# Table of Contents

I. Overview ............................................................................................................. 1
II. Women and Justice Conference ....................................................................... 2
III. Initiatives ........................................................................................................ 18
IV. Who We Are .................................................................................................. 25
I. Overview

The Avon Global Center for Women and Justice at Cornell Law School works with judges, legal professionals, governmental and non-governmental organizations to improve access to justice in an effort to eliminate violence against women and girls. The Center was established in 2009 by a grant from the Avon Foundation for Women.

This report summarizes the Center’s activities from February 2011 to January 2012. Initiatives included the 2011 Women & Justice Conference held in New Delhi, India, several clinical projects, the ongoing development of the legal resources database, and providing legal research assistance to judges. The Center strives to serve as a dynamic resource for Cornell University and Cornell Law School by providing students exceptional learning experiences while contributing in a meaningful way to scholarship and programming in the interest of women globally.
II. 2011 Women and Justice Conference – New Delhi, India

The Avon Global Center for Women and Justice at Cornell Law School held its Second Annual Women & Justice Conference October 22 and 23, 2011, in New Delhi, India. The conference centered on the theme “Gender-Based Violence and Justice in South Asia.” The event was co-sponsored by Jindal Global Law School and made possible by a grant from the Avon Foundation for Women. The conference was developed in further collaboration with UN Women, Virtue Foundation, Kriti Team, and the International Center for Ethics, Justice, and Public Life at Brandeis University.

Nearly 200 judges, advocates, policy makers, scholars, and other stakeholders convened from over a dozen countries for a substantive, multi-disciplinary dialogue on issues impacting gender justice and violence against women and girls.

The main conference proceedings featured ten expert panel discussions, a presidential address by Hon’ble Mrs. Justice Ranjana Desai (Supreme Court of India), and a keynote address by Indira Jaising (Additional Solicitor General of India and CEDAW Committee Member). Fifteen judges from seven countries then met for a Judges’ Colloquium to continue the conversation and exchange perspectives on the judges’ role in ensuring women’s access to justice.

The collaborative spirit of the conference was highlighted through formal sessions and informal networking opportunities, where all participants were invited to contribute materials, ideas, and information about their individual work. Maintaining the focus on advocating on behalf of gender violence, the conference materials were hand-produced by women survivors of domestic violence.

The Center thanks all conference participants for an exceptionally productive exchange of information, energy and ideas.
Day One: Conference Inauguration

Welcome Remarks

Stewart J. Schwab (Allan R. Tessler Dean and Professor of Law, Cornell Law School)

C. Raj Kumar (Vice-Chancellor, O.P. Jindal Global University and Dean, Jindal Global Law School)

Anne F. Stenhammer (Regional Programme Director, UN Women, South Asia Regional Office)

Conference Overview

Sital Kalantry (Associate Clinical Professor of Law and Faculty Director, Avon Global Center for Women and Justice, Cornell Law School)

Keynote Address

Indira Jaising (Additional Solicitor General of India; Director, Lawyers Collective Women’s Rights Initiative; CEDAW Committee Member)

Presidential Address

Hon’ble Mrs. Justice Ranjana Desai (Judge, Supreme Court of India)

Vote of Thanks

Sara Lulo (Executive Director, Avon Global Center for Women and Justice and Adjunct Professor of Law, Cornell Law School)
Plenary Session: Addressing Gender Violence in South Asia: Challenges & Successes

Panel Chair: Hon’ble Mrs. Justice Ruma Pal (former Judge, Supreme Court of India)

Mariya Basher (Chief Prosecutor, Herat Province) (Afghanistan)

Hon’ble Justice Shiranee Tilakawardane (Judge, Supreme Court of Sri Lanka)

Sapana Pradhan Malla (Member, Constituent Assembly; Gender Advisor to the Office of Prime Minister and Council of Ministers; Founder, Forum for Women, Law and Development) (Nepal)

Smita Premchander (Founder and Secretary, SAMPARK) (India)
Parallel Session 1: Using International Human Rights and Comparative Law to Advance Women’s Rights in the Domestic Context

Panel Chair: Y.S.R. Murthy (Associate Professor and Executive Director, Centre for Human Rights Studies and Assistant Dean for Projects and Institutional Development, Jindal Global Law School) (India)

Hon’ble Madam Justice Desiree Bernard (Judge, Caribbean Court of Justice) (Guyana)

