



Making Justice Count: Exploring the Role of People-Centered Justice Research and Data for Effective, Inclusive, and Accountable Governance

October 8, 2025 | 18:00-19:00 (GMT +2)

(In-person only) | Subdelegación del Gobierno de Álava (Olagibel Kalea, 1, 01007 Vitoria-Gasteiz, Araba, Spain)

- **Format:** (60 minutes panel discussion with moderated dialogue (no simultaneous interpretation))
- **Registration:** Register [here](#)

This is a side event of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Global Summit. It is hosted by the American Bar Foundation, Hague Institute for Innovation of Law (Hiil), Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just, and Inclusive Societies, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

- **Audience:** Government and civil society OGP members at both the national and local level, multilateral partners, and governance practitioners.
- **Outcomes:** Attendees will leave with a strong shared understanding of what "people-centered justice data" means in practice and how it can be useful to improve accountability and inclusion. They will also have increased awareness of the role of data in open justice and accountable institutions.

Overview

This session will explore how research and data can be used to advance people-centered justice approaches—those which reorient justice systems to people’s lived experiences and needs. People-centered justice supports government accountability and inclusive access to rights and services. It can ensure governance is effective and efficient. Understanding people’s justice needs through research and data collection helps governments and civil society organizations to develop solutions that work to resolve them and innovative new ways to address the challenges of building inclusive societies.

This discussion will bring together experts working at different levels to explore how evidence for people-centered justice can be generated, shared, and used to shape policies that respond to people’s needs, build sustained justice data systems, and support transparent, accountable, and inclusive societies.

The session will highlight three distinct but complementary perspectives:

- **OECD | Justice Action Coalition Workstream on Data & Evidence:**
The [Justice Action Coalition](#) is a multi-stakeholder alliance of countries and organizations that is working to achieve measurable progress in justice outcomes for people and communities. The session will include an overview of the [Justice Action Coalition](#)’s global efforts to strengthen justice data systems. The OECD will share key takeaways on data gaps, standards, and opportunities for improving evidence-based policymaking as well as findings from their work to make the economic case for people-centered justice.
- **American Bar Foundation (ABF) | Justice Data Observatory:**
The [Justice Data Observatory \(JDO\)](#) aims to understand, shape, and build global evidence that informs how people-centered access to justice can combat poverty and inequality, promote inclusive development and growth, and empower democratic participation and governance through sustained research to support evidence-based policy and practice. The ABF will reflect on JDO’s global research, including a two-year study investigating global trends in people-centered justice research and evidence through insights from academic, civil society, and government experts in more than 20 countries.
- **HiiL and African Alliance for People-Centered Justice (AAPCJ) | Policy Brief on People-Centered Justice Data:**
The [African Alliance for People-Centered Justice](#) is an innovative initiative aimed at promoting people-centered approaches to addressing the justice needs of Africa’s diverse and fast-growing population. Speakers from (AAPCJ) will provide a regional perspective from the African continent, focusing on the development of a policy brief that centers people’s experiences in justice systems. The African Alliance will share early findings, advocacy aims, and how data is being used to drive more inclusive justice outcomes with links to effective governance.

The session will be moderated by **Pathfinders** who acts as part of the Secretariat for the Justice Action Coalition and launched the African Alliance for People-Centered Justice in 2024.

Objectives:

- Showcase innovative work to generate, analyze, and apply people-centered justice data to create more just, inclusive, and equal societies.
- Share lessons across global, regional, and research-based perspectives.
- Explore barriers to meaningful justice data collection and use for both governments and civil society partners
- Identify opportunities for collaboration, standardization, and scaling between justice and other development sectors. Inspire OGP stakeholders to prioritize justice data as part of their open government commitments.

About the American Bar Foundation

The [American Bar Foundation \(ABF\)](#) is a research institute committed to the principle that a deep understanding of the law is vital to a more just, equitable world. We conduct rigorous, empirical research that explores the intersection of law and society—creating insights that underpin today’s most pressing issues and affect millions of people every day.

About Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

The [Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development \(OECD\)](#) is an international organisation that works to build better policies for better lives. We draw on more than 60 years of experience and insights to shape policies that foster prosperity and opportunity, underpinned by equality and well-being.

We work closely with policy makers, stakeholders and citizens to establish evidence-based international standards and to find solutions to social, economic and environmental challenges. From improving economic performance and strengthening policies to fight climate change to bolstering education and fighting international tax evasion, the OECD is a unique forum and knowledge hub for data, analysis and best practices in public policy. Our core aim is to set international standards and support their implementation – and help countries forge a path towards stronger, fairer and cleaner societies.

About the Hague Institute for Innovation of Law

The [Hague Institute for Innovation of Law](#) (HiIL) is an organisation dedicated to ensuring that justice is accessible, affordable, and easy to understand. We call this people-centred justice. By collaborating with justice providers, including ministries of justice and judiciaries and informal and community-based justice leaders, we develop solutions that enable more individuals to prevent or resolve their justice challenges. This not only benefits people directly but also fosters safe, stable societies where economic growth, innovation, and entrepreneurship thrive. Our work spans multiple countries, with programmes in Nigeria, Ethiopia, Tunisia, Niger, Burkina Faso, the Netherlands, Iraq and Syria.

About Pathfinders Justice for All

[Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies](#) is a cross-regional and member state-led, multi-stakeholder coalition committed to advancing action on peace, justice, equality and inclusive institutions through the Sustainable Development Goals and beyond (SDG16+). It is convened by 46 governments, works with over 100 partners across civil society, the United Nations (UN), and regional and international organizations, and is hosted by the Center on International Cooperation at New York University.

The [Justice for All program](#) acts as an impact hub, convening countries, civil society, and multilateral and regional organizations to close the justice gap by accelerating action on people-centered justice. This program provides a platform to exchange innovative practices on data collection, evidence-based policy making, and effective use of resources to bridge silos and transform justice systems in preventing and resolving people's common justice problems.

About the New York University Center on International Cooperation

The [Center on International Cooperation \(CIC\) at New York University \(NYU\)](#) is a think tank and research center that, for over two decades, has been a leader in applied policy, connecting politics, security, justice, development, and humanitarian issues. Our mission is to inform and strengthen collaborative approaches and/or collaboration among national governments, international organizations, and the wider policy community to build trust, prevent and respond to crises—and advance peace, justice, and inclusion at all levels. Learn more on [our website](#) and @nyuCIC on social media.