Cornell University
Law School
Avon Global Center
for Women and Justice

2012
Annual Activities Report

February 1, 2012 – January 31, 2013
PUBLIC VERSION
Table of Contents

I. Overview .................................................................................................................................................. 1
II. Women and Justice Conference .............................................................................................................. 2
III. Initiatives ............................................................................................................................................... 12
IV. Who We Are .......................................................................................................................................... 20
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 2012 to January 2013. Initiatives included the 2012 Women & Justice Conference held at Cornell Law School in Ithaca, NY on the topic of Sexual Violence Against Girls in Southern Africa, several clinical projects addressing issues ranging from sexual abuse of girls in schools to human trafficking to gender-based violence against women in prison, the ongoing development of the Center’s Women & Justice Collection of resources, 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.
The Avon Global Center for Women and Justice at Cornell Law School held its Third Annual Women & Justice Conference October 18 and 19, 2012, at Cornell Law School in Ithaca, NY. The conference examined the theme “Sexual Violence Against Girls in Southern Africa” through several public events and a judicial colloquium involving judges from Southern Africa and the United States, scholars, and legal practitioners. The conference topic developed from a study on sexual violence against girls in schools in Zambia, conducted by the Center in partnership with Women and Law in Southern Africa, a nongovernmental organization headquartered in Zambia.

The Center launched a new report based on this study at the opening event of the conference. A panel of experts including Judge Virginia Kendall of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Judge Gertrude Chawatama of the High Court of Zambia and Truth, Justice, and Reconciliation Commission of Kenya, Avon Global Center Steering Committee Member and Cornell Law School Professor Cynthia Grant Bowman, and Avon Global Center Executive Director Elizabeth Brundige convened to discuss the findings and recommendations of the report. The first portion of the event was connected by videoconference to the United States Embassy in Lusaka, Zambia, which held a simultaneous event involving Zambian government officials and representatives of civil society organizations.

Following the launch event, Judge Barbara Rothstein of the U.S. District Court for the District of Washington and Avon Global Center Steering Committee member, moderated a conversation among the visiting jurists and Cornell Law students on advancing gender justice through the courts. The day concluded with a special keynote address by Professor Rashida Manjoo, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, Its Causes and Consequences. In her address entitled, The Denial of the Right to a Life Free of Violence for Girl Children, Professor Manjoo discussed the legal, cultural, and socioeconomic causes of sexual violence and the multiple obstacles to redress. Drawing on her visits to a wide
range of countries, she emphasized the importance of critical analysis in evaluating progress and noted that attention to both tradition and the details of implementation were essential for effective reform.

On Friday, October 19, the Center hosted an in-depth, closed-ses

sion judicial colloquium that considered the role of judges in combatting sexual violence against girls in southern Africa. Nine judges and magistrates from southern Africa, joined by six federal and state court judges from the United States, examined this issue in depth, drawing on their experiences and insights as adjudicators. Discussion topics included, among others, courtroom procedures and rules of evidence, laws and their interpretation, and judicial initiatives outside of the courtroom that advance justice for child survivors of domestic violence. Through the colloquium, jurists had the opportunity to share cases, strategies, and solutions from their respective jurisdictions and to obtain new ideas for addressing child sex abuse.

By bringing together judges and other stakeholders from southern Africa and the United States, the conference facilitated an important transnational dialogue about strategies for addressing the sexual abuse of girls. As participants shared ideas and best practices, their conversations illustrated the importance of working together across borders and sectors to combat this devastating form of gender-based violence that affects girls throughout the world.

The Center thanks all conference participants for an extremely valuable exchange of information, energy and ideas.
Day 1: Thursday, October 18

Tompkins County Court Visit

Hosted by Honorable Judge John Rowley, a judge for the County, Family, and Surrogate’s Courts in Tompkins County, New York, this event provided visiting judges an opportunity to experience how a local justice system grapples with cases involving the abuse of a child.