Sara Hossain (Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh; Legal Aid and Services Trust) (Bangladesh)

Jyoti Sanghera (Representative, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights) (Nepal)
Parallel Session 2: Drafting and Enacting Laws to Combat Gender-Based Violence: A Focus on Acid Violence

**Panel Chair:** Jocelyn Getgen Kestenbaum (Program Director, Virtue Foundation) (United States)

Aparna Bhat (Advocate, Supreme Court of India)

Elora Chowdhury (Associate Professor, Department of Women’s Studies, University of Massachusetts) (United States/Bangladesh)

Valerie Khan (Chairperson and National Director, Acid Survivors Foundation) (Pakistan)

Dr. Terri Kelly (Adviser, Acid Survivors Trust International) (United Kingdom)
Panel Chair: Anne F. Stenhammer (Regional Programme Director, UN Women, South Asia Regional Office) (India/Norway)

Bina Agarwal (Director and Professor of Economics at the Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi University) (India)

Govind Kelkar (Senior Analyst, Programme and Research, Women’s Economic Empowerment, UN Women, South Asia Sub Regional Office) (India)

Hooria Hayat Khan (Assistant Manager, Legal Support Unit, Shirkat Gah, Women’s Resource Centre) (Pakistan)
Plenary Session: Commentaries and Insights from Day One Parallel Sessions

Panel Chair: Hon'ble Ann C. Williams (Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit; Steering Committee, Avon Global Center for Women and Justice) (United States)

Commentator from Session 1: Muna Ndulo (Professor of Law, Cornell Law School; Director, Institute for African Development, Cornell University; Steering Committee, Avon Global Center for Women and Justice) (United States/Zambia)

Commentator from Session 2: Monira Rahman (Executive Director, Acid Survivors Foundation) (Bangladesh)

Commentator from Session 3: Aanchal Kapur (Founder Leader, Kriti Team) (India)
Cultural Program

Coordinator and Host: Aanchal Kapur (Founder Leader, Kriti Team) (India)

Presentation of Thanks: Leigh Blomgren (Fellow, Avon Global Center for Women and Justice, Cornell Law School)
DAY TWO: Opening Remarks

Hon’ble Ann C. Williams (Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit; Steering Committee, Avon Global Center for Women and Justice) (United States)

Shirin Juwaly (Founder and Director, Palash Foundation) (India)
Plenary Session: Comparative Approaches to Advancing Access to Justice for Women and Girls

Panel Chair: Hon’ble Ms. Justice Gita Mittal (Judge, Delhi High Court) (India)

Flavia Agnes (Director, Majlis Legal Centre, Women’s Rights Attorney and Legal Scholar) (India)

Joan LaRovere (Co-Founder and Vice President of Virtue Foundation; Attending Physician and Director of Innovations and Outcomes in the Cardiovascular Critical Care Program at Boston Children’s Hospital; Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School) (United States)

Hon’ble John Rowley (Judge, Integrated Domestic Violence Court, Tompkins County, New York) (United States)

Hon’ble Justice M. Imman Ali (Judge, Supreme Court of Bangladesh)
Parallel Session 4: Gender Violence: A Focus on Children and Young Adults

Panel Chair: Hon’ble Justice M. Imman Ali (Judge, Supreme Court of Bangladesh)

V.S. Elizabeth (Additional Professor, National Law School of India University, Bangalore) (India)

Savitri Goonesekere (Professor Emeritus, University of Colombo) (Sri Lanka)

Hon’ble Virginia Kendall (Judge, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois) (United States)

B. Bhamathi (Additional Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India)
Parallel Session 5: Gender and Security in Conflict and Crisis Situations

Panel Chair: Muna Ndulo (Professor of Law, Cornell Law School; Director, Institute for African Development, Cornell University; Steering Committee, Avon Global Center for Women and Justice) (United States/Zambia)

Jamila Omar (Director, Human Rights Research and Advocacy Consortium) (Afghanistan)

Hon’ble Mrs. Justice Sushila Karki (Judge, Supreme Court of Nepal)

Vrinda Grover (Advocate) (India)

Valerie Khan (Chairperson and National Director, Acid Survivors Foundation) (Pakistan)
Parallel Session 6: Beyond the Law: Changing Attitudes Towards Violence

Panel Chair: Erica Steinberger (Partner (ret.), Latham & Watkins, LLP; Steering Committee, Avon Global Center for Women and Justice) (United States)

