The countries of the Americas have made significant strides in terms of establishing and enforcing a legal framework that guarantees women’s right to live free from violence. Despite these advances however, violence against women is still prevalent, and in some cases increasing in the region and women continue to confront significant barriers to their access to justice.

These barriers are particularly difficult to overcome for women who face the intersection of gender-based discrimination with additional factors such as race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender identity and physical and mental ability, among others.

In the framework of International Women’s Day 2016, the Mission of the United States to the Organization of American States (OAS), the Mission of Canada to the OAS and the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) of the OAS have partnered to organize a round-table event with a view to raising awareness of the importance of approaching the issues of violence against women and access to justice from a perspective of diversity.

The forum will focus on identifying **existing challenges and models in the region related to the protection of violence against women and girls, especially for those who are also members of the afro-descendant, indigenous, LGBTI, disabled and/or formerly incarcerated community.**

Please click here to register to attend in-person.

The event will be streamed live at [http://www.oas.org/en/media_center/webcast_schedule.asp](http://www.oas.org/en/media_center/webcast_schedule.asp)
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY
Breaking Barriers to Justice: Ending Violence against Women in the Americas
Tuesday, March 8, 2016
8:30am – 1:00pm
OAS Hall of the Americas, 17th Street and Constitution Ave. NW Washington, D.C.

AGENDA

8:30-9:00 Registration and Breakfast

9:00-9:30 Opening remarks:
  Sarah Sewall, Under Secretary for Civilian Security, Democracy and Human Rights, US Department of State
  Nestor Mendez, Assistant Secretary General of the OAS

9:30-11:00 Panel Session “Diversity and challenges to women’s access to justice”
  Moderator: Caroline Bettinger-Lopez, White House Advisor on Violence against Women
  Judy Heumann, Special Advisor for International Disability Rights
  Barbara Bailey, Expert of Jamaica to the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention
  Rosa Celorio, Principal Specialist and Coordinator of Thematic Section, Inter-American Commission of Human Rights, OAS (confirmed)
  Charo Mina Rojas, National Coordinator of Advocacy and Outreach for the Black Communities’ Process (Colombia)
  Marissa Billowitz, Associate Director, Youth, Gender and Rights, International Planned Parenthood Federation/Western Hemisphere Region

  Question and answer session

11:00-12:30 Panel Session “Voices from the field”
  Moderator: Wanda Jones, US Principal Delegate to CIM, Senior Advisor to the Secretary for Health
  U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
  Nicole Santamaria, Secretary of Asociación Colectivo Alejandría
  Maria Liliana Mor, Director of Programs, The Trust for the Americas
  Alma Gloria Temaj Morales, Project Coordinator, Mujb’ab’l Yol Association (Guatemala)
  Lorraine Edmo currently serves as Deputy Director for Tribal Affairs in the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence against Women (OVW).
  Dana Cryderman, First Secretary and Alternate Representative, Permanent Mission of Canada to the OAS

  Question and answer session

12:45-12:50 Launch of the Contest “ICTs to Prevent and Eradicate Violence against Women”
  Oscar León, Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL)

12:50-1:00 Closing remarks:
  Jennifer Loten, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the OAS