Panelists:

Honorable John C. Rowley, Tompkins County Court Judge
Louise Miller, Director, Advocacy Center
Kevin Cowen, Criminal Investigator, Tompkins County Sheriff’s Department
Gwen Wilkinson, Tompkins County District Attorney
Bill Furniss, District Attorney
Daniel Cornell, Tompkins County Probation Supervisor
Penny VanSchoick, Legal Unit Administrator, Tompkins County Department of Social Services
Mari Townsend, Attorney for Children
Report Launch and Consultation: Sexual Violence Against Girls in Schools in Zambia

Welcoming Remarks

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

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

Susan K. Brems, Mission Director USAID/Zambia (by videolink)

Panelists:

Cynthia Grant Bowman, Dorothea S. Clarke Professor of Law, Cornell Law School; Steering Committee, Avon Global Center for Women and Justice (moderator)

Elizabeth Brundige, Executive Director of the Avon Global Center for Women and Justice and Visiting Assistant Clinical Professor, Cornell Law School

Hon. Gertrude Chawatama, Judge, High Court of Zambia and Commissioner, Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission of Kenya

Hon. Virginia M. Kendall, U.S. District Judge, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois
Panel Discussion
Addressing Gender Justice: Views from the Bench

Discussion with 15 judges and magistrates from Southern Africa and the United States

**Hon. Barbara J. Rothstein**, Senior Judge, U.S. District Court for the District of Washington and Steering Committee Member, Avon Global Center for Women and Justice (moderator)
Keynote Address:
The Denial of the Right to a Life Free of Violence for Girl Children

Rashida Manjoo, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, its Causes and Consequences, and Professor, Department of Public Law, University of Cape Town
Day 2: Friday, October 19 (Judicial Colloquium)

Welcoming Remarks

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

Mary Quinn, Senior Manager of Operations, Avon Foundation for Women

Laws and their Interpretation

Hon. Virginia Kendall, U.S. District Judge, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois (moderator)

Hon. Tendai Phanuel Uchena, Justice, High Court of Zimbabwe

Hon. Gugu Mokhoro, Senior Resident Magistrate, Maseru Magistrate Court, Lesotho

Sexual Violence Against Girls in Zambia’s Schools: Inviting Participants’ Feedback on the Avon Global Center / Women and Law in Southern Africa Report

Hon. John Rowley, Judge, Integrated Domestic Violence Court, Tompkins County, New York (moderator)

Matrine Chuulu, Regional Coordinator, Women and Law in Southern Africa

Genevieve Ballinger, Cornell Law School Student

Hon. Sharon Kaunda Newa, Deputy Registrar, Commercial Court, Zambia
Courtroom Procedures

Hon. Barbara J. Rothstein, Senior U.S. District Judge, U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington (moderator)

Hon. Esther Muremba, Senior Resident Magistrate, Zimbabwe

Hon. Sabrina Sonnenberg, Regional Magistrate, South Africa

Hon. Mumcy Dlamini, High Court of Swaziland

Overview of the Center’s Resources for Judges

Elizabeth Brundige, Executive Director, Avon Global Center for Women and Justice and Visiting Assistant Professor of Law, Cornell Law School

Outside the Court

Hon. Mel Flanagan, Judge, Milwaukee County Circuit Court, Wisconsin (moderator)

Hon. Gertrude Chawatama, Judge, High Court of Zambia; Commissioner, Truth, Justice and Reconciliation of Zambia

Robin Phillips, Executive Director, The Advocates for Human Rights

Hon. Taboka Slave, Chief Magistrate, Broadhurst Magistrate Court, Botswana

Hon. Sharon Kaunda Newa, Deputy Registrar, Commercial Court, Zambia
The Way Forward: Insights and Recommendations from Colloquium Sessions

**Cynthia Grant Bowman**, Dorothea S. Clarke Professor of Law, Cornell Law School (*moderator*)

**Hon. Esme J. Chombo**, Justice, High Court of Malawi

**Hon. Ellen Gesmer**, Justice, Supreme Court, New York County, New York

**Sital Kalantry**, Clinical Professor of Law and Faculty Director of the Avon Global Center for Women and Justice, Cornell Law School