Syed Saghir Bukhari (Regional Alliance Coordinator, MenEngage, UN Women) (Pakistan)

Sonali Khan (Country Director, Breakthrough) (India)

Hasina Safi (Executive Director, Afghanistan Women’s Education Centre and Executive Board Member, Afghan Women’s Network) (Afghanistan)

Joan Winship (Executive Director, International Association of Women Judges) (United States)
Plenary Session: Commentaries and Insights from Parallel Sessions

Panel Chair: Sital Kalantry (Associate Clinical Professor of Law and Faculty Director, Avon Global Center for Women and Justice, Cornell Law School) (United States)

Commentator from Session 4: Cynthia Grant Bowman (Dorothea S. Clarke Professor of Law, Cornell Law School; Steering Committee, Avon Global Center for Women and Justice) (United States)

Commentator from Session 5: Ratna Kapur (Faculty, Geneva School of Diplomacy and International Relations) (India)

Commentator from Session 6: Priya S. Gupta (Assistant Professor and Assistant Director, Centre for Women, Law and Social Change, Jindal Global Law School) (India)
Closing Remarks

Barbara Holden-Smith (Vice Dean and Professor of Law, Cornell Law School; Steering Committee, Avon Global Center for Women and Justice) (United States)
Judicial Colloquium

The conference included a separate “Judges’ Colloquium” -- an opportunity for judges from different countries to discuss some of the themes of the conference sessions specifically as they relate to the judicial role. Participants included Supreme Court Justices from India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, as well as a judge from the Caribbean Court of Justice, and four judges from the United States.

Welcome: C. Raj Kumar (Vice-Chancellor, O.P. Jindal Global University and Dean, Jindal Global Law School)

Resources for Judges: Elizabeth Brundige (Associate Director and Adjunct Professor of Law, Avon Global Center for Women and Justice, Cornell Law School)

Overview of Empirical Study of Indian Court Decisions: Theodore Eisenberg (Henry Allen Mark Professor of Law and Adjunct Professor of Statistical Studies, Cornell Law School)

Colloquium Overview: Leigh Swigart (Director of Programs, International Center for Ethics, Justice, and Public Life, Brandeis University)
III. Initiatives

A. Clinical Projects

The following Avon Global Center projects were undertaken by the Cornell International Human Rights Clinic, co-taught by Sital Kalantry and Elizabeth Brundige.

1. Study of Sexual Violence in Zambian Schools

Sexual abuse of girls is widespread in Zambian society and schools. Zambian girls have been raped, sexually abused, sexually harassed, and assaulted by teachers and male classmates. They have also been targeted and subjected to sexual violence while walking to and from school and when seeking private tutoring from teachers. Yet, incidents of sexual violence and harassment are typically swept under the rug, unreported by victims who fear stigma and further victimization and ignored by school officials and the government.

The Center and the Clinic are working with Women and Law in Southern Africa Research and Educational Trust (WLSA), a regional human rights organization based in Lusaka, Zambia, to study the problem of sexual violence in Zambian schools. In Spring 2011, students from the International Human Rights Clinic conducted desk research on the international and regional human rights laws that require states to protect girls from sexual violence in schools. They also reviewed Zambian law and researched the problem of sexual violence in Zambian schools, the government’s response to it, and its effects on girls’ health and education.

A team of students, supervised by Elizabeth Brundige, travelled to Zambia in Fall 2011 to conduct field research and interviews of stakeholders such as teachers and school officials, as well as representatives of advocacy organizations, police, lawyers, and officials in the Ministry of Education. The desk and field research will provide the basis for an action-oriented human rights report that the Avon Global Center, the International Human Rights Clinic, and WLSA plan to release in Fall 2012.
2. Research Memorandum on the Kenyan Constitution and its Impact on Kenya’s Inheritance and Succession Laws

One of the key challenges for domestic violence survivors in Kenya and elsewhere is economic reliance on an abusive partner, a situation that is often exacerbated by customary law and practices. Kenya’s new Constitution, adopted in August 2010, makes significant progress towards ensuring gender equality. While the Constitution, together with the country’s relatively new 2006 Sexual Offences Act, represents a positive step towards criminalizing gender violence, women continue to find themselves victimized in appalling numbers. An advanced International Human Rights Clinic student, under the supervision of Avon Global Center faculty and staff, prepared a memorandum identifying discriminatory aspects of Kenya’s inheritance laws and practices that includes suggested approaches to help bring those laws and practices into compliance with the gender equality mandates of the new Constitution. The Center’s research assisted LWOB’s training faculty in incorporating into the curriculum practical and meaningful ways that the new Constitution can be invoked and applied to protect the rights of women in the courtroom.

