International Association of Women Judges

Countering Trafficking in Persons in the Dominican Republic
IAWJ Regional Conference on Trafficking in Persons
Dominican Republic 29-30 July 2019

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In July 2019, the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ) and its member association, the Dominican Association of Women Judges (AJURD), convened a dynamic 2-day regional conference in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. This event brought together IAWJ members from throughout Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). The sessions demonstrated how critical informed and proactive judges are to the fight against human trafficking. What makes IAWJ a unique player in this field is our ability to leverage the convening power of judges as neutral arbiters in the justice system, to gather all of the relevant stakeholders for a common purpose. Moreover, women judges bring a necessary perspective to human trafficking issues as statistics show that women and girls constitute the majority of trafficking victims in the region.

The LAC Regional Conference on Trafficking in Persons brought together a diverse group of justice sector actors and victim service providers from national and international organizations to exchange ideas, identify common challenges and build relationships across national boundaries. I was struck by the knowledge, experience and commitment all of the participants displayed at the conference. There were a number of innovative approaches highlighted by IAWJ members such as the creation of a human trafficking commission in Argentina and provision of foreign language support in Guyana. There is a lot being done in the region to tackle human trafficking and the conference provided an excellent forum for IAWJ members and others to showcase their successes and discuss challenges. The conference provided participants with an opportunity to learn about new ideas to raise public awareness, provide victim services and investigate, prosecute and adjudicate human trafficking cases.

Many individuals and institutions contributed to the success of this regional conference. I want to thank the U.S. Department of State’s Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons for their grant support. In addition, the U.S. Embassy in the Dominican Republican was instrumental in the conference planning and implementation. Our member association, AJURD, played a pivotal role in the design and execution of the conference. AJURD was also instrumental in getting support from a range of Dominican institutions including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MIREX); the Supreme Court of Justice, and its National Judicial Training School (ENJ); the Constitutional Court (TC), and the Superior Electoral...
Court (TSE). These entities provided a range of support and the conference owes its success to their involvement. I am exceptionally grateful for all of their work, individually and in collaboration with others.

The LAC Regional Conference is an important first step towards creating stronger multi-sectoral partnerships to combat human trafficking throughout the region. We look forward to following up on the ideas generated during the conference and to replicating this successful effort in other parts of the world.

Hon. Vanessa Ruiz
IAWJ President
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On July 30-31 2019, the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ) and the Association of Women Judges of the Dominican Republic (AJURD) convened a Regional Conference on Trafficking in Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). The conference coincided with the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons (TIP) on July 30. IAWJ and AJURD collaborated with several agencies and institutions; key Dominican Republic partners included the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MIREX), the Constitutional Court (TC), the Superior Electoral Court (TSE), the Supreme Court of Justice, and the National Judicial Training School (ENJ). Additionally, the U.S. Embassy in Santo Domingo, and USAID’s Dominican Republic Criminal Justice System Strengthened Project supported the conference.

The Department of State’s Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (J/TIP) funded the conference as part of a grant to IAWJ’s project, Countering Trafficking in Persons in the Dominican Republic: Multi-sector Response & Local Resilience in Targeted Vulnerable Communities. The conference objectives were: (1) to initiate dialogue about TIP among key stakeholders throughout the region; (2) to promote intra-regional cooperation to tackle TIP; and (3) to create a platform for sharing experiences, discussing new techniques, and forging professional networks.

Approximately 200 persons attended the opening ceremony and over 100 individuals from 12 countries/territories participated in the full conference. Participants came from the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, Belize, Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, Paraguay, St. Lucia, and the United States including Puerto Rico. They included judges, prosecutors, law enforcement officials, service providers, non-governmental organizations, and other TIP stakeholders.

