



GIJTR

Global Initiative for Justice,
Truth & Reconciliation



TRANSFORMING TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

Innovative Approaches for
Centering Communities
to Lead Post-Conflict

EVENT PROGRAM

March 18-19, 2024

Barcelona, Spain

ABOUT THE GLOBAL INITIATIVE FOR JUSTICE, TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

Around the world, there is an urgent need for justice, truth and reconciliation in countries where legacies of gross human rights violations cast a shadow on transitions from repressive regimes to participatory and democratic forms of governance. To date, however, many transitional justice models have failed to actively involve local voices—particularly marginalized groups such as women and survivors—which are crucial to ensuring a secure and peaceful future.

To rectify this gap, the Global Initiative for Justice, Truth and Reconciliation (GIJTR)—led by the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience (ICSC), a global network of museums, historic sites, memorials and memory initiatives that uses the past to address human rights today—offers holistic, integrative and multidisciplinary approaches to issues of truth, justice and reconciliation. A consortium of nine international organizations, GIJTR works with local populations, civil society organizations (CSOs) and governments to develop context-specific transitional justice approaches that are victim-centered, collaborative and support dignity, respect, inclusion and transparency in societies emerging from conflict or periods of authoritarian rule.

Geographically and programmatically diverse, GIJTR partners develop and implement a range of rapid-response and high impact program activities, utilizing restorative and retributive approaches to justice and accountability for gross human rights violations.



In 2020, GIJTR worked with ICSC member and local partner the Liberation War Museum in Bangladesh on a quilting exhibit that shared the experiences of Rohingya women survivors through panels embroidered by the women themselves.

The expertise of the organizations in GIJTR includes:

- truth-telling, reconciliation, memorialization and other forms of historical memory;
- documenting human rights abuses for transitional justice purposes;
- forensic analysis and other efforts related to missing and disappeared persons;
- victims' advocacy such as improving access to justice, psychosocial support and trauma mitigation activities;
- providing technical assistance to and building the capacity of civil society actors and organizations to promote and engage on transitional justice processes;
- reparative justice initiatives; and
- ensuring gender justice in all these processes.

In its first decade, GIJTR has engaged over 800 local CSOs in 80 countries; supported over 500 community-driven projects; produced 50 publications and resources; and facilitated the collection of more than 8,000 narratives of human rights violations.

For more information, visit www.gijtr.org

ABOUT THIS EVENT

In celebration of the tenth anniversary of the Global Initiative for Justice, Truth and Reconciliation, this gathering brings together over 90 representatives, including GIJTR Consortium partners, local partners, survivors, policy makers, donors and civil society representatives, to reflect on GIJTR's impact within its first ten years. Through addresses, panel discussions and interactive sessions, participants will share best practices and lessons learned as well as identify policy recommendations for ensuring that future transitional justice processes are as context-informed, locally driven, non-prescriptive and victim-centered as possible. **Held in partnership with the General Directorate of Democratic Memory**, the event—like all GIJTR gatherings—serves above all as a platform for connection and collaboration among survivors, civil society representatives and policy makers.

The **General Directorate of Democratic Memory** of the Ministry of Justice, Rights and Memory works for the recovery of memory by promoting the relationship with memorialist institutions from all over the world; organizing activities related to the recovery of democratic memory; calling for grants for the recovery of memorial heritage, scientific research and dissemination in the field of memory; promoting the location of missing persons during the Civil War and the Franco regime; locating the existing mass graves in Catalonia; managing the compensations to former political prisoners of the Franco regime, and advising the people who were retaliated against.

This General Directorate manages and coordinates the relationship of the Generalitat of Catalonia (Government of Catalonia) with the Democratic Memorial (an ICSC member), the Exile Memorial Museum Consortium (MUME) and the Ebro Battle Areas Memorial Consortium (COMEBE).



Generalitat de Catalunya
Government of Catalonia



"I remember participating in a GIJTR workshop where, for the first time, you also heard victims' voices. That's unusual because you usually have organizations who either parade victims or speak themselves for victims, but here they were speaking for themselves... GIJTR has tried to be exactly that, a space where the voices of victims can be heard. I would say that that's been quite revolutionary."

—GLOBAL SCHOLAR,
2023

Participants in GIJTR's African Youth Transitional Justice Academy during a workshop on dialogue facilitation in Rwanda in 2019.

