



*The SHERLOC Newsletter  
is pleased to share with you our recent efforts to facilitate the dissemination of  
information regarding the implementation of the UN Convention against Transnational  
Organized Crime and its three Protocols.*



# GENDER IN CRIME

## GENDER DIMENSIONS IN ORGANIZED CRIME

From Bollywood to Hollywood and beyond, there has long been a tendency for popular media to portray stories about beautiful, young women as the submissive love interests of dashing, dangerous men who risk their lives as members of organized criminal groups. Within this area, there is also the oft-depicted character of the savvy, conniving woman who takes over operations in the predominantly male underworld, facing devastating consequences for her transgression.

But what is reality really like?

Since a few months, the SHERLOC team has started to explore the impact of gender dimension in organized crime stories and jurisprudence. We are particularly interested in learning about those cases – and there are many out there – of women leading and in power positions of an organized criminal group. We are interested to learn about those cases, to challenge the assumptions we make about the role of women.

### *Features:*

**SPOTLIGHT:  
GENDER IN CRIME -  
ORGANIZED CRIME &  
TERRORISM**

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**CASE COMMENTARY**

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**OVERVIEW OF UNTOC  
COP 9**

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**MEET A CONTRIBUTOR**

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**WHAT IS NEW ON  
SHERLOC ?**

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Indeed, there are many examples of powerful women in the world of organized crime: from Mexico where the *Reina del Pacifico* (Sandra Avila Beltran) was running a drug trafficking organization, to the Pacific where a woman led the establishment of the first methamphetamine laboratory in Fiji, and finally to Italy where a Camorra widow became a feared mafia boss, also known as “*la miciona*” (“the Big Female Kitten”).

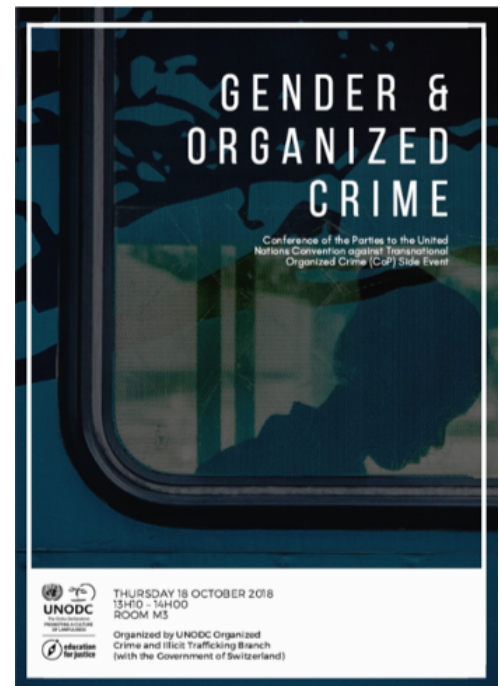


The SHERLOC team worked hand-in-hand with the UNODC’s Education for Justice Initiative (E4J) organized crime team, researching and developing a university teaching module on gender and organized crime. The module aims at providing lecturers with a basic overview of gender concepts, and insights showing how the critical incorporation of gender analyses to the organized crime debate is imperative to understand the nature of crime and the impact of criminalization and justice processes worldwide.

This teaching module is currently being finalized and will be soon available on the Education for Justice (E4J) Initiative’s website: <https://www.unodc.org/e4j/en/tertiary/organized-crime.html>

The topic of gender&organized crime was also under the spotlight of the 9th Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, in particular in two side events.

The E4J Initiative organized a side event, aiming at exploring why women and children but also men get involved in organized criminal activity, while also asking what can be done to prevent their participation in organized criminal groups. During this event, which was well attended, three panellists discussed the topics of Toxic Hyper-Masculinity and Street Gang Performance; Gangs and Violence for Gang-Affiliated Women; as well as Young Boys and Adolescents in the US Mexico Border Smuggling Market.



**"GENDER DIMENSION" IS NOW A NEW CROSS-CUTTING ISSUE ON SHERLOC'S DATABASES WHICH ALLOWS TO RESEARCH SPECIFIC RESOURCES, IN PARTICULAR CASELAW AND BIBLIOGRAPHY, LINKED TO THIS TOPIC**

## GENDER DIMENSIONS IN TERRORISM

An effective, holistic approach to countering terrorism requires the consideration of the different ways in which women and men are involved in, and impacted by, terrorism. Both women and men commit terrorism-related offences. However, in many cases their roles, the circumstances of their association with terrorist groups and motivation differ. Similarly, although both women and men are among the victims of terrorism, some forms of violence inflicted by terrorist groups, such as sexual and gender-based violence, disproportionately affect women and girls.

To address these issues, gender dimensions should be considered in the full spectrum of state responses to terrorism – from preventing violent extremism conducive to terrorism to criminal justice and law enforcement responses to the terrorist threat. Considering how gender can be integrated into the criminal justice system in this respect is also important, since in the past the criminal justice approaches to countering terrorism have conventionally reflected largely male needs and priorities. Developing counter-terrorism policies and practices in a way that takes into account the experiences and needs of women and men contributes to enhancing the effectiveness of these measures and to advancing equal justice and gender equality.