The conference garnered support from high-level Dominican and American officials, including Chancellor Miguel Vargas Maldonado, the Minister of Foreign Affairs for the

1 The International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ) and Free the Slaves (FTS) in partnership with Movimiento de Mujeres Dominico-Haitianas (MUDHA) are implementing a 2-year project focusing on a multisector response to countering trafficking in persons and building local resistance within vulnerable communities in the Dominican Republic (D.R.). The project aims to achieve this goal with the following objectives: 1) enhance coordination amongst multi-sector stakeholders and institutionalize victim-centered investigations and prosecution of TIP cases; 2) build resistance and resilience to labor and sex trafficking within vulnerable communities; and 3) improve capacity of service provider organizations to identify victims and provide comprehensive quality services to survivors of trafficking within vulnerable communities.
Dominican Republic and Ambassador Robin S. Bernstein, the U.S. Ambassador to Dominican Republic. Both of these dignitaries gave welcoming remarks, as did Judge Vanessa Ruiz (IAWJ President), Judge Román Jáquez Liranzo (President of the Superior Electoral Court), Justice Nancy Salcedo (Supreme Court of the Dominican Republic), Attorney General Jean Alain Rodríguez, and Judge Milton Ray Guevara (President of the Constitutional Court).

The LAC Regional Counter-Trafficking Conference included two plenary panels, four workshops (each with two simultaneous panels), and an action plan roundtable. The LAC regional counter-trafficking working group, which draws members from the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Bahamas, Guyana, Chile, Saint Lucia, Argentina and Puerto Rico, advised IAWJ on the conference structure and themes. It collaborated with IAWJ and AJURD to draft the agenda, select topics and identify experts.

The conference plenary sessions featured IAWJ member judges and board members from Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Argentina, Guyana and Puerto Rico. For both Plenary I. Confronting Country Challenges and Sharing Successes, and Plenary II. Cross Border Challenges and Sharing Success, the panelists provided concrete examples of initiatives led by women judges and prosecutors. For example, participants highlighted awareness caravans they had led in schools, churches and public squares, and workshops held for judges and prosecutors from the border zones of neighboring countries.
The panel presentations and discussions highlighted the following four overarching themes: (1) advancing public awareness of human trafficking; (2) promoting victim centered programming and avoiding re-traumatization; (3) removing barriers to accessing justice; and (4) improving coordination and collaboration at the national, regional and international level. The multi-sector expert panelists illustrated how economic, linguistic, cultural and political influences are important factors to consider when addressing each of the above themes. By exploring issues such as the impact of statelessness and migration, the influence of trauma on investigations, and the limitations of human, capital and financial resources, the panels provided participants a comprehensive view of the enduring challenges facing practitioners and current initiatives underway to incrementally create tangible change.

The conference’s final session was an action plan roundtable, where participants were divided into groups by language and country. The action plan activity provided participants with the opportunity to interact with one another identify common challenges and discuss potential short-term solutions. The conference closed with remarks by Ms. Marjorie Espinosa, Dominican Republic’s Vice-Minister for Migrant Issues, and Judge Vanessa Ruiz.

The conference brought to light the fact that many countries in the region are facing similar challenges in combatting human trafficking. Some of these issues include unregulated migration, corruption, poverty, gender inequality and racial discrimination. Participants raised these issues as triggers and symptoms that sustain criminal human trafficking networks and contribute to social biases that undermine the ability of victims to seek redress through the courts.
PLENARY SESSIONS SUMMARY

The first plenary session focused on confronting country challenges, while the second plenary session centered on cross border challenges. During both plenary sessions, the speakers shared examples of successful initiatives and processes put in place to improve investigations, adjudications as well as programs and services for victims.

PLENARY SESSION I: Confronting Country Challenges and Sharing Successes

The first plenary dealt with country-specific challenges in combatting TIP. The Hon. Esther Agelán Casasnovas (Ret. Dominican Republic) moderated. The Hon. Lisa Palmer Hamilton (Jamaica) presented via video on successful prosecutions that involved victims from India and Burma. In both cases, Jamaican officials were successful in their investigation and prosecution due to: (1) a coordinated investigation and prosecution that used national and international resources; and (2) the ability to furnish victims with appropriate services and care (including respect for dietary needs, language interpretation, and trauma support).

