irakli Shonia, Deputy Director, Georgia Legal Aid Service  
*Successes and challenges of Georgia's peer review system for monitoring quality of legal aid standards*
3. The Hon. Motsamai Makume, Deputy Chairperson, Legal Aid South Africa  
*Ensuring high quality legal aid services: Legal Aid South Africa's experience in improving the quality of legal aid services through quality monitoring and evaluation programs*
4. Mr. Mohammad Nabi Waqar, Country Director, ILF-Afghanistan  
*Developing mechanisms for measuring quality legal aid services in post-conflict and transitioning countries*
5. Mr. Peter Van Den Biggelaar, Former Executive Director, Dutch Legal Aid Board  
*The legal aid quality assurance system in the Netherlands*
6. Ms. Roberta Alvim, Federal Public Defender, Office of the Union Public Defender of Brazil  
*The Brazilian experience on quality legal aid services*

Session 11A  
Parallel  
Session

Location:  
*The Grand  
Royal Ballroom*

DAY TWO: 14 November 2018 (continued...)

**The Role of Legal Aid Providers During the Early Stages of the Criminal Case**

This session will explore the crucial role of legal aid providers during the early stages of the criminal justice process, including during critical stages of the case such as custodial interrogations and pretrial detention decisions.

**Moderator:** Ms. Mythri Jayaraman, Assistant Federal Defender, Eastern District of Pennsylvania; International Fellow, The International Legal Foundation

**Panelists:**

1. Ms. Andrea Huber, Deputy Chief, Rule of Law Unit, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights  
*The impact of criminal procedural reforms on effective defence in South-Eastern Europe*
2. Ms. Hanen Bent Mahmoud Ben Asmar Fathallah, Senior Attorney, ILF-Tunisia  
*Tunisia's justice system in transition: carving out a proactive and effective role for legal aid providers during the pre-charge detention stage of a criminal case*
3. Dr. Ghulam Haidar Allamah, Deputy Attorney General in Judicial Prosecution Affairs, Attorney General's Office of Afghanistan  
*The role of the prosecution in facilitating the right to legal aid for the indigent accused*
4. Various Speakers, Justicia Criminal Rights Network  
*Access to legal aid in police custody: Presentation on findings of Inside Police Custody research in Europe*
  - (a) Brief Introduction by: Mr. Zaza Namoradze, Open Society Justice Initiative
  - (b) Presentation on Hungary by Mr. Andras Kadar, Co-Chair, Hungarian Helsinki Commission
  - (c) Presentation on Bulgaria by Mr. Krassimir Kanev, Chairman, Bulgarian Helsinki Committee
  - (d) Presentation on Spain by Ms. Patricia Goicoechea García, Deputy Director, Rights International Spain
  - (e) Presentation on Italy by Mr. Alessio Scandura, Researcher, Associazione Antigone

Session 11B  
Parallel  
Session

Location:  
Congress Hall

**Providing Legal Aid in Crisis-Affected and Fragile Contexts**

This session seeks to highlight country experiences in delivering legal aid in crisis contexts. It will also reflect on the roles of different actors such as national authorities, bar associations, civil society and paralegals in providing legal aid.

**Moderator:** Mr. Martin Borgeaud, Chief Technical Advisor Justice, Security and Human Rights, UNDP Lebanon

**Panelists:**

1. H.E. Dr. Abdul Basir Anwar, Minister of Justice of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (TBC)
2. Mr. Michel Landry Louanga, Magistrat, Conseiller à la cour de cassation et Président, Comité désigné pour l'élaboration de la stratégie nationale d'aide légale  
*Fournir une aide juridique dans les contextes de crise et de fragilité*
3. Ms. Rana Youssef Mohammed Elhaddad, Palestinian Bar Association Board Member, Head of Training Committee  
*Legal aid to vulnerable people in the Gaza Strip as a conflict area: challenges faced, lessons learned and ability to continue*
4. Ms. Oksana Vasiliaka, First Deputy Director, Coordination Center for Legal Aid Provision, Ukraine  
*Provision of free legal aid to internally displaced persons affected by the conflict in Ukraine*
5. Ms. Noueiri Khayrie Mayssam, The General Director of the Ministry of Justice of Lebanon  
*Legal aid for Syrian refugees*
6. Ms. Bimala Yadav, Senior Attorney in Charge, Public Defender Society of Nepal  
*The role of civil society in developing sustainable and locally-owned legal aid systems*

Session 11C  
Parallel  
Session

Location:  
Meeting Room 8

15:30 – 16:00

Tea Break

16:00 – 18:00

Breakout Sessions:

Session 12

*\*Details regarding topics and speakers for breakout sessions are provided in the "Programme of Breakout Sessions" in your registration packet\**

<b>DAY THREE</b> <b>15 November 2018</b>	
<b>8:30 – 9:00</b> <u>Session 7</u> Plenary Session  Location: <i>The Grand Royal Ballroom</i>	<b>Rapporteurs Report Back from Day 2 Breakout Sessions</b>
<b>9:00 – 10:30</b>  <u>Session 14</u> Plenary Session  Location: <i>The Grand Royal Ballroom</i>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Addressing Discrimination and Marginalization in Criminal Justice through Legal Aid</b></p> <p>This session will explore the reasons for the current crisis in legal aid, including institutionalized discrimination against minorities and marginalized populations, and discuss the transformative power of legal aid providers in protecting the right to legal aid. Through country examples, this session will explore ways that legal aid providers can fight injustice through litigation, by working collaboratively to improve outcomes for the indigent accused and their families and strategically fighting for the eradication of discrimination in the criminal justice system.</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Mr. Zaza Namoradze, Director, Berlin Office, Open Society Justice Initiative</p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mr. Andre Castro, Public Defender General, State of Rio de Janeiro <i>Police Operations in the favelas of Rio de Janeiro and the legal defense of the residents</i></li> <li>2. Mr. Rick Jones, Executive Director, Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem (NDS) <i>The power of public defense to combat discrimination and overcome the disparate impact of criminal justice systems: a look at the NDS model of holistic defense</i></li> <li>3. Ms. Irmina Pacho, Legal Officer, Open Society Justice Initiative <i>Disparities in criminal justice system for individuals of different ethnic, racial, and national background in the European Union: Main findings of the scoping study</i></li> <li>4. Mr. Krassimir Kanev, Chairman, Bulgarian Helsinki Committee <i>Ethnic discrimination in criminal justice: Bulgarian perspective</i></li> <li>5. Ms. Samira Ishaqzai, Head of the ILF-Afghanistan’s Women and Children’s Rights Unit <i>Challenging discrimination against women in Afghanistan’s justice system through litigation and advocacy</i></li> <li>6. Mr. Vladyslav Vlasiuyk, General Director, Directorate for Human Rights, Access to Justice and Legal Awareness, Ministry of Justice of Ukraine <i>Ukraine’s experience in providing legal aid to victims of domestic violence in the context of the National Human Rights Strategy</i></li> </ol>
<b>10:30 – 11:00</b>	<b>Tea Break</b>

DAY THREE: 15 November 2018 (continued...)	
<p><b>11:00 – 12:30</b></p> <p><u>Session 15</u> Plenary Session</p> <p>Location: <i>The Grand Royal Ballroom</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Effective Strategies for “Leaving No One Behind” and Increasing Access to Legal Aid for Marginalized Groups</b></p> <p>This session seeks to highlight challenges and good practices in expanding access to legal aid, particularly to marginalized groups.</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Mr. Gigi Bregadze, UNDP Georgia Democratic Governance Team Leader</p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Professor David McQuoid-Mason, Professor of Law, Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, University of KwaZulu-Natal <i>Leaving nobody behind: The UN Principles and Guidelines and the role of non-lawyers in assisting criminal accused in remote rural areas where there are no lawyers</i></li> <li>2. Mr. Nicolás Laino, Public Defender, Office of the Federal Public Defender of Argentina <i>Improving access to legal aid for women in Argentina</i></li> <li>3. Mr. Ünsal Toker, Vice President of Union of Bar Associations, &amp; Mr. Muhittin Özdemir, Head of the Dept. of Victims Rights, Ministry of Justice, Turkey <i>Access to legal aid for Syrian refugees in Turkey</i></li> <li>4. Mr. Loik Nusratov, Director, State Agency Legal Aid Centre, the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Tajikistan <i>Delivering free legal aid to vulnerable groups and people with disabilities</i></li> <li>5. Dr. Anat Horovitz, Deputy Chief Public Defender, Public Defense Office of the State of Israel <i>Providing public defense for non-citizens: Challenges and strategies</i></li> <li>6. Dr. Wendy O’Brien, Legal Officer, Violence Against Children, UNODC <i>The role of global education in promoting access to justice for vulnerable groups</i></li> </ol>
<b>12:30 – 13:30</b>	<b>Lunch: Please refer to the information in your registration packet for your assigned lunch location</b>
<b>13:30 – 15:00</b>	<b>Parallel Sessions: The following three sessions will take place simultaneously; please choose one session to attend (16A, 16B, or 16C)</b>
<p><u>Session 16A</u> Parallel Session</p> <p>Location: <i>The Grand Royal Ballroom</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Realities and Innovations in Expanding Access to Legal Aid</b></p> <p>This session will explore innovative approaches to expanding access to legal aid, including the role of pro bono services, technological innovations and self-help approaches.</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Sophio Chachava, Chair of the Legal Aid Board of Georgia</p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mr. Oleksiy Boniuk, Director, Coordination Center for Legal Aid Provision (Ukraine) <i>Scaling up and ensuring the sustainability of legal aid services in Ukraine</i></li> <li>2. Ms. Daniella Vitagliano, Public Defender, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil <i>Protecting people who lack formal registration after incarceration</i></li> <li>3. Ms. Hadeel Abdel Aziz, Executive Director, Justice Center for Legal Aid, Jordan <i>Duty lawyer - changing culture at police stations</i></li> <li>4. Ms. Natalie Rea, President, The Court-Access Project <i>The Court-Access App: using inexpensive technology to improve communication between police, detention and the courts to ensure judicial oversight &amp; eliminate illegal delay between arrest &amp; first court appearance</i></li> <li>5. Ms. Susan Lee, Access to Justice Advisor, MyJustice Programme, The British Council <i>Forging new pathways in legal empowerment: The new mobile application LannPya (‘Show the Way’ in Myanmar)</i></li> <li>6. Mr. Ivan Honcharuk, Rule of Law and Access to Justice Analyst, UNDP Ukraine <i>Protecting rights of internally displaced people and SGBV survivors with help of legal aid mobile apps</i></li> </ol>