All sessions will be held at Palauet Casades,

located a short walking distance from the Renaissance Barcelona Hotel at:

Ilustre Colegio de la Abogacía de Barcelona—ICAB
C/ de Mallorca, 283, L'Eixample, 08037 Barcelona, Spain

Transportation is also available, upon request. Conference participants are expected to attend all conference sessions. Please direct any questions to Jordan Watkins, Program Assistant at ICSC, at jwatkins@siteofconscience.org.

AGENDA

Monday, March 18

09:30–10:30

Welcome and Introductions

Ereshnee Naidu, Senior Director of the Global Transitional Justice Initiative
Silvia Fernández, Global Networks Program Director
 International Coalition of Sites of Conscience (ICSC)

10:30–11:00

Welcome Address

Alfons Aragoneses Aguado, Executive Director, Memòria Democràtica

11:00–11:30

Introductory Remarks

Elizabeth Silkes, Executive Director, ICSC

11:30–11:45 Break

11:45–12:15

Keynote Address

Ambassador Beth Van Schaack, Ambassador-at-Large for Global Criminal Justice, Office of Global Criminal Justice, U.S. Department of State

12:15–13:00

Transitional Justice Policy and Practice

Ereshnee Naidu, ICSC

- Bhavani Fonseka (Sri Lanka)
- Eduardo Gonzalez (Peru)
- Makmid Kamara (Sierra Leone)
- Natascha Zupan (Germany)

13:00–13:15 Discussion and Questions

13:15–14:45 Lunch

14:45–15:30

Innovations in Community-Led Documentation and Truth-Telling:

Annah Moyo, Executive Director, Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation

- Mariana Gómez Godoy (Mexico)
- Han Gyi (Burma)
- Ranitha Mayooran (Sri Lanka)

15:30–15:45 Discussion and Questions

15:45–16:30

Mothers and Sisters in Justice and Activism

Sonia Desai, Program Management Analyst, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL), U.S. Department of State

- Monica Cunha (Brazil)
- Asmaou Diallo (Guinea)
- Bernadette French (Sierra Leone)

16:30–16:45 Discussion and Questions

16:45–17:00 Break

17:00–17:45

Interactive Session

Silvia Fernández, ICSC
Braden Paynter, Director of Methodology and Practice, ICSC

17:45–18:00 Wrap-up

19:00 Reception

Tuesday, March 19

09:30–10:30

Exploring a Multi-Disciplinary Approach to Transitional Justice

Ambassador Beth Van Schaack, Ambassador-at-Large for Global Criminal Justice, Office of Global Criminal Justice, U.S. Department of State

- Ferdoushi Akter (Arts and TJ, Bangladesh)
- Mariama Jobarteh (Truth-Telling, The Gambia)
- Hadi Marifat (Memorialization, Afghanistan)
- Anna Moyo (MHPSS, South Africa)
- Fredy Peccerelli (Forensics, Guatemala)

10:30–10:45	Discussion and Questions
10:45–11:30	
Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in Transitional Justice	Brahmy Poologasingham , Senior Technical Advisor and Lead, Transitional Justice & Accountability Programs, DRL, U.S. Department of State
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mahmoud Asvad (Syria) • Inaam Imteaz (Sudan) • Oksana Pokalchik (Ukraine) • Marina Gallego Zapata (Colombia) 	
11:30–11:45	Discussion and Questions
11:45–12:00	Break
12:00–13:00	
Funding Transitional Justice	Elizabeth Silkes , ICSC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patricia Davis (USA) • Noel Didla (USA) • John Gbodi (Ethiopia) • Tassia Mendonça (Brazil) • Kristen Sullens (USA) 	
13:00–13:15	Discussion and Questions
13:15–14:45	Lunch
14:45–15:30	
World Café Session	Sara Bradshaw , Program Director Sara Case , Deputy Program Director Dario Colmenares Millán , Program Director Diana Naoum , Senior Program Manager, Global Transitional Justice Initiative, ICSC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy Café • Donor Café • CSO Café • Community Café 	
15:30–15:45	Break
15:45–16:30	
Conference Wrap-up	Ereshnee Naidu , ICSC
16:30–16:45	
Closing	Brahmy Poologasingham , U.S. Department of State



Colombian children gather at a community mural depicting life before and during the armed conflict. The painting was facilitated by GIJTR and the Ethnic Afrocolombian Community Council of Guacoche, a local partner in Colombia.



As part of its violence prevention work with youth in Guinea, GIJTR and local partners collaborated with community artists in 2017 to capture children's memories of violence there.