**Hon. Ronald Reinstein**, Judge, Superior Court of Arizona (Retired); Judicial Consultant, Arizona Supreme Court

**Closing Remarks and Thanks**
2012 Conference Feedback

“Thank you for the intellectual stimulation and wonderful experience. Everything was professionally done and all of your effort, and that of your colleagues and supporting staff, are appreciated.” – Hon. Sabrina Sonnenberg, Senior Regional Magistrate, South Africa

“Thank you very much for a well-organized event and an open dialogue. I was delighted by the opportunity to sit amongst phenomenal professional women from my region and catch up on our shared work, challenges, and opportunities.” – Prof. Chiseche Mibenge, City University of New York

“On behalf of the IAWJ, I’d like to thank you for inviting me to attend the wonderful conference. I was very impressed with everything you did to put the event together. It was an enriching experience to learn from the conference participants about their courtroom practices and understandings.” – Winta Menghis, Africa Program Officer, International Association of Women Judges

“I would like to thank you for the opportunity accorded to me to attend the conference. I learnt a lot from the conference, and I am glad that I contributed to it. I wish you well and hope to continue collaborating with you. God bless you and regards to all for the well-organized conference.” – Hon. Sharon Kaunda, Registrar, Zambia

“Thank you for the very well organized conference and all of the resources made available to us. I also want to thank every participant’s input in the conference. My prayer is that we will continue to network with each other and so continue helping each other with workable solutions for our different countries but faced with the same challenges.” – Hon. Esme Chombo, Malawi High Court

“I wanted to thank you all for a wonderful experience and program. I learned a lot from all, especially the African judges. . . . I’m providing a copy of the report to the Chief Justice of Arizona and also will discuss the conference at the next [Arizona] Supreme Court Commission on Victims in the Courts meeting, as well as the state education committee.” – Hon. Ron Reinstein, Superior Court of Arizona (Ret.), Judicial Consultant, Arizona Supreme Court

“May I take this opportunity to thank you most sincerely for the well-organized and highly informative conference. I have already made communication with the office of the Attorney General for a legislation that will curb domestic violence. . . . Kindly pass my gratitude to the Foundation that sponsored us.” – Hon. Mumcy Dlamini, Swaziland High Court

“I think we had a great launch [of the report] . . . . Everyone who spoke including the police and the judiciary accepted that the report was a true representation of what is on the ground. Everyone is asking for the report.” – Maimbo Ziela, National Coordinator, Women and Law in Southern Africa

“We had an extremely successful discussion, which included the Inspector general of Police and Magistrate Chuulu. The event received very good publicity in our local media, highlighting the importance and need to address the issue of sexual violence in our schools. We recently made an award to address the needs of GBV survivors and hope we will be able to address some of the recommendations raised in the report.” – Ngaitila Phiri, Human Rights Officer, USAID-Zambia

“The judges’ enthusiasm at the Women & Justice Conference and drive to push the report’s recommendations in their respective countries was truly inspiring. I was excited to see that the work of Cornell students and faculty was valuable to those who shape the law. In that way, the conference made me more confident that, even as a law student, I can make a significant impact on law and policy.” – Diane Furstenau, Cornell Law student

“[The conference] opened my eyes and made me realize the change we need for women in this world. We, women as a whole, need stand up for each other and speak up when we know injustice and sex violence are occurring. . . . It all seems like a dream that I got to attend this moving conference with such powerful women surrounding me. I don’t think I can thank you enough for letting me share that moment.” – Rachel Miller, student at Watkins Glen High School, NY
II. 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

On October 18, the Center launched a new report, in collaboration with Cornell’s International Human Rights Clinic and Women and Law in Southern Africa, entitled “They are Destroying Our Futures: Sexual Violence against Girls in Zambia’s Schools.