In order to assist Member States in mainstreaming the essential gender component in counter-terrorism responses, UNODC is carrying out capacity-building activities in a number of regions, including Sub-Saharan Africa, Middle East and North Africa, and South and South-East Asia.

Additionally, a [handbook](#) on ‘Gender Dimensions of Criminal Justice Responses to Terrorism’ is currently being developed.

This publication will provide legal analysis and policy recommendations related to key gender issues arising in the criminal justice response to terrorism, such as:

- gender dimensions of terrorism offences;
- investigation and prosecution of terrorism cases;
- imprisonment and other forms of deprivation of liberty;
- criminal investigations and prosecutions of sexual and gender-based violence perpetrated by terrorist groups;
- access to justice and remedies for victims.



### GENDER DIMENSIONS of criminal justice responses to terrorism



The handbook is scheduled to be published in English in **early 2019**, with other UN languages to follow. It will also be accessible through the Bibliographic Database of SHERLOC.

# CASE COMMENTARY

## *THE CASE OF STATE v YUEN YEI HA & ORS (2004)*

On 9 June 2004, a large drug enterprise was ended following a police operation targeting a group of persons associated with warehouse premises at Laucala Beach Estate near Suva, Fiji. When police officers entered the warehouse, they found enough chemicals to manufacture more than 800 kilograms of methylamphetamine hydrochloride, the illicit drug otherwise known as "ice".

A married couple from China based in Fiji, was running a licit company which was used between October 2003 and March 2004 to procure materials and facilitate infrastructure to support the manufacture of methylamphetamine. The couple hired four builders and cooks that were flown into Fiji and who were living in an apartment arranged by the couple. They also leased two warehouses where goods were stored and where the drug was manufactured. The warehouse and the four builders were under surveillance for some time, before the case was concluded with a large police operation leading to the arrest of the six defendants.

The police found large amounts of cash in the apartment where the builders and cooks used to live. Moreover, in both warehouses, large quantities of chemicals used in the baking process as well as the final product (ready methylamphetamine in a saleable form) were found.



**Access the full case  
on SHERLOC**

This case is very interesting for a number of reasons. The case generally illustrates the threat posed by organized crime and drug manufacturing in the Pacifics, which was also underlined by UNODC's "Regional Profile on Drugs and Crime in the Pacific Islands": "The Pacific islands connect some of the world's largest drug producers with the largest drug markets in the world. It is a strategic, if not perilous, location with regard to the global illicit drug trade" (UNODC, 2004).

Moreover, this case is a landmark case, which led to a legislative modification increasing the maximum possible penalty in Fiji for drug manufacturing and/or trafficking from 8 years of imprisonment to imprisonment for life for upcoming cases.

In addition, this case also presents interesting elements of the gender dimension within organized crime cases: the SHERLOC team invites our readers to read our analysis available online and particularly look at the defence used by the couple, who tried to rely on the argument of having children to influence the outcome of the penalty.



## MEET OUR CONTRIBUTOR - INMACULADA -

Ms. Inmaculada Farfán Velasco worked as an intern in the SHERLOC team.

A graduated of Law and Business, Inmaculada has previously worked in projects with a social impact in India and completed traineeships in private law firms in her home country, Spain.

Throughout her internship at UNODC in Vienna, she researched on how countries have implemented the UNTOC and the Protocols thereto, analysing national legislation and caselaw, with a particular focus on French-speaking and Spanish-speaking countries.

We wish Inmaculada all the best in her future career!



# OVERVIEW OF UNTOC COP 9

The ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime took place in Vienna from 15 to 19 October 2018.

Over 800 participants from UN Member States gathered to discuss and review the implementation of the Convention and its three Protocols and to keep improving the measures they have in place at national and regional level to tackle organized crime in all its forms and manifestations.

The Conference was also attended by representatives from civil society, including academia and NGOs. Parallel to the Conference, the Working Group on International Cooperation took place on 16 October. Moreover, the Conference also hosted a large number of side events, tackling the topic of organized crime from different angles.



**See a short video  
with the  
key moments of COP9**



This conference also marked an important achievement: after 18 years from its adoption, Member States established a review mechanism to the Organized Crime Convention and its Protocols. The mechanism will allow State Parties to review the implementation of UNTOC and to enable the Conference to acquire the necessary knowledge of the measures taken by States parties in implementing UNTOC as well as the difficulties encountered by States in doing so. In this context, SHERLOC played an important role, as it will be hosting a secured module dedicated to the review.

# WHAT IS NEW ON SHERLOC?

## THE EXTERNAL CONTRIBUTORS INTERFACE

At the occasion of the 9th COP, the SHERLOC team launched the latest new developed tool: [the External Contributor Interface](#), which can be easily accessed online from the homepage.

