



Key Messages on People- Centered Justice

June 2023

An Advocacy Toolkit

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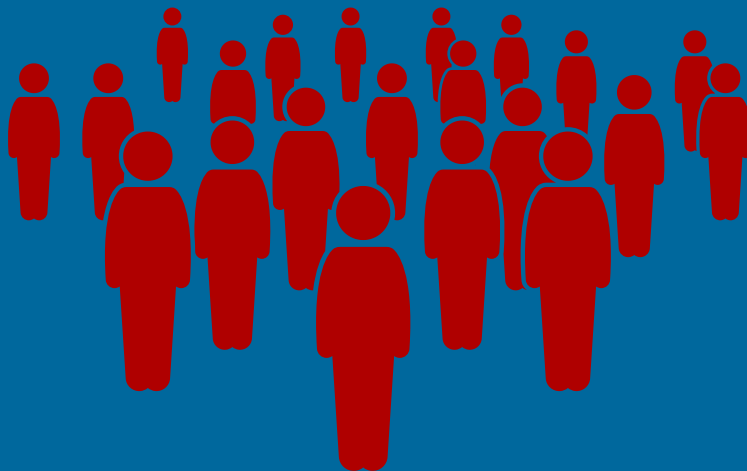
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MESSAGE HIGHLIGHTS

This key messages toolkit, one of the **Justice Action Coalition's** joint deliverables, is intended to align messages on people-centered justice and serve as an advocacy resource for policymakers, practitioners, and members of the Justice Action Coalition. Based on principles of people-centered justice as outlined in the [Hague Declaration on Equal Access to Justice for all by 2030](#), this toolkit outlines messages that can be adapted to the specific needs and contexts of each country, organization, or justice actor.

More detailed information on topline messages (below) can be found throughout the remainder of this tool:

- **People-Centered Justice:** Justice systems must understand and respond to people's justice needs.
- **Data and evidence:** Data and evidence are crucial for designing justice systems which deliver fair outcomes for people.
- **Financing:** Investment in people-centered justice supports peaceful, just, and inclusive societies.
- **Inclusion:** People-centered justice meets and serves all people where they are - regardless of geography or identity.
- **Intersecting Issues:** Justice is a critical enabler for achieving all the SDGs. There are just seven years left to achieve Agenda 2030. We cannot reduce poverty and inequalities, ensure peace, or address fallouts from climate change without equal access to justice for all.



INTRODUCTION

People-centered justice is critical to turn the tide of the world's intersecting crises. The UN Secretary-General António Guterres has noted that *“Access to justice for all and effective, inclusive, and accountable institutions is a critical enabler for other SDGs.”* Yet, access to justice for all, as with many other indicators of the SDGs, is sidetracked and not given enough attention. In 2019 already an estimated **5.1 billion** people lacked meaningful access to justice. The rule of law has declined for the past five years, and international support for justice is diminishing, receiving only **1.4%** of global development assistance. Business as usual will not drive progress.



Behind these figures are **people** and their rights. People who, because of an unresolved issue with work, family or the government, exist in limbo, unable to work and help build the societies and economies we need in order to meet our goals and prosper. This is the **justice gap**, a truly global problem felt in most countries. Providing **equal access to justice for all** is urgently needed – and people-centered justice is the way forward. We cannot address poverty, injustice, and inequality without fair, inclusive, independent, and accountable justice systems that are responsive to people’s priorities and able to protect their human rights.

URGENCY TO ACT

Midway to the 2030 deadline to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, the world is off-track. We are facing an array of interconnected challenges, which require a collaborative approach to resolve.

GLOBAL CONTEXT

1

Conflict and violence are on the rise.

2

A record of 108.4 million people have been forcibly displaced worldwide.

3

71% of people live in countries with rising inequality.

4

The planet is warming faster than at any point in recorded history.

5

Gender inequality remains a key barrier, with 9 out of 10 people holding bias against gender equality.

