



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



**International
Legal Aid Group**

30th Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Virtual Side Event on Leaving No-One Behind – Ensuring Access to Legal Aid in Emergencies and Beyond Tuesday 18 May, 14:10-15:00 CET

Legal aid is a key measure to achieve SDG 16 and ensure equal access to justice for all. With a rising number of victims of gender-based violence and the virus spreading in overcrowded prisons and pre-trial detention centres in many countries, the pandemic put a spotlight on the importance of strong legal aid mechanisms to protect people's rights. Often, the needs of the population were unclear, and knowledge of who to count on for delivering legal aid services was missing. Therefore, client-centred legal aid provided by well-trained professionals who operate in strong networks of their peers is crucial to make a real difference in people's lives.

Moderation: *Ms. Candice Welsch, Deputy Director, Division for Operations, UNODC*

Introductory remarks: *Ms. Anika Holterhof, HQ Focal Point on Access to Legal Aid, UNODC*

Closing remarks: *Ms. Zhao Yang, Director of the International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Justice, People's Republic of China*

Presentations by

- *Ms. Guo Jie, Chief of Publicity Division, Legal Aid Center, Ministry of Justice, People's Republic of China* - Innovative approaches to training, networking and knowledge exchange for legal aid providers in China
- *Prof. Alan Paterson, Chair, International Legal Aid Group (ILAG)* - Comparative Access to Justice: Holistic and evidence-based approaches
- *Mr. Nicolás Laino, Federal Public Defender, Federal Public Defender's Office of the Argentine Republic* - Strategic litigation and specialized legal aid services for vulnerable groups: the cases of imprisoned transgender persons and the victims of torture and other abuses
- *Ms. Lydia Winyi Kembabazi, Legal Manager, AdvocAid, Sierra Leone* - Adapting legal and social support interventions during the pandemic and beyond for women and girls in contact with the law
- *Ms. Chinelo Uchendu, Esq., National Coordinator, Legal Advocacy Response to Drugs Initiative (LARDI), Nigeria* - Issues affecting legal aid interventions for drug-related offences in Nigeria

Please join us online by clicking [here](#)! No registration needed.