3. Report on Failures to Secure Justice for Domestic Violence Survivor-Defendants in New York State

The Avon Global Center, in partnership with the Women in Prison Project of the Correctional Association of New York, released a report in June 2011 that examines the barriers to justice domestic violence survivors face when they become defendants to criminal proceedings for reasons related to their abuse. The study considered these issues from the perspective of international human rights, which requires governments to prevent, investigate, and punish violence against women. The report analyzes the challenges and injustices survivor-defendants face after they are convicted and offers recommendations for reform.

Key recommendations of the Report include:

- Allowing judges to sentence domestic violence survivors convicted of crimes directly related to abuse to shorter prison terms and, in some cases, to community-based alternatives to incarceration.
- Providing domestic violence survivors currently in prison the opportunity to appeal to the courts for re-sentencing.
- Allocating funds to expand and establish more alternative-to-incarceration, court advocacy and re-entry programs specifically designed to meet the needs of survivor-defendants.
- Allowing individuals incarcerated for violent crimes, including domestic violence survivors, to earn merit time credits and expanding eligibility for temporary work release.
- Allowing individuals incarcerated for violent offenses, including domestic violence survivors, to have parole release decisions about them made not solely on the nature of the offense for which they are incarcerated but with appropriate weight given to their institutional confinement record and actual public safety risk.

The Report also suggests that the Domestic Violence Survivors Justice Act, a bill pending in the New York state legislature, is an important way to address some of the major challenges facing survivor-defendants in obtaining justice. It was released on June 5, 2011, in conjunction with a legislative advocacy day in Albany organized by the Coalition for Women Prisoners, which is coordinated by the WIPP, to raise support for the proposed legislation. Elizabeth Brundige spoke about the report at an Advocacy Day press briefing, and she was joined at the event by six Avon Global Center summer research associates.
4. Women Judges in the Pipeline Project

On March 31 and April 1, 2011, the Avon Global Center participated in a Senior Roundtable on Women and the Judiciary in Washington, D.C., hosted by the Virtue Foundation. Approximately 50 women judges from 20 countries around the world attended the event. The event focused on how to increase the participation of women in the judiciary in order to improve access to justice, particularly for women and girls.

As discussed by the roundtable participants, increasing the involvement of women judges at all levels of the judiciary is not only an important aspect of gender equity and civic participation, it also can directly impact how survivors of gender-based violence interface with and obtain protection and redress from the courts. Throughout the world, survivors who seek justice through the court system find themselves re-victimized when they enter the courtroom. Most judiciaries are dominated by male judges, many of whom lack gender sensitization, hold discriminatory views of women, and do not understand gender-based violence and its effects on survivors. Women judges are more likely to be sensitized to issues of gender discrimination, cycles of domestic violence, sexual violence, and other forms of gender-based violence. At even a basic level, having women as decision-makers on the bench makes the courtroom a less intimidating place for women survivors. In addition, the involvement of women judges has proven to be an important factor in changing engrained misconceptions about women and violence, both in specific cases and more broadly.

The Center and the International Human Rights Clinic assisted the Virtue Foundation in preparing for this roundtable by designing a survey on barriers to women’s entry and advancement in the judiciary, which was administered to all participating judges. At the roundtable event, Professor Sital Kalantry, Avon Global Center Faculty Director, moderated a panel on which Avon Global Center Steering Committee member Judge Ann C. Williams of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, Justice Martha Koome of the Kenya High Court, and Dr. Joan LaRovere of the Virtue Foundation discussed the survey results.

Students in the Clinic also prepared research memoranda on the judicial systems and barriers to women’s involvement in the judiciary in Argentina, Cambodia, Ghana, India, Kenya, and South Africa. These memos were given to and read by judges from several of these countries, including Avon Global Center Steering Committee members Chief Justice Georgina Wood of Ghana and Justice Elena Highton de Nolasco of Argentina. The judges drew upon these memos in their roundtable presentations on the barriers and potential solutions to improving women’s involvement in the judiciaries of their home countries.