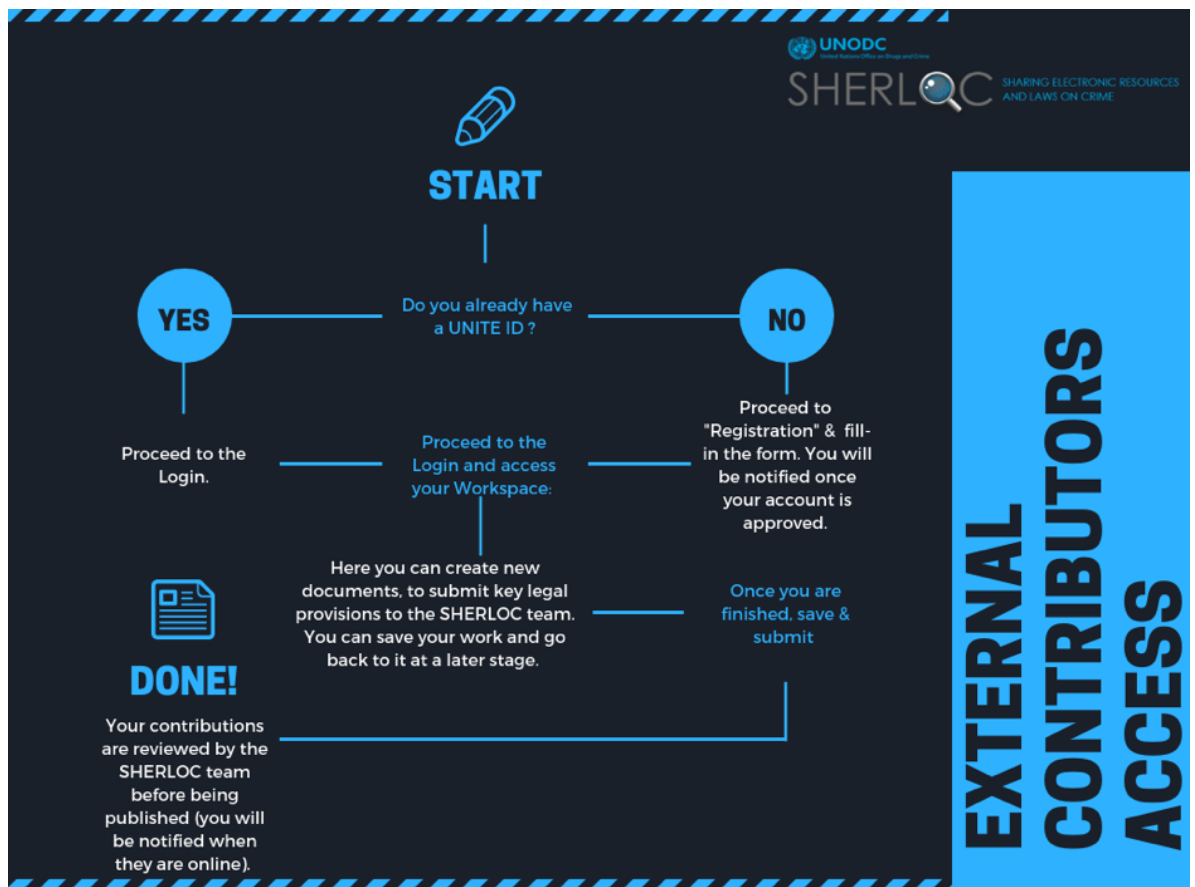
### WHAT IS ITS FUNCTION?

The SHERLOC External Contributor Interface is a new tool that enables registered SHERLOC contributors to directly contribute to the databases, by submitting relevant material (currently only available for legislation) for SHERLOC's Databases.

The content analysed by contributors is submitted in a “draft” version to the SHERLOC team, who reviews the content, ensures quality assurance and then publishes it online.

*\*\*\* Currently the tool is only available for submitting legislation, falling under the scope of the SHERLOC Portal, but by 2019 the same interface will be available to analyse jurisprudence and submit caselaw \*\*\**

### WHAT ARE THE MAIN STEPS OF THIS PROCESS?



### INTERESTED ?

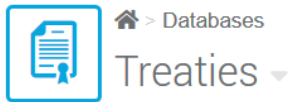
Don't hesitate! Register to the tool [[CLICK HERE](#)], get your credentials and start contributing!

## ON THE TREATIES DATABASE

### - All Counter-terrorism treaties are now online

All 19 international legal instruments against terrorism, along with their status of ratification, are now accessible online through the Treaties Database of SHERLOC:

**SHERLOC**  SHARING ELECTRONIC RESOURCES  
AND LAWS ON CRIME



With over 2400 instruments of ratification, accession, acceptance, approval and confirmation deposited over the past decades, the 19 legal instruments present a solid legal basis for counterterrorism efforts worldwide.

Since 1963, the international community has developed a comprehensive legal regime that serves as a framework for international cooperation in countering terrorism within the ambit of the rule of law and international human rights principles. It includes legal instruments related to the safety of air and maritime transport, secure use of nuclear material and countering specific terrorism-related offences, such as hostage-taking, bombings, financing of terrorism and crimes against diplomatic agents.

## INTERESTED ? CONTRIBUTE !

SHERLOC is always looking for contributors who support us in collecting and summarizing legislation, case law and bibliographic data.

If you are interested and want to know more, contact us at [sherloc@unodc.org](mailto:sherloc@unodc.org)



THE SHERLOC TEAM WISHES YOU

*Happy Holidays!*