The Center’s Executive Director, Elizabeth Brundige, and four Cornell law students travelled to Zambia in November 2011 to conduct interviews with teachers, school administrators, police officers, judges and magistrates, NGO representatives, and other stakeholders. Ms. Brundige and Cornell Professor and Center Steering Committee Member Cynthia Bowman travelled again to the country in May 2012 to interview adolescent schoolgirls at seven schools.

Of the 105 schoolgirls who were interviewed, 54% said that they had personally experienced sexual violence or harassment by a teacher, student or man they encountered while travelling to or from school, while 84% reported that they or their classmates had experienced such abuse.

The report offers many examples of teachers who propositioned students for sex or a relationship, sometimes enticing them with the promise of money and good grades or retaliating against them if they refused. Meanwhile, girls described a constant culture of sexual harassment, with boy classmates coming up to girls at school to propose sex, touch them in sexual ways or make sexual comments.

The report illustrates the powerfully negative impact that sexual violence has on schoolgirls’ education and health, documents the multiple barriers to redress that survivors of abuse face, and offers a number of recommendations that
seek to inform and support the Zambian government’s efforts to more effectively prevent and respond to school-based sexual violence.

As previously noted, the report was launched at the Center’s 2012 Women & Justice Conference. It received significant media coverage in the United States and Zambia and was well-received by the judges and government officials who participated in the launch events, held simultaneously at Cornell Law School in the United States and at the U.S. Embassy in Lusaka, Zambia. Of particular note, the participating representative from Zambia’s Ministry of Education stated that the Ministry accepted the report’s findings and would redouble its efforts to combat this devastating women’s human rights problem.

2. Women, Violence, and Prison: A Case Study from Argentina

Building upon its comparative research on the causes, conditions and consequences of women’s incarceration, particularly as they relate to gender-based violence, the Center undertook a case study of women in prison in Argentina. Argentina’s policies towards women who are incarcerated have been recognized to represent best practices in Latin America. For example, women in prison are allowed to have with them their infants and children who are 4 or younger, and women who are pregnant or are mothers with children under 5 may be given alternatives to incarceration such as house arrest.

Under the supervision of Professor Sital Kalantry, the Center’s Faculty Director, a team of three students are researching the causes, consequences, and conditions of women’s imprisonment in Argentina, focusing on the relationship between gender-based violence and incarceration. They are also considering how Argentina compares to other countries in the region in terms of the number of women in prison, policies relating to women in prison, and the treatment of women in prison.

In October, the team participated in a fact-finding visit to Argentina where they interviewed current and former women prisoners, NGO workers, government officials, prison guards and managers, judges and public defenders, professors, and officials from the Office of the Prisons Ombudsman. The students are now drafting a report based on their findings, which will be released in the late spring 2013.

3. India UN Trafficking Protocol Compliance Project

In May 2011, India ratified the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (UN Trafficking Protocol) and has
undertaken other important institutional initiatives to combat human trafficking. However, India’s laws do not fully comply with its international law obligations, and its laws and policies do not afford meaningful assistance to trafficking victims.

In the spring of 2012, the Center conducted research in partnership with the International Human Rights Clinic on the amendments to Indian law, policy, and practices of local law enforcement necessary for compliance with the UN Trafficking Protocol and for effective victim protection and rehabilitation. Under the supervision of Avon Global Center Women and Justice Fellow Maithili Pradhan, students conducted research and participated in a fact-finding visit to India and prepared a detailed memorandum for the partner NGO.

In 2013, the Center will work with Jindal Global Law School to expand upon this initial study and prepare and publish a report to inform India’s anti-human-trafficking policies, practices, and future law reform.

