



4° International Conference on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems

SPECIAL CONVENING AMIDST COVID-19 TO
SUPPORT ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL

September 14-18, 2020

HOSTED VIRTUALLY BY THE PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE OF THE STATE OF RIO DE JANEIRO

Conference Program (Provisional)

How will this conference be held virtually?

We invite all participants to join together online Monday September 14 as we open the conference with inspiring speakers from around the world who are meeting this moment as legal aid providers amidst COVID-19. We encourage participants to join at least one online panel per day from Tuesday through Thursday. These sessions will be interactive, held meeting-style, so that we can provide an opportunity for smaller group discussion and accommodate wide participation across multiple time zones. On Friday, September 18, we invite all participants to come together again in plenary as we report back and call for concrete actions that increase justice for all going forward.

The working language of the conference is English, with translation provided in Arabic, French, Spanish and Portuguese for the plenary sessions. Selected panels may provide additional translation services.

All times for GMT/UTC. Sessions will be held using Zoom.

Monday, September 14

13:00 - 14:30 **Opening Session: Meeting this Moment as Legal Aid Providers Amidst COVID-19**

Welcome & Keynote (Speakers TBC)
Translation: Arabic, French, Spanish, Portuguese

Tuesday, September 15

Theme of the Day: Advocating for Release & Protecting the Rights of People Deprived of Liberty

Speakers for today will discuss prison conditions and the impact of COVID-19 on people deprived of their liberty. Panelists will share strategies for release, including amnesty decrees, strategic litigation, bail reform, diversion & non-custodial measures, as well as protecting the health and safety of detainees.

Today's discussions will also cover e-justice, with a focus on remote hearings and how to ensure the rights of people deprived of liberty during court shutdowns.

- 5:30 - 7:00** **Panel #1**
Panelists TBC
Translation: TBC
- 10:00 - 11:30** **Panel #2**
Panelists TBC
Translation: Arabic, French
- 13:00 - 14:30** **Panel #3**
Panelists TBC
Translation: Spanish, Portuguese

Wednesday, September 16

Theme of the Day: Holistic Representation & Access to Justice for Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups

Speakers for today will address the ways in which COVID-19's has exacerbated existing legal challenges faced by low-income and vulnerable people and the increased need for both criminal and civil legal aid services. Panelists will discuss innovations in the provision of holistic representation for groups with specific needs, including: women, children and youth, persons with disabilities, and other populations that are marginalized or underserved. Today's discussion will also address strategies for addressing gender-based violence and domestic violence amidst COVID-19. Panelists will also share best practices in providing effective reentry programming for formerly incarcerated people.

- 5:30 - 7:00** **Panel #4**
Panelists TBC
Translation: TBC
- 10:00 - 11:30** **Panel #5**
Panelists TBC
Translation: Arabic, French
- 13:00 - 14:30** **Panel #6**
Panelists TBC

Translation: Spanish, Portuguese

Thursday, September 17

Theme of the Day: Combating Systemic Racial & Ethnic Discrimination

Speakers for today will focus on racial, ethnic and other systemic discrimination that pervade criminal justice systems and strategies for eliminating disparities. Panelists will also share their experiences addressing police brutality, torture and other abuse that has increased during COVID-19 lockdowns. Sessions will also consider how to link legal aid with community mobilization for social justice and recognize the importance of intersectionality.

5:30 - 7:00

Panel #7

Panelists TBC

Translation: TBC

10:00 - 11:30

Panel #8

Panelists TBC

Translation: Arabic, French

13:00 - 14:30

Panel #9

Panelists TBC

Translation: Spanish, Portuguese

Friday, September 18

13:00 - 14:30

Closing Session: Call to Action

Speakers TBC

Translation: Arabic, French, Spanish, Portuguese