The Hon. Magarette Toussaint Georges (Haiti), noted the ongoing problem of child domestic servitude, and then mentioned that there are a number of suspected cases of sexual exploitation occurring on the Haitian – Dominican Republic border. Societal misconceptions may lead to misclassification of TIP victims as prostitutes. Labor cases appear to be missing; she recommended that labor judges and inspectors receive TIP training. While Judge Georges flagged a number of challenges, she also showcased some of the work she and other members of the Haitian Chapter of the International Association of Women Judges (CHAIFEJ) have done that are producing some positive results. For example, as part of State Department grant, CHAIFEJ members trained justice actors and service providers throughout the country on the country’s human trafficking law. In addition, CHAIFEJ members conducted radio interviews to educate citizens about the dangers and illegality of child domestic servitude.

The Hon. Natividad Santos (Dominican Republic) explained that one of the biggest challenges her country faces is the reluctance of victims to come forward. She described government and NGO efforts to raise awareness within targeted communities of how “cultural beliefs” can contribute to vulnerability. For example, many poor families encourage daughters to engage in sexual relationships with older men (especially foreigners) to gain financial support for the family. Girls whose families encourage such behavior are at risk of
exploitation both within the D.R. and abroad.

Former U.S. Ambassador Mari Carmen Aponte emphasized the need for coordination of anti-trafficking efforts, in an era of globalization and migration. She stressed the need for capable national institutions to confront criminal trafficking networks, the need for equitable and cooperative courts throughout the region, and the importance of taking a victim centered approach in investigating and adjudicated cases.

PLENARY SESSION II: Cross Border Challenges and Sharing Successes

The second plenary addressed the regional and cross-border challenges to combating trafficking. The Hon. Katia Miguelina Jiménez Martínez (Dominican Republic) moderated. The Hon. Susana Medina de Rizzo (Argentina), presented via video on the reality of TIP in the “triple border zone,” where Argentina meets Paraguay and Brazil. Due to the heavy flow of transit in the zone, the lack of clarity over jurisdiction, and linguistic barriers, trafficking cases were falling through the cracks. Judge Medina explained that with a US Government grant, the Argentine Association of Women Judges (AMJA) developed outreach activities in the zone, and worked with judicial colleagues and government officials to address some challenges. The project established a specialized national prosecutor's office, created an anonymous victims' hotline, trained local justice stakeholders to increase the law's implementation, and developed an Executive Branch Commission to oversee trafficking at the national level.

The Hon. Yonette Cummings (Guyana) described her country's response to trafficking involving foreign nationals, particularly migrants from Venezuela. First, in partnership with the foreign ministry, courts began providing language support services during investigations and trials. Second, working with other countries and international organizations courts could ensure victims received information in their own language. Third, judges and magistrates have begun referring persons believed to be trafficking victims to services that address their immigration status.

The Hon. Kenya Scarlett Romero (Dominican Republic) also focused on migration. She explained that within the D.R., the exploitation of Haitians and Venezuelans is common, as many within these migrant communities are undocumented. She also described the plight of Dominican women and girls who, because of their economic vulnerability within the D.R., fall victim to trafficking abroad. Judge Romero recommended that the Dominican government strengthen its collaboration at the international and national levels to facilitate witness interviews and evidence collection. She emphasized the importance of engaging foreign
ministries and embassies to provide necessary care to victims. As Judge Romero explained, “bilateral and international agreements remind us that countries cannot combat organized crime without coordinated efforts.”
WORKSHOPS: RECOMMENDATIONS

There were four overarching themes that emerged throughout the conference included the need for better public awareness, renewed commitment to avoid re-traumatization of victims, increase access to justice, and improve coordination and collaboration among different stakeholders.

I. Advancing Public Awareness of TIP

A. The statutory frameworks in some countries lack specificity and need updating or clarifying regulations.

Throughout the conference, judges, police officers, and prosecutors agreed that different actors in a country did not understand or interpret TIP statutes in a uniform fashion. Many participants noted ambiguities in their countries’ TIP legislation. For example, borrowing language from the Palermo Protocol, many statutes define trafficking as an action (recruiting, harboring, etc) by a means (force, fraud or coercion) for “purposes of exploitation” -- but do not define exploitation.\(^2\)

If a national TIP statute does not define exploitation, it makes it harder for criminal justice actors to understand and distinguish human trafficking from other similar crimes. For example, if a statute fails to say whether “sexual exploitation” entails some form of commercial exchange, the definition of trafficking could sweep in many forms of sexual abuse. It may be useful for countries to look to the United States Trafficking Victim Protection Act (TVPA) for guidance since this law avoids confusion over the meaning of “exploitation.”