DAY THREE: 15 November 2018 (continued...)

**Strategies for Ensuring Access to Legal Aid in Civil Cases**

This session will explore the urgent need for, and current inadequacy of civil legal aid services, and strategies for increasing access to civil legal aid.

**Moderator:** Mr. Kenta Inagaki, Rule of Law, Justice, Security and Human Rights Specialist, UNDP NY

**Panelists:**

1. Mr. Meliton Benidze, Director, Georgia Legal Aid Service  
*Scope of civil legal aid in Georgia*
2. Mr. Seremaia Waqainabete, Deputy Director, Fiji Legal Aid Commission  
*State funded legal aid for civil cases, including family matters in Fiji*
3. Mr. Roman Romanov, Human Rights and Justice Program Director, International Renaissance Foundation  
*Building partnerships for advancing community-based civil justice services in Ukraine*
4. Mr. Manas Sarymsakov, Deputy Minister of Justice and Mr. Akzhol Kalbekov, Director of the Free Legal Aid Coordination Center, Kyrgyzstan  
*Issues of provision of legal aid on civil cases*
5. Ms. Thamarashi Wickramanayake, Legal Officer, The Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka  
*Development of Civil Legal Aid in Sri Lanka*
6. Mr. Constantinus Kristomo, Deputy Director, Legal Aid and Public Education Center in the Ministry of Law, Indonesia  
*Providing Civil Legal Aid Services in Indonesia*

Session 16B  
Parallel  
Session

Location:  
Meeting Room 8

**Innovative approaches to providing legal aid services to children**

This session will address the serious concern that the rights and interests of many children in juvenile justice proceedings around the world are significantly compromised and will explore some innovative approaches and guidelines to ensuring that children have access to quality and effective legal aid services.

**Moderator:** Dr. Ghassan Khalil, Representative, UNICEF Georgia

**Panelists:**

1. Mr. Phenny Kakama, UNICEF Europe and Central Asia Regional Office  
*Guidelines on Child Friendly Legal Aid*
2. Justice Renate Winter, Team Leader of the EU funded Judiciary Support Project, Chair of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child  
*Provision of Legal Aid to Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime*
3. Mr. Irakli Shonia, Deputy Director, Georgia Legal Aid Service  
*Development of Child Friendly Legal Aid in Georgia*
4. Mr. Ghadanfar Kamanji, Legal Director and Juvenile Justice Lead, ILF-West Bank  
*Investing in Society's Future: Ensuring Better Life Outcomes for Children within the Criminal Justice System*

Session 16C  
Parallel  
Session

Location:  
Congress Hall

15:00 – 16:30

Session 17  
Plenary  
Session

Location:  
The Grand  
Royal Ballroom

**Conference Closure and Adoption of the Outcome Document**

**Conference Ends**

*We would like to thank the following governments, foundations and organizations for their generous support of the conference, without which this groundbreaking event could not have succeeded:*



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*We would also like to thank the many governments and individuals who supported participants in this event.*