

## **Enforcement of International Legal Equality Guarantees in Sierra Leone**

The Global Justice Center is examining ways to support ongoing initiatives that aim to enforce Sierra Leone's international legal obligations on gender equality—such as Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the U.N. Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa, and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa. With the passage of the Gender Acts in 2007, Sierra Leone saw important advances in incorporating international law on gender into its national legislation. However, many challenges remain to implementing the new gender legislation as well as to ensuring that Sierra Leone's obligations under international law are fully incorporated into all governance processes, including the executive and the judiciary.

From June 12-28, 2008, a legal team from the Global Justice Center will be in Sierra Leone to assess opportunities for strategic implementation of international law on gender equality. The team hopes to meet with relevant stakeholders, including national and local government officials, legal experts, members of civil society, and women's groups. The GJC would like to develop, in consultation with relevant partners, strategies for implementing international law on gender equality, with special emphasis on opportunities created by the transitional justice processes. The GJC's on-going research focuses on the impact of international tribunals in the domestic context, and in Sierra Leone we hope to learn more about the impact the Special Court for Sierra Leone has had on national legal discussions about gender. In addition, the team hopes to identify opportunities for how the GJC may be able to enhance the work of existing programs.

### **About the Global Justice Center**

The Global Justice Center is a New York City-based NGO that focuses on working with women leaders on the strategic and timely legal enforcement of international equality guarantees. The Global Justice Center works with partners all over the world to:

- Target the entrenched political and cultural norms that perpetuate male dominated decision-making bodies and constrain women;
- Use human rights and international law as tools to restructure societies in ways that enable women to take their rightful place in national and transitional justice processes;
- Identify activists, leaders, judges, and policymakers and train them in the affirmative use of women's human rights and international law as tools for constructing new democracies, governments, and transitional bodies; and
- Transform the operational definition of democracy to one that is truly representative.

The Global Justice Center is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit, non-governmental organization supported by contributions from private individuals and foundations worldwide.

For more information, please feel free to contact GJC's Sierra Leone Team Leader, Adrienne Fricke, who may be reached by email at [africke@aya.yale.edu](mailto:africke@aya.yale.edu).