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\(^2\) As noted in a UNODC issues paper “The Concept of Exploitation in the Palermo Protocol” from 2015 “considerations of exploitation were critical to establishing both the definition and the Protocol’s scope of application: Member States were concerned to not unduly narrow the exploitative purpose of trafficking, while also providing sufficient clarity regarding the nature of exploitation being addressed by the Protocol. There was a high level of agreement around a core set of practices to be included as forms of exploitation. However, some forms of exploitation proposed for inclusion were not accepted – either because they were seen as already being encompassed within another form of exploitation to be explicitly listed, or because they were felt to fall outside the scope of the Protocol.”
B. Public Awareness Campaigns need to reflect the Country’s Reality

1. TIP statutes must be translated into all of a country’s official languages.

Some participants flagged issues with being able to reach vulnerable communities because materials are not always prepared in multiple languages. An example shared during the conference was Haiti, where CHAIFEJ implemented public education activities in French and conducted simultaneous interpretation in Haitian creole, because no official Creole version of the 2014 TIP law exists. However, Creole is the exclusive language of at least 90 percent of the country’s population. Public awareness campaigns are literally meaningless if they are conducted in a language that potential defendants, victims, and witnesses cannot understand.

2. Campaigns against customary practices tantamount to slavery may need gradualist approaches; the criminal law is too crude a weapon to change them.

The conference participants discussed practices commonly perceived as “customary,” such as child marriage or child servitude, which technically may fall within the legal definitions of TIP. Those who engage in these practices do not begin to conceptualize them as criminal. In the DR, for example, families may encourage young girls to engage in relationships with older men to secure resources for the family. In Haiti, some poor families send their children away to live with wealthier relatives in cities and the children perform “house work” in exchange for room, board and schooling.

In both of these examples, customary practices reflect the economic fragility of the communities in which they are embedded. Speakers who addressed the topic agreed on the need for abusive customary practices to end. However, they stressed the need to end them through a process of persuasion and education, rather than wide-scale prosecution, which would have a dramatic and negative impact on the justice system and society. Participants noted that communities would neither understand nor support criminal prosecution for what their parents, grandparents, and neighbors have done for generations.

3. Tailored efforts needed to reach migrant communities.

Many of the countries represented have significant populations of migrants, temporarily or permanently settled in a country without the right to seek lawful employment. Participants highlighted the need to develop appropriate and targeted human trafficking awareness campaigns for such communities, as well as the tailored victim services that could help them.
II. Victim-Centered Programming and Avoiding Re-traumatization

A. Ensure all stakeholders have a common understanding of what constitutes “victim-centeredness,” and who is responsible for victim services.

In principle, it is easy to reach consensus that victims should receive empathy, patience, and support in their efforts to access justice. In practice, however, participants noted that how victim centered approaches are implemented depends on the specifics of the legal system. Moreover, they reiterated that in cases of trafficking, victim - tailored approaches must be adopted in order to avoid re-traumatization.

In relation to this, participants discussed the common challenge concerning victim interviews and testimony. For example, in common law countries, the defendant, typically through an attorney, has the right to cross-examine a victim about her story. Therefore, an individual may need to be interviewed by law enforcement, prepped for trial by a prosecutor, and cross-examined by defense counsel. In some civil law countries, police may interview a victim in the presence of a prosecutor or an investigating magistrate. In other civil law countries, a judge may ask the victim questions.

Whereas participants agreed that victims could be traumatized by having to re-tell their story to multiple justice system actors over the course of the investigation and the trial, they also pointed to the fact that TIP victims often provide inconsistent statements, at times omitting critical pieces of information out of fear of retaliation from traffickers and / or due to the impact of their trauma on their recollection of the facts. In order to promote successful cases, justice system actors should be consistently mindful and responsive to the psychological and physical needs of the victim(s).

Overall, it was clear from the discussion that it is important to bring all of the appropriate stakeholders together as early as possible to understand each person’s role and responsibility in interacting with a victim and ensure coordination to avoid re-victimization.