6

Rising debt, increasing food insecurity, and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic persist.



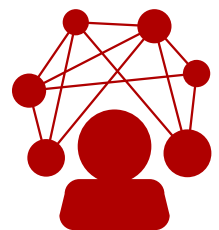
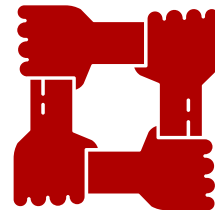
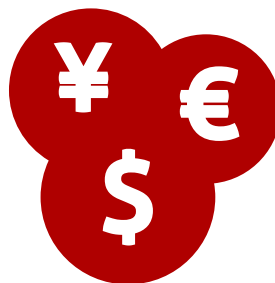
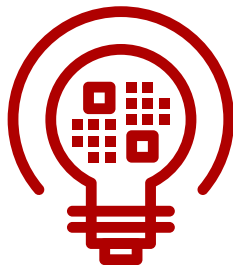
USING THIS RESOURCE

This toolkit is grounded in the principles of **people-centered justice** as put forth in the [Hague Declaration on Equal Access to Justice for all by 2030](#) and the notion that **people-centered justice** is an approach to rule of law that requires data on people's justice problems, evidence of what justice interventions work, and a focus on fair outcomes for people.

- **Put people and their justice needs at the center of justice systems.**
- **Solve justice problems.**
- **Improve the quality of justice journeys.**
- **Use justice for prevention.**
- **Provide people with means to access services and opportunities.**

One of the Justice Action Coalition's joint deliverables was to agree on a set of key messages about people-centered justice to create a shared vision and support members in their advocacy, policy, and communications efforts. Led by the United Nations Development Programme and Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just, and Inclusive societies, with participation from partner organizations, the Justice Action Coalition Key Messages Working Group developed the broad messages listed in this toolkit, designed as tailorable messages that reflect a shared vision and act as a resource for the justice sector.

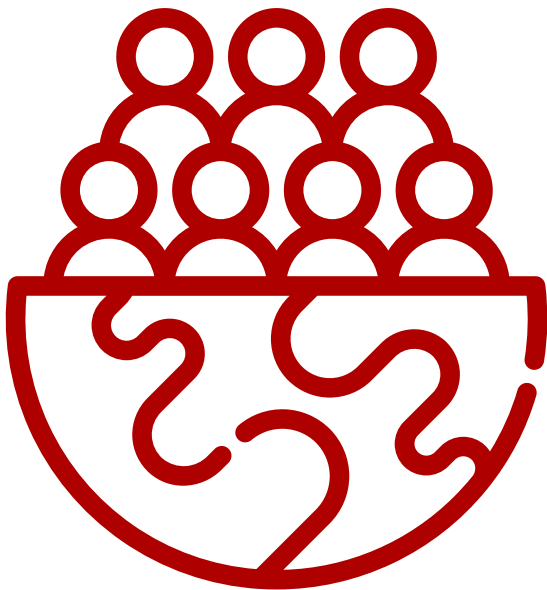
This toolkit includes key messages to support collective communication leading to the 2023 SDG Summit and beyond. Specifically, it contains summaries of adaptable key messages and sample social media posts for each, suitable to be tailored and deployed to a series of audiences - domestic state actors and justice institutions, international officials, civil society, the private sector, etc. - as is useful.



PEOPLE-CENTERED JUSTICE

Justice systems must understand and respond to people's justice needs.

- People-centered justice is a systemic **approach** to prevent and resolve people's justice problems.
- People-centered justice requires understanding people's justice **needs**, their **experiences** of trying to seek justice, and the justice they receive.
- People-centered justice prioritizes **data collection** to design and support **evidence-based** policies and systems, which deliver fair outcomes for people.
- People-centered justice ensures that **people are empowered** to understand, use, and shape laws and policies enabling them to **claim their rights, seek justice, and resume their daily lives**.
- People-centered justice seeks to **transform institutions, simplify processes**, and make services **accessible** by breaking down barriers to justice, which has both **social** and **economic** benefits.