The roundtable event also featured an opening reception at the Supreme Court, co-hosted by U.S. Supreme Court Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan, judge-led roundtable discussions towards increasing opportunities for women to enter and advance in judiciaries, a Newsweek Daily Beast Women of the World panel on social innovation and the role of women judges in Africa, and a closing reception at the U.S. Department of State. Clinic students served as rapporteurs, and they prepared a roundtable report that was distributed to the Virtue Foundation.
B. Legal Research Support for Judges

The Center provided legal research assistance to judges in the United States, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh, Uganda and Ghana, including:

- Research memorandum on ties between domestic child labor and human trafficking (cited in a final opinion of the Bangladesh Supreme Court);
- Research memorandum on the international law framework and child domestic labor’s disproportionate impact on girls (cited in a final opinion of the Bangladesh Supreme Court);
- Memorandum on the use of restorative justice approaches in domestic violence cases, particularly in Africa, in response to a request by Ghanaian judges participating in the Virtue Foundation’s Ghana Jurist in Residence Program;
- Memorandum on the history and purposes of New York State’s problem-solving courts, particularly the Integrated Domestic Violence Court;
- Memorandum identifying formal and informal barriers to justice for domestic violence survivors in Afghanistan, for a former Afghan judge;
- Research on judicial training programs in Afghanistan and programs focused on human rights and women’s rights;
- Assistance in preparing interactive training materials on challenges that arise in prosecuting sexual offense cases for use in trial advocacy training program in Kenya;
- Memorandum on cohabitation agreements under Louisiana law;
- Editorial assistance for a judge’s research publication on international human trafficking;
- Research assistance to a judge delivering a presentation on global violence against women;
- Research assistance to a judge delivering a presentation on gender-based violence issues in Africa; and
- Research assistance on domestic violence issues in Turkey.

C. Online Legal Resources Collection

The continued development of an online legal resources database remains an important initiative of the Center.

In terms of case law relating to gender violence and access to justice, the Center further developed its jurisprudence section to include cases from 48 countries and 8 international and regional human rights bodies. Pro bono attorneys from the law firm, White & Case LLP, and Cornell Law School students provided assistance in analyzing case law, and drafting case summaries, expanding the Center’s collection of cases by more than 300. Meanwhile, the Cornell IT department has been working on a new database system, to be completed in 2012, which will make the database more searchable and user-friendly.

In addition, the Center updated and added links to a key original resource produced by the Center, a chart that tracks the development of gender jurisprudence in international war crimes tribunals. A new resource section was also created to include public versions of memoranda prepared in response to judicial requests.

D. Online Presence: Website Usage and Social Media

The Center’s online presence continues to grow, with the website (www.womenandjustice.org) receiving an average of 1,000 page views per month. The website drew visitors from 81 countries. The majority were returning visitors from the U.S., followed by visitors from India, United Kingdom, South Korea, Canada, Australia, China, Bangladesh, Italy, Mexico, and Pakistan. The Cornell Law School communications department is providing consulting to the Center on how to increase relevant hits from Google and other search engines. Additionally, the Center plans to solicit feedback from users in order to further develop the website, its accessibility, and usefulness to users.

The Center uses social networking media, such as Facebook and Twitter, to foster awareness of gender violence, to provide information and resources to the public, and to encourage dialogue of gender justice issues. With an expanding social media presence, the Center will continue to increase online visibility and impart diverse global information and discussion to the social network community. Additionally, social media provides the Center an opportunity to inform and engage an extended community beyond those who normally might attend a conference or other Center events.
E. Summer Research Assistants Program

Six Cornell Law students joined the Avon Global Center as summer research associates from June to August 2011. The students made a valuable contribution to various facets of the Center’s work. Among other activities, they:

- Researched and summarized approximately 70 cases for the Center’s legal resources collection.
- Prepared memoranda and other research documents in response to five judicial requests (see section on judicial requests).
- Assisted the Global Network on Women Peacekeepers (GNWP) in preparing for discussions around the UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women’s proposed General Recommendation on Women and Conflict by preparing a memorandum on the gender issues that arise in relation to post-conflict transitional justice initiatives.
- Supported the GNWP by compiling research on existing or past public-private partnerships to inform financing initiatives aimed at implementing UN Resolution 1325 on Women Peace and Security, which calls for a gender perspective on peace negotiations and peacekeeping missions.
- Analyzed two new Zambian laws, the Education Act of 2011 and the Anti-Gender-Based Violence Act of 2011, in support of the Center’s clinic project on sexual violence against girls in Zambian schools.
- Assisted the Center in developing panels for the 2011 Women & Justice Conference by conducting research on panel themes and suggesting questions to frame the discussions;
- Reviewed and offered suggestions for UN Women’s Global Virtual Knowledge Centre to End Violence against Women and Girls, an online resource that makes available leading tools and evidence on what works to address violence against women and girls.