B. Specialized training is needed to deal with child witnesses and victims.

Many conference participants noted the need for training on how to handle child trafficking victims. Prosecutors shared stories of how to present a case without the testimony of vulnerable witnesses such as a child. In many cases, documents and other forms of evidence such as photos showing victim injuries but not faces may be admissible and useful to proving elements of the crime. Minimizing or averting the need for live testimony of a
A good practice emerged as a good practice.

In one panel, the panelists discussed the importance of making sure that child victims and witnesses feel safe within the courtroom. This could include providing the child with an advance tour of the courtroom, having the child meet with various court personnel prior to trial, and going through expectations for the trial.

III. Removing barriers to accessing justice

A. Support national anonymous TIP hotlines in countries that do not yet have them.

Conference participants noted the importance and utility of establishing anonymous hotlines. Individuals reported that these hotlines are an easy and inexpensive way to report suspected TIP cases. The hotlines require trained personnel to answer the phone, a working phone number, and confidential management of the information received to protect the caller and other potential victims. Furthermore, it is important that the information received is referred to appropriate agencies that can act upon the given information.

B. Case collection and documentation.

During the action plan activity, judges from Haiti and the Dominican Republic discussed the need for consistent case documentation to improve cross-border coordination on the investigation and the prosecution of transnational human trafficking networks. Moreover, the participants noted that keeping track of cases and using facts from those cases could be a form of public education since the reporting of actual cases can help the public understand what human trafficking is.

C. Referring victims to all services that are available.

Panelists noted that in some countries, victims could access legal aid, temporary immigration relief (e.g., the ability to work legally while their case is pending), or psychosocial support. Some participants shared insights about shelters created specifically for TIP survivors and their children. Overall, the participants supported the need for having comprehensive services for victims and noted the importance of police, prosecutors, and judges being aware of what services are available and providing referrals.
D. Creating a safe and respectful environment for victims and witnesses.

Attendees at the conference reiterated the importance of ensuring that victims felt safe and respected throughout the investigation and adjudication of cases. They explained that victims and witnesses are often deterred from coming forward to authorities because of fear that police and court officials will victimize them.

In order to re-build trust in justice systems, attendees noted it was vital that survivors are given as much decision-making authority as possible within the justice system. It was underscored that those within the justice sector should participate in any training opportunities on “victim-centered” approaches and the impact of trauma.

E. Create specialized national and/or local coordination mechanisms where they do not exist.

Many participants called for the creation of dedicated platforms to tackle human trafficking. They noted that TIP is a complicated issue and often is tied to other transnational crimes such as corruption and money laundering. Therefore, the group encouraged building communities of expertise, whether by compiling rosters of justice stakeholders with TIP experience/expertise, or by establishing court-based, regional or national TIP task forces to review cases, identify best practices, and ensure that victims are provided with appropriate services.

F. Create opportunities for dialogue and networking at the national level.

A common theme throughout the conference was the value of bringing persons interested in TIP together. As discussed in the previous section of recommendations, at the national level there should be consensus as to the roles and responsibilities of different actors. The conference attendees emphasized that all stakeholders should have a basic understanding of trauma and a common understanding of who should have primary responsibility for helping the victim to tell their story.

IV. Improving coordination and collaboration at the national, regional and international level

A. Facilitate international contacts to preserve the possibility of testimony when a trafficking victim opts to return home.
Participants valued the opportunity to network with experts from other countries. Throughout the conference, they noted that they would like to have future opportunities to broaden and deepen networks because there are practical benefits. For example, building connections between and among prosecutors, investigators, judges could facilitate the return of victim to their home country or assist cross-border witness testimony.

During the conference, UNODC panelist Carlos Pérez explained that UNODC has promoted the construction of networks to strengthen criminal investigations and prosecutions as well as to assist victims when cases are transnational. He provided an example of two successful regional coalition-building initiatives: 1. *Ibero-American Network of Prosecutors against Trafficking and Trafficking of Migrants* (REDTRAM); and 2. *Central American Coalition Against Trafficking in Persons*, which brings together the national coordination mechanisms of countries within the region.

