



# POST TRRC Updates



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### UN and Partner Activities

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- UNFPA commemorates International Women's Day in Kerr Jarga
- UN The Gambia issues statement against the repeal of the FGM Law
- Promoting Rights and Justice Activity convenes justice sector implementing partners' meeting



### CSO-led initiatives:

- The Gambia Victims' Center opens a poignant memorial exhibition





## Post TRRC Activities

### 1. The Post TRRC Project and CRIM JUST- UNODC hold ToT workshop for justice sector and law enforcement actors in the context of torture and SGBV

From 4-6 March, the Post TRRC Project implemented by OHCHR and UNDP, in collaboration with CRIMJUST-UNODC organized a Training for Trainers' event for law enforcement and justice sector actors on oversight and accountability mechanisms in the context of the prevention and prohibition of torture and SGBV.

The event, which brought together fifty participants, included modules on the recently enacted Anti-Torture Act, SGBV the Convention against Torture and the Istanbul Protocol. Attendees were trained on SGBV as a form of torture, an overview of best practices on monitoring and accountability from African common law jurisdictions, and witness and victim protection in the context of torture.

### 2. The Post TRRC Project enhances partners' capacity to implement Project interventions

From 25-26 March, the Post TRRC Project organised a Partners' Training to enhance collaboration and align Project interventions with the Government's Implementation Plan. Thirty-two participants drawn from government institutions, the NHRC and CSOs attended the training. Sessions focused on development of action plans in line with the Project's results framework, results-based management, M & E and reporting, effective communication strategies and branding for impactful project outreach.

Discussions considered stakeholder engagement, linking interventions to policy, advocacy and development processes, and resource mobilization in the context of sustainability plans. Overall, the training provided a platform for Project Partners to enhance collaboration and partnership, align initiatives with key deliverables, and develop strategies for impactful transitional justice projects.

### 3. The Post TRRC Project, NHRC and CRIMJUST discuss concrete ways of supporting the Anti-Torture Act's implementation

On 5 March, the Post TRRC Project hosted the National Human Rights Commission and CRIMJUST to discuss the content of proposed guidelines on the prevention and prohibition of torture for use by relevant stakeholders. Discussions also centred on the development of standard operation procedures to guide law enforcement agencies' responses to torture related issues. The proposed policies aim to support stakeholder implementation of the Anti-Torture Act.







## Post TRRC Activities

### 4. The Post TRRC Project hosts PBF Portfolio Technical Committee meeting

On 28 March, the Post TRRC Project hosted and chaired the PBF's Portfolio Technical Committee meeting attended by UN agencies and institutions implementing PBF supported projects. The meeting aimed to enhance communication, collaboration, and efficiency in the implementation of projects and provide an opportunity to discuss issues prior to their tabling before the Joint Steering Committee Meeting.

Agenda items included updates on the portfolio, portfolio evaluation recommendations and updates by projects' leads. The gatherings are held to foster learning among PBF projects and enhance knowledge on project progress. Attendees share good practices and challenges in order to strengthen coordination and collaboration among the various project teams.

### 5. The Post TRRC Project supports development of guidelines for MOJ's consideration in the selection of Commissioners to the Reparations Commission

The Post TRRC Project supported the development of Guidelines for consideration by the Ministry of Justice in its selection of Commissioners under the recently enacted Reparations Act. It is important that nominees have an appreciation of the ongoing transitional justice process, knowledge of statutory laws, understanding of the Government's Implementation Plan and key provisions of the Victims' Reparations Act.

### 6. The Post TRRC Project holds its second Technical Committee meeting

On 3 April, the Post TRRC Project held its second Technical Committee meeting following the Committee's inauguration in February. Attendees comprising representatives of CSOs, the NHRC, MOJ and University of the Gambia examined how use of action plans to guide the project implementation, updates on the monitoring and evaluation framework, and how best to coordinate efforts among implementing partners. The Post TRRC's Project Technical Committee meets twice each quarter.





# GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES

## 7. Ministry of Justice launched the ECOWAS-Gambia Joint Technical Committee

The Minister of Justice, Dawda A. Jallow, on 29 February 2024 launched the ECOWAS-Gambia Joint Technical Committee on the establishment of an Internationalized Court for the prosecution of perpetrators of Gross Human Rights Violations in The Gambia, between July 1994 and January 2017. The Committee is dedicated to establishing an Internationalized Court for the prosecution of perpetrators of gross human rights violations.

This initiative, which aims to ensure that justice is served for those who have suffered human rights violations aims to pave the way for lasting peace and reconciliation within the nation. By confronting the past, a more just and equitable future for all Gambians can be built. Minister Dawda A. Jallow in his statement noted that it is his aspiration as Minister of Justice of The Gambia to ensure that “we never forget the conditions that led this great nation to this moment in our history or the sacrifices of those who made this moment possible.”

## 8. The Ministry of Justice launches Partnership Platform to support execution of its Implementation Plan on TRRC Recommendations

The Ministry of Justice on 13 March 2024, launched the Partnership Platform for the implementation of the TRRC Recommendations. The meeting was opened and chaired by the Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Honourable Dawda A Jallow, who thanked the partners for their continued willingness and support to The Gambia in its transitional justice process.

The Minister of Justice reiterated that the purpose of the Partnership Platform is to provide regular updates to the development partners and donors and equally serve as a resource mobilization platform. This platform is envisioned to bring together partners in The Gambia to streamline their support towards the implementation of the TRRC recommendations, a pivotal step towards coordinating partners around the White Paper on Transitional Justice. This shows partners’ joint commitment to justice, reconciliation, and a better, unified future for The Gambia.