F. U.S. State Department International Visitors Group

On March 8, 2011, Cornell Law School's Avon Global Center for Women & Justice was honored to host its third U.S. Department of State International Visitors Group on Women & Justice. The program aims to promote understanding of different legal systems and appreciation of the rule of law. U.S. Embassies nominated leading figures in their respective fields to participate in the program. The March delegation to Cornell hailed from 15 countries, and included a judge, public prosecutors, civil society advocates, attorneys, and ministry officials from diverse regions and countries including Afghanistan, Taiwan, Ecuador, India, Mozambique, and Jamaica.

The Center developed a day-long program for the delegation centered on the theme "Addressing Domestic Violence in New York State: Challenges and Innovations." Professor Cynthia Bowman, Dorothea S. Clarke Professor at Law and Steering Committee member, moderated a panel discussion. Professor Bowman drew upon her extensive experience and research in U.S. and Sub-Saharan African family law, women's rights and feminist jurisprudence, and highlighted key issues in addressing domestic violence in the United States and New York State in particular.

Panelists included Heather Campbell (Education Director at Advocacy Center, an Ithaca-based nonprofit organization that provides services for victims of domestic violence), Kristine Shaw (Attorney and Law Guardian working closely with the Integrated Domestic Violence Court in Ithaca, New York), and Elizabeth Brundige (Associate Director of the Avon Global Center for Women and Justice and Adjunct Professor of Law at Cornell Law School).
Discussion points included common barriers to justice for domestic violence survivors, the Center’s on-going study on the experience of domestic violence survivors as criminal defendants in New York State, and lessons learned from the successes and challenges of New York State’s Integrated Domestic Violence Court (IDVC) system.

Members of the international delegation engaged in a lively discussion with the speakers, including pointed questions and the exchange of experiences, viewpoints, and ideas for innovations. One of the key points on which the group reached a consensus is that a coordinated multi-sector and multi-agency approach is critical and the only comprehensive way to address domestic violence on the individual case level and from a public policy standpoint.

The delegation’s visit also included remarks by Cornell Law School Dean Stewart Schwab and presentations by Maithili Pradhan, Sital Kalantry, and Sara Lulo on the Center’s work and projects to end international gender violence and increase access to justice for women and girls.

Claire Germain, Edward Law Librarian and Professor of Law, Cornell Law School, guides the State Department’s International Visitors on a tour of the Rare Book Room within the Cornell Law School Library.

G. Lawyers Without Borders Kenya Judicial Symposium and Trial Advocacy Training Program

The Avon Global Center was pleased to collaborate with Lawyers Without Borders to present the Kenya Judicial Symposium and Women’s Advocacy Training Program, which took place on August 2011 in Nairobi, Kenya.

The goal of the intensive two-week program was to train judges, defense lawyers, and pro bono advocates on legal issues and courtroom skills that typically arise in domestic violence and other gender-based violence cases. Week One featured a symposium for approximately 40 Kenyan judge participants. Week Two comprised a practice-based training and customized mock trial for approximately 65 prosecutors, police prosecutors, defense counsel, and public interest lawyers. The faculty comprised four U.S. federal judges and 25 practicing trial attorneys from the US and UK.

Steering Committee member Hon. Ann C. Williams served as the program’s Team Leader. Sara Lulo served as In-Country Director for the program.
H. Other Event Collaboration

1. National Association of Women Judges 2011 Annual Conference

The Avon Global Center was a supporting organization of the National Association of Women Judges 2011 Annual Conference and participated in its Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg Symposium on International Women’s Rights, which took place on October 14, 2011. Avon Global Center Associate Director Liz Brundige spoke on a panel that addressed the prevention of human trafficking. The panel discussed the UN protocol to prevent human trafficking and analyzed how international law and domestic laws in various countries can be improved to address this growing epidemic. Ms. Brundige focused in her remarks on the implementation of international anti-trafficking standards in India and Liberia, drawing in part from the Center’s experience participating in a Lawyers Without Borders trial advocacy training program on human trafficking in Liberia. Other panelists included Lori Cohen, Senior Staff Attorney at the Center for Battered Women’s Legal Services at Sanctuary for Families; Professor Lori Nessel of Seton Hall University School of Law; and Martina Vandenberg, a partner at Jenner & Block, LLP. Professor Karima Bennoune of Rutgers School of Law moderated the panel. The panel was part of a rich and empowering discussion of the broader human rights issues that affect our global society.