C. Coalition building with civil society stakeholders.

Building a coalition with stakeholders boosts resources and can maximize the counter-trafficking initiatives. A panelist representing the local NGO, *Participación Ciudadana*, spoke about the process of building a coalition of civil society organizations with the goal of implementing actions to improve the prevention, protection and prosecution of trafficking cases. The creation of this national coalition provided civil society stakeholders with the leverage to play a significant role in addressing trafficking in persons. Moreover, the coalition was able to identify gaps in the enforcement of the law and protocols, and in 2019 the coalition developed an anti-trafficking public education guide entitled, *Una Nueva Forma de Esclavitud: La Trata de Personas*.

As Participación Ciudadana noted, the goal of the guide is to provide service providers and advocacy organizations with a coherent and shared tool with which to speak to teach vulnerable communities about the common indicators that contribute to vulnerability (such as gender, racial and economic inequality), simplified language to explain the existing legal frameworks in the D.R., and information on available resources.

D. Share success stories.

For some of the conference participants, TIP is a relatively new area of practice, and often a disheartening one. They emphasized the value of learning from one another, especially individuals from countries with similar legal, economic, and political systems. Participants expressed an interest in learning about successful prosecutions.
At the end of the conference, participants were divided into country and language groups to develop action plans. This interactive session allowed participants to speak with colleagues from other countries about common needs and challenges. Each group made its own recommendations of national, bilateral or regional steps for the next six months to a year. At the conclusion of a 60-minute discussion, the group reporters presented their groups' conclusions to the full conference. These presentations, as well as written feedback from some of the groups yielded four common themes:

**Improving Victim Services**
All groups concurred on the need to improve victim services. Recommendations included a courtroom orientation with judges, attorneys and court personnel, and identifying attorneys to represent victims. One group recommended enhanced security measures to ensure victim and witness safety before, during and after trial.

**Designing Appropriate Messaging and Public Outreach Activities**
All groups discussed the need to increase and tailor public outreach to specific audiences
across a broad range of outlets, including radio, television, social media, advertisements on public buses and trains, and activities in schools and churches. The groups discussed the need for outreach to migrant communities, including messaging in various languages. One group proposed conducting community outreach sessions with focus groups in order to raise awareness, as well as to gain perspective and find appropriate definitions for trafficking crimes.

**Creating Specialized TIP Courts or Specialized Task Forces with Law Enforcement, Prosecutors, and Other Key Stakeholders**

A common theme was the need to develop specialized trafficking courts and to create specialized counter-trafficking units of judges, prosecutors and police. The reasoning given for the need for specialization was that trafficking cases are often complex matters best managed by specially trained justice sector actors. Some countries in the region have multi-stakeholder trafficking committees that support prosecutions for trafficking as well as protection and prevention efforts. Others have created specialized units for prosecutors that have been successful in implementing surveillance operations, investigating criminal organizations and prosecuting traffickers.

**Strengthening Coordination Among Key Multi-Sector Actors**

All groups mentioned the importance of reinforcing coordination and collaboration among different actors. Traffickers often operate through networks, so effective TIP response requires an array of different individuals to improve victim identification, leverage available human and financial resources, and ensure victims receive appropriate services. Formal agreements and SOPs could be useful tools for delineating each stakeholder’s different responsibilities. Some participants advocated for multi-sector stakeholder trainings to ensure that all stakeholders have a clear understanding of their respective roles and responsibilities.

The group activity gave participants with a rare opportunity to talk directly with counterparts. Participants reported that the action plan activity provided a non-confrontational space for exchanges and had given them the opportunity to pinpoint common regional challenges, such as the identification of victims and development of appropriate public awareness messaging.
Participants’ enthusiasm and engagement made this conference a success. Individuals provided thoughtful suggestions for future conferences, training, and actions. IAWJ will incorporate these suggestions into its grant seeking and planning. The conference created a forum for different stakeholders to come together. It helped participants to develop professional networks and contacts. For many of the participants, it was their first opportunity to engage with counterparts from other LAC countries from the region.

