



JUSTICE AT THE CENTER

When we say justice is a critical enabler of the other SDGs, what do we mean? Justice affects **economies**, impacting individuals and businesses and addressing inequalities. Justice affects **societies**, impacting health and education and influencing civic participation. Justice affects **communities**, impacting violence and conflict and swaying interpersonal relationships. Justice intersects with **all of these issues**.

Utilizing **justice as a tool** to address intersectional issues will drive progress across the board. The Sustainable Development Goals aim to **improve quality of life** by addressing challenges across the spectrum of people's lived experiences. To reduce **inequality**, increase **educational attainment**, improve **health**, enhance **peace and security**, support the **most vulnerable**, and combat the **climate crisis**, **justice must be prioritized**.

People living in poverty **experience** greater barriers to justice in nearly

90%
OF COUNTRIES

Women **experience** greater barriers to justice than men in nearly

70%
OF COUNTRIES

[Disparities, Vulnerability, and Harnessing Data for People-Centered Justice!](#)

“ The demand for justice is increasing. People around the world are calling for social justice, racial justice, gender justice, climate justice, economic justice, and an end to violence and corruption.”

[Justice For All and the Social Contract in Peril](#)

JUSTICE AND

...CONFLICT



Upholding access to justice in conflict settings is challenging, but imperative. People experience new justice problems, while those pre-existing become more complex. Many violent conflicts are due to grievances about exclusion and feelings of unfairness and injustice—injustice increases the risk of conflict. Meanwhile, weak justice systems also foster a rise in conflict. From addressing peoples’ everyday justice needs to ensuring systemic accountability, driving post-conflict transitional justice, and restoring confidence in institutions, **justice is a key pillar of prevention, resilience, and recovery in conflict-affected contexts.**



...CLIMATE

Amid the devastating impacts of climate change, there is an urgent need for justice systems to holistically respond to communities on the front lines. Severe weather events can lead to disputes, debt, loss and damages, and limited access to services. Meanwhile, climate and development-induced displacement, can lead to administrative legal problems in accessing services, land rights, housing, employment and education. Just transitions cannot occur without equal access to the green economy and protected workers’ rights. **Legal frameworks, legal empowerment of the most vulnerable people, and effective justice remedies for environment-related concerns are vital to effectively combating climate change.**

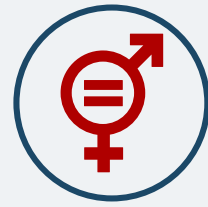


“Rising authoritarianism, conflict, corruption, threats to judicial independence, digital repression, climate change, weakening respect for human rights, and the reverberating shocks of the COVID-19 pandemic have compounded and exacerbated the global decline in the rule of law.”

[Joint Statement and Call to Action on the Rule of Law and People-Centered Justice Rule of Law and People-centered Justice Democracy Cohort; 2023 Summit for Democracy](#)

...GENDER

Women and girls face acute, and sometimes under-measured, justice needs, which are particularly pronounced for those experiencing multiple forms of discrimination. In **80 percent** of countries with a high level of gender inequality, there are gender disparities in access to justice. Legal discrimination, gender-based violence, gaps in legal identity, and limited access to justice services impede efforts to achieve gender equality by 2030. Yet, there is also strong evidence to suggest increased gender equity in access to justice advances human development: for half the world to fully realize their potential, **justice for women and girls must be prioritized.**



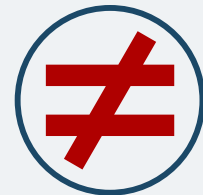
...HEALTH



The COVID-19 pandemic unveiled significant inequities in who can access health services worldwide, and what the implications of their access may be. There is also a strong relationship between justice and mental health: injustices drive mental health issues, and mental health issues can impede a person's justice journey. Research indicates as many as **29 percent** of people experience health impacts resulting from inadequate justice. Meanwhile, health-justice partnerships can improve people's mental health, as well as their quality of life and social and economic wellness. **Health for all requires robust access to justice, and justice for all requires robust access to health services.**

...INEQUALITY

Inequality is rising worldwide, and justice sits at the heart of how people experience widening divides. In **90 percent** of countries surveyed in a recent study, people living in poverty encounter greater barriers to obtaining justice. Yet **justice also can play a role in shrinking inequality** by providing people with tools to address power imbalances and seek redress. This restores trust in the relationship between individuals and society.



Additional Resources

- [Joint Statement and Call to Action on the Rule of Law and People-Centered Justice, Renewing a Core Pillar of Democracy](#)
- [Justice for All and the Social Contract in Peril](#)
- [Justice for All and the Economic Crisis](#)
- [Justice for All and the Public Health Emergency](#)
- [The Relationship Between Justice and Equality](#)
- [The Queer Activist in New Zealand Fighting for Justice and Inclusion Everywhere](#)