The Avon Global Center was honored to participate in the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York, NY, in February 2011. The CSW event is held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York to evaluate progress on gender equality, identify challenges, set global standards and formulate policies to promote equality and the advancement of women worldwide. Executive Director Sara Lulo spoke on a panel entitled "Investing in Peace: Financing 1325 and the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls.” The discussion focused on private sector collaboration in the enforcement of Security Council Resolution 1325 (relating to the involvement of women in post-conflict areas). The Center’s participation on this panel follows contributions to a related study published by Cordaid and Global Network of Women Peacebuilders. Other panelists included Catherine Mabobori (Burundi’s National Action Plan Steering Committee Vice Chair) and Dewi Suralaga (Policy Advisor for Cordaid).

3. Special Film Screening: Crime After Crime

The Avon Global Center for Women and Justice, STEPS to End Family Violence and the Women in Prison Project of the Correctional Association of NY hosted a special screening of the award-winning documentary Crime After Crime on Thursday, July 7, 2011 at 7:30pm at NYC’s IFC Center. Crime After Crime chronicles the experience of Deborah Peagler, a California woman charged with murder in the first degree for her role in the death of her abusive boyfriend.

Following the screening, director Yoav Potash and NY advocates led a thought-provoking panel discussion regarding the intersection of abuse and women’s incarceration. Executive Director Sara Lulo spoke about the Avon Global Center’s related research and report in collaboration with the other sponsoring organizations. Proceeds from the screening supported the unique and critical work of STEPS to End Family Violence, the only alternative-to-incarceration program in New York State specifically serving survivors of abuse who interface with the criminal justice system.
IV. Who We Are

A. Center Staff and Faculty

Sital Kalantry, Faculty Director

Sital Kalantry is an Associate Clinical Professor at Cornell Law School where she directs the International Human Rights Clinic and is the Faculty Director of the Avon Global Center for Women and Justice at Cornell Law School. She has extensive experience working on and supervising projects that utilize litigation and non-litigation strategies to promote international human rights, particularly women’s rights and the right to education. Professor Kalantry’s research focuses on using quantitative and qualitative approaches to understand and promote international human rights law. Her works have been published in, among other places, the Human Rights Quarterly, the National Law Journal, and the Stanford Journal of International Law. Prior to joining Cornell Law School, she was a visiting clinical lecturer at Yale Law School where she co-taught a clinic focusing on national security and civil liberties. She also practiced private international law at two major international law firms. She received a J.D. from University of Pennsylvania Law School, a M.Sc. from the London School of Economics, and a B.A. from Cornell University.

Sara Lulo, Executive Director

Sara Lulo is the Executive Director of the Avon Global Center for Women and Justice, and an Adjunct Professor of Law at Cornell Law School. Ms. Lulo has helped develop and manage various rule of law initiatives focused on gender-based violence, including judicial symposia and advocacy training programs in Kenya and Liberia. She also has developed a public legal education campaign in Liberia, sponsored by Lawyers Without Borders. Prior to joining the Avon Global Center, Ms. Lulo worked in the New York and London offices of the international law firm White & Case LLP. In private practice, she specialized in international commercial arbitration and investor-state treaty arbitration. Her pro bono practice included acting as lead counsel for successful political asylum claims and heading up multiple international rule of law initiatives. In addition, Ms. Lulo served on secondment to the Ministry of Justice of Georgia in Tbilisi, Georgia, where she advised the government on investment treaty disputes. Ms. Lulo received J.D. and LL.M. degrees from Cornell Law School, where she served as Article Editor for the Cornell Law Review. She holds an M.A. in Latin American and Caribbean Studies from New York University and a B.A. from Cornell University.
Elizabeth Brundige, Associate Director

