

Launch of the People-Centered Justice Practice Notes

From Principles to Practice: Applying People-Centered Justice Across Institutions

February 12, 2026 | 9:00 a.m.–10:15 a.m. EST

- **Format:** (Online) panel presentation/guided discussion + audience Q&A.
- **Registration:** <https://luma.com/y2dzckyr>

This event is hosted by the Pathfinders' Justice for All program at New York University's Center on International Cooperation.

- **Audience:** Governments, international organizations, private sector, philanthropies, civil society, and academic representatives.
- **Outcome:** Participants are expected to leave with an increased awareness and understanding of the People-Centered Justice Practice Notes and clarity on how different justice actors can apply people-centered justice within their mandates. The event will also encourage practical uptake of the Practice Notes as tools for advancing access to justice and SDG16.3.

Introduction

Across regions, justice systems are under growing strain. Rising inequality, protracted conflicts, climate-related displacement, democratic backsliding, and rapid technological change are intensifying the everyday justice problems people face. These problems range from land and family disputes to employment grievances, barriers to legal identity, and administrative injustices. And when these problems go unresolved, they erode trust in institutions, weaken social cohesion, and undermine stability and development.

In response to these challenges, people-centered justice has emerged as a practical approach for ensuring that justice systems focus on resolving the problems that matter most to people's lives and livelihoods. It shifts attention away from institutional processes alone and toward outcomes that are fair, timely, affordable, and sustainable, outcomes that restore trust and prevent the escalation of grievances.

To support practitioners in translating this approach into action, [Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies](#) has developed a series of [People-Centered Justice Practice Notes](#). These notes are designed as practical, role-specific guidance for the institutions and actors that shape justice systems in practice, including judiciaries, ministries of justice, external funders, international partners, and implementing organizations. Rather than prescribing one-size-fits-all solutions, the Practice Notes offer actionable insights tailored to the mandates, constraints, and opportunities faced by different actors.

This launch event will introduce the People-Centered Justice Practice Notes, highlight their relevance across institutions, and showcase how they can be used to support more coherent, effective, and people-focused justice strategies, policies, programs, and financing decisions. It aims to bridge the gap between global commitments and day-to-day practice, helping justice actors move from principle to implementation.

Objectives of the Event

The launch event aims to:

- Introduce the **People-Centered Justice Practice Notes** and their purpose, structure, and intended audience.
- Demonstrate how people-centered justice can be operationalized across different institutional roles, including judiciaries, ministries of justice, funders, and implementing partners.
- Highlight practical insights and examples from practitioners applying people-centered justice in diverse contexts.

- Encourage uptake and use of the Practice Notes as practical tools for strategy development, policy design, programming, and financing of justice reforms.

Format of the Event

The event will be a 75-minute virtual launch combining short, focused interventions with moderated discussion. Rather than formal presentations, speakers will be invited to reflect on how the Practice Notes resonate with their institutional role and how they can be applied in practice.

The session will be moderated to ensure coherence across contributions and to draw out common themes and complementarities between different actors.

The format is designed to be accessible, dynamic, and practice-oriented, emphasizing real-world application rather than theory. Time will be allocated to brief audience interaction to encourage reflection and engagement.

Program (75 minutes)

Opening Remarks (5 minutes)

Mr. FERNANDO MARANI, Program Director of Justice, Inclusion, and Equality, Pathfinders

- Welcome and framing of the Practice Notes
- Why practical guidance is critical to advancing people-centered justice

Moderator Introduction and Scene-Setting (5 minutes)

Mr. THEMBA MAHLEKA, Associate Director, Justice for All, Pathfinders

- Overview of the session
- Introduction of the speakers

Practice Note Reflections (35 minutes total)

Short, focused interventions (7 minutes each):

PRACTICE NOTE 1: THE JUDICIARY

HON. JUSTICE (DR) JOSEPH K. SERGON, Judge of the High Court of Kenya (TBC)

- Reflection on how people-centered justice can inform judicial leadership, procedures, and outcomes.

PRACTICE NOTE 2: MINISTRIES OF JUSTICE

Mr. SHAHID KORJIE, Coordinator, Justice Sector Coordination Office, Office of the Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Republic of Sierra Leone (TBC)

- Insights on the role of policy coordination, reform prioritization, and system stewardship.

PRACTICE NOTE 3: EXTERNAL FUNDERS

Ms. ANDREW SOLOMON, Founder, Rule of Law IDEAS Co-Lab (TBC)

- Reflection on aligning financing with people's justice needs and supporting outcomes-focused justice investments.

PRACTICE NOTE 4: INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM IMPLEMENTERS

Ms. EVELINE DE BRUIJN, Policy Advocacy and Engagement Advisor, IDLO (TBC)

- Insights on translating people-centered justice principles into program design and delivery.

PRACTICE NOTE 5: POLICYMAKERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGED IN INSTITUTIONAL REFORM

Ms. SWATI MEHTA, Regional Lead, Asia and the Pacific, Open Government Partnership (TBC)

- Insights on cross-cutting lessons, including evidence use, coordination, and accountability across actors.

Moderated Discussion and Audience Interaction (20 minutes)

- Key takeaways across roles.
- Reflections on how the Practice Notes can be used in practice.
- Selected audience questions.

Closing Reflections (10 minutes)

Ms. REVAI MAKANJE AALBAEK, Global Lead and Advisor, UNDP (TBC)

- Summary of key messages.
- Invitation to engage with and apply the Practice Notes.

Background Resources

- [People-Centered Justice: An Approach to Strategy, Policy and Program Development](#) (All)
- [Introductory Note](#)
- [Practice Note 1: The Judiciary](#)
- [Practice Note 2: Ministries of Justice](#)
- [Practice Note 3: External Funders](#)
- [Practice Note 4: International Program Implementers](#)
- [Practice Note 5: Policymakers and Other Stakeholders Involved in Institutional Reform](#)

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) is a nonprofit research center housed at New York University. For three decades, CIC has been a leader in applied policy that links politics, security, justice, development, and humanitarian issues. CIC's mission is to strengthen cooperative approaches among national governments, international organizations, and the wider policy community to prevent crises and advance peace, justice, and inclusion. Learn more at cic.nyu.edu and [@nyuCIC](https://twitter.com/nyuCIC).