B. Legal Research Support for Judges

With the assistance of Cornell Law students, the Center continues to provide research assistance for judges in the United States and around the world. The nature of requests varies from providing resources and articles on particular gender-related issues to more in-depth analysis and legal research memoranda. This research may support a judge’s adjudication of a case, development of courtroom procedures, or activities outside of the courtroom. The clinic’s prior research was cited in a judicial decision issued by the Supreme Court of Bangladesh, and its recent work was featured in a decision by the Supreme Court of another South Asian country. Legal research requests undertaken between February 2012 and January 2012 include:

- Memorandum on the impact of imprisonment on women and their families in South Asia;
- Memorandum on the causes, consequences, and international legal framework relating to child marriage;
- Comparative research on successful efforts to combat child marriage;
- Research assistance for a judge delivering a presentation on the problems encountered by vulnerable women and child witnesses in sexual offences cases in Tanzania;
- Memorandum on the procedures and impact of a domestic violence office created by the Supreme Court of Argentina for a judge seeking to improve
access to justice for domestic violence survivors in India;

- Analysis of proposed court rules for the protection of child witnesses, including child victims of sexual violence, in an Indian court;

- Memorandum on the legal and policy arguments that excluded women from the bench and the bar in several different countries to inform a judge’s efforts to increase the representation of women in the South African judiciary;

- International and comparative research on class action litigation as a mechanism for expanding access to justice for women and all people;

- Analysis of applicable factors in determining how most effectively to increase the number of courts and eliminate the lengthy backlogs that deny access to justice in India;

- Analysis of an anti-begging law and the human rights concerns it implicates;

- Research on judicial caseloads in the United States for a judicial initiative aimed at expanding access to justice; and

- Comparative and international law research on the intellectual property rights of photojournalists, for a woman Supreme Court justice in South Asia.

C. Online Legal Resources Collection

In October 2012, the Center launched the “Women and Justice Collection,” an expanded and improved online library of legal resources relating to gender-based violence and gender justice. The collection, the successor to the Center’s Legal Resources Collection, offers a free, searchable database of case law from more than 50 countries and 8 international and regional human rights bodies. It affords unique access to judicial decisions from around the world that apply international or domestic law to protect women’s rights and prevent and punish gender-based violence.

Through the generous support of Cornell Law School’s IT department, a new, more searchable and user-friendly database has been built that can be searched by country, gender-justice-related topic, and keywords, with search results that include both case summaries and full-text decisions.

The collection also provides a valuable overview of international law on gender-based violence, through its annotated and hyperlinked reference lists of relevant international and regional human rights instruments. It makes available articles, reports, reference guides, and other secondary sources that address gender-justice-related topics.

The content of the Women & Justice Collection has been substantially expanded from that of its predecessor, through the valuable research support of the Center’s Women and Justice Fellows, law student summer research associates, and pro-bono attorneys at White and Case, LLP. The database now contains more than 670 searchable entries.

By offering free access to these resources, the Center aims to provide tools and information to judges, legal scholars, members of civil society, and others in their efforts to advance gender justice and afford protection and redress to survivors of gender-based violence.
The Center is in the process of conducting outreach to inform potential users about this exciting collection.

D. Online Presence: Website Usage and Social Media

The Center maintains a robust online presence, with the website (www.womenandjustice.org) receiving over 4,400 page views during 2012. The website drew visitors from over 60 countries. The majority of these visitors were from the United States, followed by visitors from India, Canada, Thailand, Bangladesh, Argentina, the United Kingdom, and South Africa. The most visited parts of the website were the pages describing the Center’s work, the Women & Justice Collection, and the 2012 Annual Conference page. The Cornell Law School communications department continues to provide consulting to the Center on how to increase relevant hits from Google and other search engines.