Sample Social Media Posts

Twitter

- Ambition and #action to increase equal access to #justice for all should be emphasized leading up to the #SummitForTheFuture in 2024.
- #Justice is an essential tool in the #development toolbox. Integrating #justice into other #SDGs will strengthen the lives and livelihoods of worldwide.

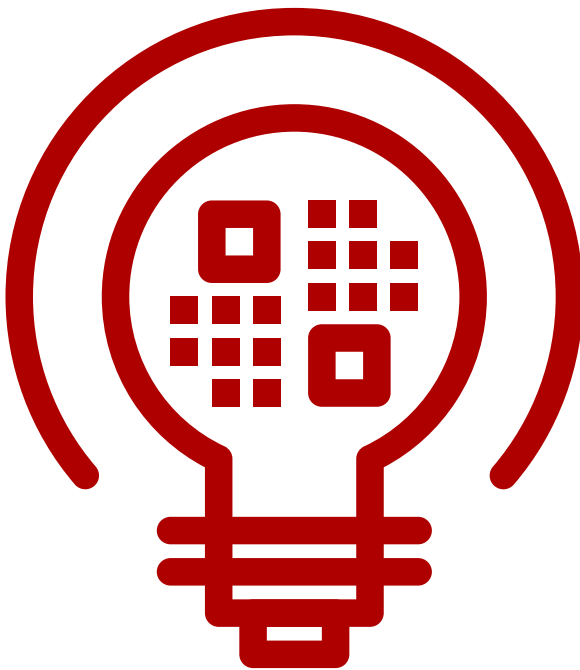
LinkedIn

- As the #global community prepares for the #SDGSummit and the #SummitForTheFuture, #justice must be prioritized and funded to support all #development priorities.

DATA & EVIDENCE

Data and evidence are crucial for designing justice systems which deliver fair outcomes for people.

- With robust data collection, innovative, and transformative approaches can be **guided by evidence** of people's justice needs and experiences of seeking justice.
- Collecting evidence on justice interventions allows us to learn **what works** and what doesn't work, as well as assess the **impact** of interventions.
- Data collection that is **participatory, inclusive, and owned by all stakeholders** is the foundation of people-centered justice.
- **Disaggregated** and **publicly available** data can meaningfully impact policies and programs.



Sample Social Media Posts

Twitter

- Collecting high-quality #data around the is essential to advancing #JusticeForAll.
- #Data collection should be #participatory and #inclusive to inform what works for 's #justice journeys.
- Sharing #data and #evidence helps us determine the #impact of different approaches to people-centered #justice.