## 9. The Ministry of Justice convenes retreat on the Special Accountability Mechanism and SPO Bills.

The Ministry of Justice in partnership with the National Assembly and The Gambia Bar Association on 22 March 2024, concluded a retreat on the Special Accountability Mechanism and SPO Bills. The retreat brought together parliamentarians under the different committees to review and provide insights to the bill.

## 10. The Ministry of Justice issues call for nominations to Reparations Commission

On 27 March, the Ministry of Justice issued a call for applications and nominations for the position of Commissioners to the Victims Reparation Commission created under the recently enacted Victims’ Reparations Act. Commissioners will have statutory powers to ensure that victims’ interests are considered during reparations processes.

## 11. The Ministry of Justice convenes retreat on the Special Accountability Mechanism and SPO Bills.

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## GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES

### 12. National Human Rights Commission validates the Victim and Witness Protection Policy

With support from the American Bar Association and USAID, the National Human Rights Commission from 13 -14 March held a meeting to validate the Victim and Witness Protection Policy in the Gambia. This policy will provide a framework that guarantees the rights, safety and support of victims and witnesses involved in legal proceedings. The two-day workshop brought together key stakeholders including state institutions, victims and victim-led organizations to discuss, provide feedback and contributions to usher in a comprehensive operational policy.



### 13. National Human Rights Commission organizes quarterly meeting to monitor implementation of the TRRC recommendations

On 27 March the National Human Rights Commission organized a meeting of the TRRC Support Monitoring Committee. At the quarterly event, representatives of state institutions, CSOs and partners provided updates on steps taken to implement TRRC recommendations pertaining to their area of work. The NHRC uses these updates to track the implementation of the White Paper and inform its annual report to the National Assembly.

### 14. The Ministry of Justice issues call for nominations to Reparations Commission

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### 15. National Human Rights Commission enhances stakeholders' capacity on Victim and Witness Protection Policy

The National Human Rights Commission on 29 March concluded a 4-day capacity building training workshop on the witness protection policy aimed at safeguarding the rights and wellbeing of victims and witnesses. The training which was funded by the American Bar Association (ABA) and USAID, brought together representatives of various institutions and law enforcement agencies. Emmanuel Daniel Joof, the Chairperson of the NHRC noted that part of the Commission's mandate is to guide and ensure that victims, witnesses and informers are protected.

### 16. Promoting Rights and Justice Activity convenes justice sector implementing partners' meeting

On 24 March, the Promoting Rights and Justice Activity (PRJ) held the justice sector implementing partners' meeting. The quarterly gathering attended by UN agencies and international partners discussed on-going interventions and coordination and support to the government's Post TRRC efforts.





NHRC validation workshop on Victim and Witness Protection Policy



Post TRRC Project Partner Training on effective activity implementation



NHRC training on victim and witness protection





## CSO-LED INITIATIVES

### 17. The Gambia Victims' Center opens a poignant memorial exhibition

On 21 March the Gambia Center for Victims of Human Rights Violations opened a poignant memorial exhibition dedicated to the memory of victims of enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings.

This exhibition stands as a solemn tribute to those who have suffered unimaginable injustices under the past regime, reminding us of their lives, their stories, and the enduring impact of their absence on their families and communities.

Through this exhibition, the center strives not only to remember these victims but also to amplify their voices, honour their memory, and advocate for justice and accountability. The center invites the public to join them in paying tribute to these individuals and reflecting on the importance of upholding human rights for all.







## UN and Partners

### 18. UNFPA commemorates International Women's Day in Kerr Jarga

On 13 March 2024, UNFPA commemorated International Women's Day in Kerr Jarga in the North Bank Region alongside women entrepreneurs and agricultural producers. The event facilitated the exchange of insights, address challenges & deliberate on matters pertaining to women's empowerment.

During the celebrations in the North Bank Region, UNFPA through its Resident Representative honoured the women who were recently appointed to various District Tribunals across the country. This achievement is a significant milestone for their Women Political Participation Project funded by Peacebuilding Fund.

### 19. UN in the Gambia issues statement against the repeal of the FGM Law

On 23 February, the UN in the Gambia expressed concerns about the Bill that seeks to lift the ban on FGM. The statement called for continued allocation of resources and effective measures to enforce the law banning FGM and added that legal measures must be accompanied by awareness raising campaigns to change societal norms towards the practice. The declaration called on stakeholders to foster a society that prioritises the health, well-being and dignity of all girls and women in the Gambia.

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The Post TRRC Updates are elaborated with the support of:

### 20. Promoting Rights and Justice Activity convenes justice sector implementing partners' meeting

On 24 March, the Promoting Rights and Justice Activity (PRJ) held the justice sector implementing partners' meeting. The quarterly gathering attended by UN agencies and international partners discussed on-going interventions and coordination and support to the government's Post TRRC efforts.

On 1 March U.S. Secretary of State recognised Fatou Baldeh at 2024 International Women of Courage Awards. The Secretary of State's IWOC Award recognizes women from around the globe who have demonstrated exceptional courage and leadership in advocating for peace, justice, human rights, gender equity and equality, and women's empowerment – often at great personal risk and sacrifice. Fatou Baldeh has been honored for her work as a lifelong advocate for women's rights and protecting women's health and safety. Ms. Baldeh, who in 2019, was awarded a Member of the British Empire (MBE) for outstanding work in Scotland, received one of the highest awards designated to women worldwide by the U.S. State Department. Ms. Baldeh documented women's experiences during the Jammeh dictatorship, including murder, rape, forced labour, and witch hunts, where victims were tortured into giving false confessions. Her findings were essential to The Gambia's Truth, Reconciliation, and Reparations Commission's (TRRC) final report.