The IAWJ promotes national, regional, and international efforts to combat trafficking in persons. This LAC Regional Counter-Trafficking Conference was an excellent example of how the IAWJ leverages its members within the LAC region to share their experiences and expertise. Moreover, this conference highlighted the specific and important perspectives that women judges bring to this issue. As an association of women judges, the IAWJ was able to capitalize on the critical role that judges play as neutral arbiters in order to convene a range of different stakeholders. Many participants were able to overcome typical cultural, national, and linguistic barriers during this conference so that they could see many of the common issues they face as well as learn from one another.
## Appendix A

### CONFERENCE PANEL SUMMARY

The conference was organized into four overarching themes, each the subject of a workshop: 1. Advancing public awareness of TIP; 2. Promoting victim centered programming and avoiding re-traumatization; 3. Removing barriers to accessing justice; and 4. Improving coordination and collaboration at the regional and international level. Each workshop had two concurrent sessions.

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<th>Workshop Panels #1: Prevention and Public Awareness</th>
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| PANEL 1A: Messaging: How to Frame Successful Public Awareness Campaigns - how to educate the public and vulnerable communities without demonizing those victimized and unwitting participants. | Moderator: Ms. Lourdes Gutiérrez, Esq. (UNODC) 
Speakers:
• Hon. Jovita Alicia Rojas de Bortoletto, Paraguay 
• Ms. Jenny Morón, Esq. (Movimiento de Mujeres Dominico Haitianas), Dominican Republic 
• Ms. Gemma Bardaji (Free the Slaves), Dominican Republic 
• Ms. Carolina Rudnick, Esq. (LIBERA), Chile |
| PANEL 1B: When Culture Collides with Anti-Trafficking Laws - identifying cultural practices that impede identification, successful investigations, and prosecutions while protecting victimized persons. | Moderator: Ms. Anne Tierney Goldstein, Esq. (IAWJ) 
Speakers:
• Dr. Bridget Wooding (OBMICA), Dominican Republic 
• Duchange Jerome (LUMOS), Haiti |

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Appendix A: Conference Panel Summary  |  20
### Workshop Panels #2: Trauma Informed Services and Treatment of Victims and Witnesses in the Investigative and Judicial Process

Speakers:  
• Hon. Paula Blake Powell, Jamaica  
• Dr. Maria Prince ([International Justice Mission](#)), Dominican Republic |
|---|---|
Speakers:  
• Hon. Ann McLennan, Guyana  
• Mr. Diego Luciani, Esq., Argentina |
### Workshop Panels #3: Effective Victim Centered and Trauma Informed TIP Investigations, Prosecutions, and Trials

| PANEL 3A: Understanding How Traffickers Control and Manipulate Victims and How Trauma Impacts Victims' Behavior in Investigations and Trials. | Moderator: Ms. Susan French, Esq. (*IAWJ – TIP Regional Expert*), United States  
Speakers:  
• Ms. Ana Isabel Vallejo (*VIDA Legal Assistance*), USA  
• Hon. Zunilda Niremperger, Argentina |
|---|---|
| PANEL 3B: Best Practices in Evidence Collection, Case Development, and Trials in LAC TIP cases. | Moderator Hon. Grecia Norceus, Haiti  
Speakers:  
• Hon. Natalia Marcela Molina, Argentina  
• Supt. Anthony McLaughlin, Jamaica  
• Mr. Jonathan Baró Gutiérrez, Esq., Dominican Republic |
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| **Moderator:** Hon. Antonia Josefina Grullón Blandino, Dominican Republic  
**Speakers:**  
- Hon. Ana Lima (Ret.), Uruguay  
- Hon. Mimose Janvier, Haiti |
| **PANEL 4B: Developing Effective Regional Networks of Victim Advocates and Service Providers to Support TIP Victims – this workshop is an opportunity to focus and share successful collaborations with accomplished NGOs and how their services are essential to victim-centered successful investigations and prosecutions.** |
| **Moderator:** Dr. Davina Durgana, USA  
**Speakers:**  
- Mr. Carlos Pérez Gallego, Esq. (*UNODC*), Colombia  
- Mr. Carlos Pimentel Florenzan, Esq. (*Participación Ciudadana*), Dominican Republic |