

# gender justice

## Rights and the Rome Statute

Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice



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### The International Criminal Court - Trust Fund for Victims

#### The International Criminal Court (ICC)

The ICC is the world's first permanent international criminal court. The Court was formed by an international treaty, the Rome Statute, which came into force 1 July 2002. The role of the ICC is to promote justice, hold accountable those responsible for crimes committed during armed conflict and war, and contribute to rebuilding lives through support and reparations for victims and communities.

#### What will the Court do?

It will investigate and prosecute the individuals most responsible for crimes within the jurisdiction of the ICC. These crimes are genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

#### Victims' Rights

The Rome Statute has given victims a number of rights: the right to protection and support for those appearing before the Court; the right to apply to participate in the Court's proceedings; the right to have legal representation of their own choosing; the right to be kept informed of the progress of cases they have proved a valid interest in; and the right to apply for reparations for those who have suffered harm as a result of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

#### ICC Trust Fund for Victims

In 2002, the Trust Fund was established for the benefit of victims of crimes within the jurisdiction of the Court, and their families. The Trust Fund will:

- Carry out orders for awards for reparations made by the Court. The awards may be made to individuals, institutions, or groups of victims depending on the harm and damages suffered.
- Make resources available for the benefit of victims and their communities. In this way financial and other resources may be made available to victims at the discretion of the Board of Directors of the Trust Fund.

Currently the amount in the Trust Fund is very low. Over time, contributions to the Trust Fund will come from the money and property of those convicted, collected through fines, forfeitures and awards for reparations; through fund-raising efforts of the Board; and through voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund from Governments, organizations and individuals.

Other information cards in this series include: The ICC; The ICC-Victims' Participation; The ICC – Victims/Witnesses Support and Protection. **November 2004**