

**Regional Consultation on the Adoption of the  
Bangkok General Guidance for Judges on Applying a Gender Perspective  
in South and Southeast Asia at Kurumba, Maldives**

**18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

The International Commission of Jurists organized a regional consultation meet for South and Southeast Asian Countries at Maldives on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

Representatives of judiciaries and judicial training academies from across South and Southeast Asia have agreed to take effective measures to ensure that a gender perspective is incorporated into their judicial roles and functions. In particular, they have committed to work towards the adoption of Bangkok General Guidance for Judges on Applying a Gender Perspective.

Thirty-nine judges and representatives of judicial training academies from Sri Lanka, Nepal, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Maldives, Indonesia, Philippines, and Thailand participated in the Regional Consultation on the Adoption of the Bangkok General Guidance for Judges on Applying a Gender Perspective in South and Southeast Asia (BGG).

The Regional consultation also focused on cross-cutting thematic issues in relation to gender discrimination and women's access to justice in South and Southeast Asia. This included the impact of religion on women's rights, gender and climate justice, the gender dimensions of transitional justice, online gender-based violence, and the protection of women in the context of the use of technology. These discussions with the South and Southeast Asian judges will inform the future work in the area of women's access to justice in the region.

Delivering the keynote address, ICJ Secretary General Santiago Canton set the tone for the Dialogue by stressing that “discrimination against women affects everybody without exception. It is a violation that happens every day, every hour, in every country. One of the major challenges we have to advance women’s rights worldwide is the implementation of existing international law and standards.”

Justice *Gita Mittal* former Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. *Amit Mehrotra*, Assistant professor, National Judicial Academy, and Ms. *Jaya Rishi*, Law Associate, National Judicial Academy from India participated in the consultation and presented their viewpoints on the internal adoption strategies of the Bangkok General Guidance

The Indian Delegation stated that the National Judicial Academy (NJA) through incorporation in its curriculum of the *Aparna Bhat* Judgment, which explicitly refers to the BGG, had proactively facilitated deliberations on gender issues. It was stated that in the future, the NJA will bring these Guidelines at the forefront of discussions and inspire the State Judicial Academies to do the same to make each judicial officer gender-sensitive.

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