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 around gender justice issues. Through its 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

Three Cornell Law students joined the Avon Global Center as summer research associates from June to August 2012. The students made a valuable contribution to multiple facets of the Center’s work. Among other activities, they:

- Researched and summarized cases for the Center’s Women & Justice Collection;
- Entered case summaries and full-text decisions into the Center’s new Women & Justice Collection database;
- Conducted extensive testing of the new database, identifying issues and problems so that the Center and Cornell’s IT Department could resolve them prior to the launch of the Women & Justice Collection;
- Drafted features for the Center’s website and e-newsletter;
- Identified notable news and other developments relating to gender justice and wrote posts on them for the Center’s Facebook page;
- Prepared memoranda and other research documents in response to four requests (see section on judicial requests);
- Conducted research relating to the causes, consequences, and conditions of women’s imprisonment, in support of the Center’s clinical project on this topic;
- Analyzed Center interviews of Zambian schoolgirls, conducted related desk research, and drafted or edited sections of the Center’s draft report on sexual violence in Zambian schools; and
- Conducted research on responses to sexual violence against girls in southern African countries, to inform the development of the 2012 Women & Justice Conference Program.
F. Other Center Events

1. Senior Roundtable on Women and the Judiciary

On March 7-8, the Center co-sponsored a Senior Judges Roundtable on Women and the Judiciary in New York City, NY. The Roundtable convened over 30 senior judges representing over 10 countries from all regions of the world to discuss the role of national constitutions and the judges who apply them in advancing gender equality.

Participants considered what is needed to ensure that processes of constitution-making and reform lead to concrete gains for women, promote gender equality, and reverse the scourge of gender-based violence. In addition, they examined the role of judges, and women judges in particular, in interpreting and applying constitutional provisions in ways that promote and protect women’s rights.

2. Film Screening of Lightening Testimonies

On April 2, the Center hosted at Cornell Law School a special film screening of Lightening Testimonies, a documentary by Indian filmmaker Amar Kanwar. The film addressed the history of conflict on the Indian subcontinent through women’s experiences of sexual violence. Through the women’s stories, the film explores how such violence is recorded, remembered, and resisted by individuals and communities.

The film screening was followed by a discussion led by Avon Global Center Women and Justice Fellow Leigh Blomgren and special guest Udisha Saklani, a women’s rights advocate from India and coordinator of Kriti, an Indian development organization that focuses on the empowerment of women.

3. Open World Program Visit to Cornell

On October 22, the Center hosted a meeting at Cornell Law School for five Russian educators who were visiting the United States under the auspices of the Open World Program. The program is an initiative founded by the U.S. Congress to build mutual understanding and professional networks between the United States and Eurasian countries and to create a network of Eurasian leaders dedicated to creating positive changes in their home countries.
Avon Global Center faculty and staff discussed the Center’s gender justice programs and activities with the delegation and organized a program of meetings for the visitors with other Cornell Law School faculty and students. The delegates were particularly interested in learning about the Center’s clinical projects, which contribute to the efforts of judges and practitioners to eliminate violence against women globally, while also serving the law school’s educative mission.

4. Visit by Former Chief Justice of South Africa Sandile Ngcobo

On November 28, the Avon Global Center co-hosted with Cornell Law School’s Berger International Legal Studies Program a visit and public lecture by Justice Sandile Ngcobo, the Former Chief Justice of South Africa. Justice Ngcobo is a strong advocate for women’s human rights and the author of an important recent decision that affirmed the constitutional validity of special courtroom protections for child victims and witnesses of sexual offenses. The Berger Program provided generous financial support, while Center staff took the lead in developing and coordinating the program for the Justice’s visit.

In addition to giving a public lecture on the judicial enforcement of social and economic rights, Justice Ngcobo met with Avon Global Center faculty and staff to discuss the judicial request that the Center prepared for him in support of his planned efforts to expand women’s representation in the South African judiciary. The Center also hosted a lunch for Justice Ngcobo with Cornell Law students.

G. Presentations, Outreach, and Scholarly Contributions

The Avon Global Center made the following contributions to the gender justice initiatives, scholarship, and events:

- **Acid Violence Documentary.** The Center’s acid violence report, *Combating Acid Violence in Bangladesh, India, and Cambodia*, was quoted extensively in a user’s handbook for the 2012 Academy Award winning documentary, *Saving Face*.

- **Center Survey Adapted for Use in India.** A survey developed by the Center for judges participating in the 2011 Senior Roundtable for Judges about the challenges women face in entering and advancing within the judiciary is now...
being adapted and used for a new study of women in the judiciary in India, led by a professor at Jindal Global Law School in New Delhi.