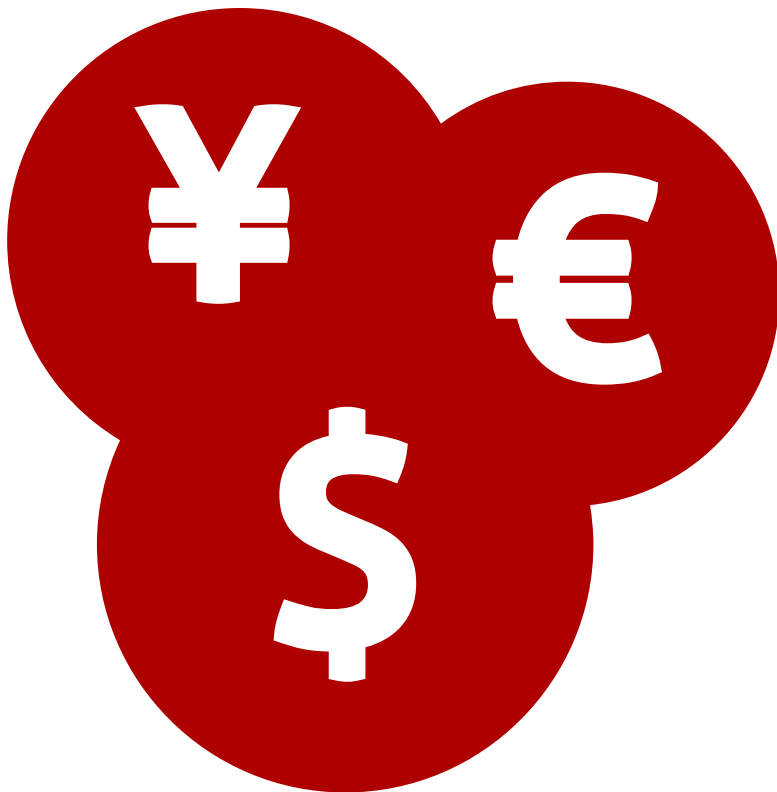
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- Did you know that 5.1 billion worldwide lack meaningful #access to #justice? By collecting and studying people-centered #data and #evidence, we can identify #BestPractices for scale and replication to advance #JusticeForAll. To learn more, visit <https://tinyurl.com/2szvud4u>.

FINANCING

Investment in people-centered justice supports peaceful, just, and inclusive societies.

- Injustice is **costly**: it costs people in terms of **lost income**, increased **risk of conflict**, and **impact on health**. It also **weakens public trust** and **reduces GDP**.
- People-centered justice enables countries and funders to **better allocate resources** into justice solutions that work, are scalable, and sustainable.
- People-centered justice policies and programs are valuable investments because they meaningfully impact peoples' lives. They can be **planned, budgeted, measured, and monitored** more effectively as they are **data-driven, evidenced-based, results-focused, and participatory**.
- Funding should be directed into effective and financially sustainable approaches and programs which **reach people where** they are and **deliver fair outcomes**.



Sample Social Media Posts

Twitter

- One \$ invested in #justice saves \$16 in reduced #conflict risk. An #investment in #justice is an #investment in #peace: <https://tinyurl.com/59ahduwe>
- Investing in #justice is an investment in thriving, healthy societies, but it only receives 1.4% of global #development \$. The #JusticeActionCoalition urges increased investment to advance #JusticeForAll: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8kz3s3> .

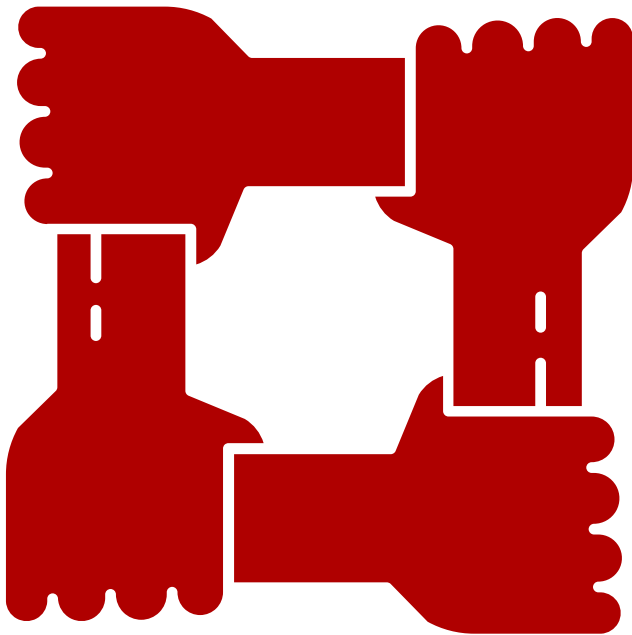
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- High-income countries can afford to fully fund access to #justice - if they choose to. Low-income countries can't fund even 50% of what's needed without aid. Funding #justice advances #development. Learn more about why it is a priority at <https://tinyurl.com/3re65xvs>.