Elizabeth Brundige joined the Avon Global Center as Associate Director in July 2010. She is also an Adjunct Professor of Law at Cornell Law School, where she co-teaches the International Human Rights Clinic. Prior to joining Cornell Law School, Ms. Brundige was the Robert M. Cover – Allard K. Lowenstein Fellow in International Human Rights and a clinical lecturer in law at Yale Law School, where she co-taught the Allard K. Lowenstein International Human Rights Clinic, taught an undergraduate course in international human rights at Yale College, and helped coordinate the activities of the Orville H. Schell, Jr. Center for International Human Rights. She previously worked for the International Association of Women Judges, under the auspices of Yale Law School’s Robert L. Bernstein Fellowship in International Human Rights, on several programs designed to advance women’s human rights and access to justice in southern and East Africa. She was also an Associate Legal Officer in the Appeals Chamber of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and a law clerk for Judge Kermit V. Lipez of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit and Justice Sandile Ngcobo of the Constitutional Court of South Africa. She received a J.D. from Yale Law School, an M.Phil. in Development Studies from Oxford University, and a B.A. from Yale University.

Maithili Pradhan, 2010-2011 Women and Justice Fellow

Maithili Pradhan worked part-time for the Avon Global Center during summer 2010 and, in August 2010, joined the Center on a full-time basis as the 2010-2011 Women and Justice. She is interested in international human rights law with a special focus on women and discrimination. Maithili began working in this field as an undergraduate at the Center for Human Rights and Global Justice at New York University School of Law, where she researched caste-based discrimination in the context of international human rights law. She also worked at the International Rescue Committee, assisting refugees in the citizenship process. During her time as a student at Cornell Law School, she worked with Professor Sital Kalantry on public-interest litigation relating to maternal mortality in India and, as part of the International Human Rights Law Clinic, co-authored a briefing paper on domestic violence in India for a judicial training program. Maithili received a J.D. from Cornell Law School, a Master 2 (LL.M. equivalent) in Global Business Law from the Institut d’Etudes Politiques (“Sciences Po”) in Paris, and a B.A. in International Politics from New York University. She is a native speaker of English, Hindi, and Marathi and is proficient in French.
Leigh Blomgren 2011–2012 Women and Justice Fellow

Leigh Blomgren is the 2011-2012 Women and Justice Fellow at the Avon Global Center for Women and Justice. She is interested in international human rights law with a special focus on women and children. Leigh received a J.D./LL.M in International and Comparative Law from Cornell Law School in 2010. She has conducted research focusing on women’s human rights issues and, as a student, served as Advocacy Chair for the Cornell Advocates for Human Rights and Committee Chair for the Public Interest Law Union. Leigh also works alongside Professor Muna Ndulo of Cornell Law School in preparation for a forthcoming casebook she is co-authoring. Prior to law school, Leigh worked as a paralegal in the New York office of the law firm Morgan, Lewis, and Bockius LLP. She received a B.A. in Political Science from the University of North Carolina, where she played for the national championship-winning Women’s Varsity Soccer team.

Jamie Weber, Program Assistant

As the Program Assistant for the Avon Global Center for Women and Justice, Ms. Weber assists with all aspects of office support. Prior to joining the Law School and the Avon Global Center, Ms. Weber supported several areas at Cornell University including, Alumni Affairs & Development, and the Office of Commencement Events, and also served on various committees including the Inauguration of President David J. Skorton. She joined the Cornell staff in 1990. She earned her license in Practical Nursing in 1999 and attended Tompkins Cortland Community College majoring in Business Administration.
B. Steering Committee Members

Kim K. Azzarelli, Steering Committee Chair
Publishing and Managing Director of Women in the World, Vice President of New Ventures, and President of Women in the World Foundation

Professor Cynthia Grant Bowman
Dorothea S. Clarke Professor of Law, Cornell Law School

Dr. Ebby Elahi
Director, Global Health and International Programming, Virtue Foundation; Associate Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology and Preventative Medicine and Global Health, Mount Sinai School of Medicine; Attending Physician, Beth Israel Medical Center and Elmhurst General Hospital

Justice Elena Highton-Nolasco
Deputy Chief Justice, Supreme Court, Argentina

Professor Barbara J. Holden-Smith
Vice Dean and Professor of Law, Cornell Law School

Carol Kurzig
President, Avon Foundation for Women

Professor Muna Ndulo
Professor of Law, Cornell Law School and Director, Cornell University’s Institute for African Development

Honorable Barbara Rothstein
U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington

Honorable Joanna Seybert
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York

Erica H. Steinberger
Partner (ret.), Latham & Watkins LLP

Honorable Ann Claire Williams
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit

Chief Justice Georgina Wood
Chief Justice, Supreme Court, Ghana