- **Keynote Address: Global and Local Efforts to Advance Women’s Human Rights.** Elizabeth Brundige gave a keynote address for the Cornell University Women’s Resource Center’s International Women’s Day luncheon in March 2012.

- **Panel on Gender Justice and Refugee Law.** In April 2012, Ms. Blomgren spoke on a panel about gender justice issues in refugee and asylum law at the Rochester Institute of Technology Canable Conference in International Studies, *Africa and the Global South in Comparative Perspective*.

- **Presentation: “Women and Justice: Addressing Gender-Based Violence.”** Ms. Brundige gave a presentation on the Avon Global Center’s work to the Sunris e Ithaca Rotary Club in June 2012.

- **Testimony in Acid Violence Case.** Professor Kalantry offered expert testimony in an acid-violence-related case in Tompkins County, New York, drawing upon the expertise she developed in leading a previous Center study on acid violence in Bangladesh, Cambodia, and India.

- **Cornell Women’s Law Coalition Faculty and Staff Panel.** In October 2012, Ms. Brundige spoke on a panel hosted by Cornell Law School’s Women’s Law Coalition about her work with the Avon Global Center and other issues relating to women and the law.


- **“Women in Robes.”** Sital Kalantry authored an article published in the July 2012 issue of *Americas Quarterly*, which addressed why greater representation of women in the judiciary is so important.

- **“Obstacles to the Education of Schoolgirls in Africa”.** Ms. Brundige and Cornell Professor and Center Steering Committee Member Cynthia Bowman co-authored a paper, based on their fieldwork in Zambia, on the multiple obstacles that girls in Zambia confront in pursuing an education, including sexual violence.
A. Center Staff and Faculty

Sital Kalantry, Faculty Director (through December 2012)

Sital Kalantry is the co-founder of the Avon Global Center and was its Faculty Director and a Clinical Professor at Cornell Law School through December 2012. 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.

Elizabeth Brundige, Executive Director

Elizabeth Brundige is the Executive Director of the Avon Global Center and a Visiting Assistant Clinical Professor at Cornell Law School, where she also 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 Sandle 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.

Leigh Blomgren Women and Justice Fellow

Leigh Blomgren is the 2012-2013 Women and Justice Fellow at the Avon Global Center for Women and Justice, where she also served as the 2011-2012 Fellow. 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.

Maithili Pradhan, Women and Justice Fellow

Maithili Pradhan is a Women and Justice Fellow at the Avon Global Center for Women and Justice. Maithili received a J.D. from Cornell Law School, Master 2-Droit et globalisation économique from Sciences Po and Universite Paris I, and a B.A. in International Politics from New York University. As a law student she worked on public-interest litigation related to maternal mortality in India, co-authored a briefing paper on domestic violence in India, and served as President for the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association and Clinic Liaison for the Cornell Advocates for Human Rights. She has held internships with the Center for Human Rights and Global Justice, the International Rescue Committee, and Troutman Sanders LLP.
Karla Creech, Program Assistant

As the Program Assistant for the Avon Global Center for Women and Justice, Karla Creech assists with many aspects of program support and coordination. Prior to joining the Avon Global Center, Karla supported several professors at Cornell University, after graduating from Cornell University herself in 2010 with a bachelor’s degree in Biology and a special interest in Autism. In the past she has worked in the fields of catering and event planning; construction; and in the biotech industry. Karla is originally from Southern California, but has lived in Central New York most of her life. She is very excited to be a part of the work done by the Avon Global Center for Women and Justice, and to be affiliated with the other women and their organizations around the world that stand together to support one another.
B. Steering Committee Members

Kim K. Azzarelli, Steering Committee Chair
Steering Committee Chair; President, Women in the World Foundation, Newsweek Daily Beast Company; Founding Partner, Seneca Point Global

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
Vice President, 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