Acknowledgments

As the founding partner of the Global Initiative for Justice, Truth and Reconciliation, the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience wishes to express its deepest gratitude to GIJTR's Consortium partners and local partners for their dedication and expertise; to its donors, staff, consultants and member sites for their steadfast support; and finally to the tens of thousands of survivors, victims, activists and community members who participated in GIJTR programming over the last decade for sharing their experiences, strength and hope in support of a more just and peaceful future.

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As a victim, this is the first time that I am engaged on an important issue like this. I have never been involved in discussions that gave me an opportunity to say how I feel. This is important to me and makes me feel like a part of the entire transitional justice process.

—Participant in a community dialogue on reparations led by GIJTR local partner, Women in Liberation and Leadership. WILL, The Gambia

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CENTERING COMMUNITIES, AN EXHIBITION

Reflecting on a Decade of Innovative Approaches and Tools for Transformation

Over the last decade, the Global Initiative for Justice, Truth and Reconciliation (GIJTR) has transformed the transitional justice field by amplifying victims’ voices and solidifying the participation of survivors, families and local communities in formal and informal transitional justice processes. Core to this transformation has been GIJTR’s use of a multi-disciplinary approach that draws on different modalities of engagement, expression and awareness raising for a multitude of actors in conflict and post-conflict settings.

GIJTR strives to expand the conceptual and operational boundaries of the transitional justice field by locating communities at the center of its work. In learning new methods and definitions of achieving transitional justice, GIJTR has become a pioneer of innovative approaches to engaging with human rights violations and in so doing challenges established transitional justice practices to continue to grow and evolve. This is affirmed by innovative practice in multiple areas, including: memorialization as a fifth pillar of transitional justice; transitional justice and atrocity prevention; developing new frontiers in the documentation of human rights violations;

DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY ARTS AGAINST ROHINGYA GENOCIDE PROJECT

Artist: 10 participants from Camp 06

Fire-Fear-Frustration is a storytelling series that focuses on documenting the experiences of genocide victims and interpreting those stories into a composition of paintings. The three chapters move from the violence in their homeland, to their journeys of escape, and finally to portraying life in a refugee camp. The stories are also documented in audio recordings with transcriptions.

Art Facilitator: Ferdoushi Akter (Tenni)

Supporting Art Facilitator: Joya Barua

mainstreaming psychosocial support in transitional justice; and seeing art as a tool of transitional justice.

Through this exhibition, the depth and breadth of GIJTR's work is illustrated across a decade of working in multiple countries, with different communities, each grappling with legacies of human rights violations. Each item on display represents multiple deep and trusted connections held by GIJTR through relationship building with civil society and community-based organizations.

We invite you to experience the momentum of GIJTR's work across 10 years, as captured in the body maps that tell the life stories of survivors and paintings that illustrate their hopes for a peaceful future. This is accompanied by a host of digital materials, publications, videos, podcasts and art-based documentation methods from across a number of GIJTR projects.

Through each exhibition node, we invite you to read, reflect and dialogue with fellow exhibition goers. We ask you to observe the connections between the significance of preserving the stories from



A 2017 GIJTR body mapping workshop in Guinea. Art methodologies like body mapping—a technique in which one tells a story through a life-sized drawing of her or his body—provide an alternate language for survivors to capture the trauma of their experiences and creatively engage with the past while envisioning a new future.

The exhibition is organized into four thematic areas:

- Cultivating Grassroots Platforms for Truth-Telling
- Making Marginalized Voices Visible
- Democratizing Documentation and Forensics
- Envisioning Redress, Justice and Peace

Each thematic area is connected through four intersecting approaches:

- The Role of Art-Based Methods
- Victim-Centered and Gender Responsive Approaches
- Healing, Mental Health & Psychosocial Support
- Atrocity Prevention and Social Cohesion

the Rohingya refugee camps of Bangladesh to the Wayúu community of Colombia. We ask you to pause in recognition of the plight of families in Sri Lanka and The Gambia in their continued search for their missing and disappeared loved ones. We ask you to hear the calls for justice in Guinea as they echo through calls for peace in Sudan and throughout the world. Finally, we ask you to consider the strength necessary for individuals and communities to reckon with and heal from gross injustices, all while envisioning and believing that a just and peaceful world is possible.

GIJTR is grateful to each community member who has participated in and contributed to processes towards justice, truth and reconciliation. It is this very commitment that leaves all of us with the responsibility to deepen our empathy, allyship and solidarity and remain wholly devoted to centering communities through every action we undertake in the name of justice.

GIJTR thanks all partners who have graciously shared their items to be displayed at this exhibition.



International Coalition of
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