INCLUSION

People-centered justice meets and serves all people where they are - regardless of geography or identity.

- Different people face **distinct justice barriers**, which must be understood to be addressed.
- People living in **vulnerable situations** find it most difficult to access justice and claim their rights.
- **Cross-sector** and **cross-agency** partnerships among **formal** and **informal** justice actors is essential to ensure access to justice for all.
- Empower people to make **informed decisions** about their justice pathways.



Sample Social Media Posts

Twitter

- People's #justice journeys are unique: their #experiences, #barriers, & #needs must be understood to deliver #JusticeForAll.
- To give a voice in their #justice experiences, #legal empowerment should be funded & prioritized.

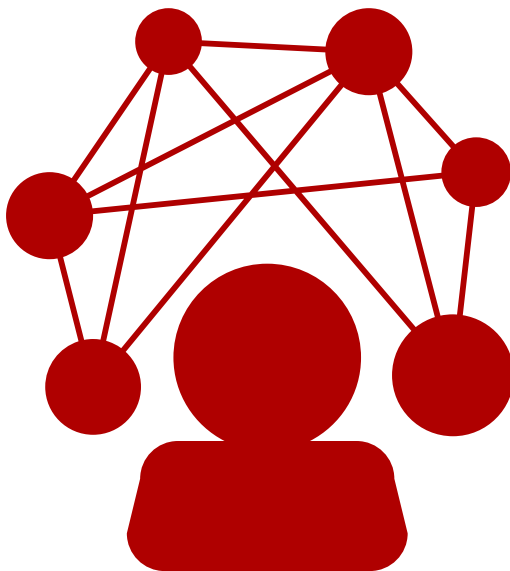
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- Achieving #JusticeForAll requires understanding 's unique #justice experiences & barriers- particularly those in vulnerable situations. Learn more about the unique needs of one community - refugees - at <https://tinyurl.com/5h56zbsc>.

GLOBAL AGENDA

Justice is a critical enabler for achieving all the SDGs. There are just seven years left to achieve Agenda 2030.

- People-centered justice is a key aspect of *Leave No One Behind*, which **underlies all SDGs** and is a **transformative process**.
- People-centered justice is an approach to **rule of law** which positively impacts people's lives.
- People-centered justice **increases trust** between people and institutions, and can **strengthen the legitimacy** of governments.
- People-centered justice is a pathway to fulfilling **human rights**. It can be led from the **bottom up** and **create space for engagement** even in contexts where human rights conversations may be difficult.
- People-centered justice is **participatory** and **inclusive**. It can strengthen **democratic institutions**, mitigate the threat of **authoritarianism** and **conflict**, and enable **peace**.



Sample Social Media Posts

Twitter

- People-centered #justice advances #HumanRights, strengthens #RuleOfLaw, and supports #democratization - all critical to achieving the #SDGs.
- People-centered #justice strengthens #democracies and counters #authoritarianism by enhancing the #SocialContract.
- #ClimateChange will increase the #JusticeGap. People-centered #justice aims to reduce it - at scale.

LinkedIn

- Strengthening #democracies, #institutions, and #SocialTrust requires meaningful access to #justice. Increasing people-centered #justice around the is essential to advancing progress for all.



The **Justice Action Coalition** is a multi-stakeholder, high-ambition coalition of countries and organizations championing equal access to justice for all (SDG 16.3). In 2021, the **Justice Action Coalition** coalesced around 10 key deliverables ahead of the second SDG Summit to bring attention to and address the global justice gap as a priority for the 2030 Agenda.

Key Messages Working Group participants included representatives from: Hague Institute for Innovation of Law (HiIL), International Development Law Organization (IDLO), Mott Foundation, Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just, and Inclusive Societies, Working Group for Children, United Nations Development Programme, and World Justice Program.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



*Observers



*ABA is an observer

Pathfinders and UNDP wish to express gratitude for partners' participation in this process.