

Action4Justice 2024 Activity Report

International Conference on Corporate Accountability for Environmental Damage and Human Rights Violations

In collaboration with Roots2Justice, Action4Justice organized an international conference in Bogotá, Colombia, in April 2024, focusing on corporate accountability for environmental damage and human rights violations. The event brought together legal experts, practitioners, and activists to discuss litigation strategies and case studies involving multinational corporations.

Key Highlights:

- **Opening Remarks:** Delivered by Richard Lord K.C. (Action4Justice, Roots2Justice, and Brick Court Chambers, London) and Prof. Jorge Santos Ballesteros (former Magistrate, Colombian Supreme Court, and Professor at Universidad Javeriana).
- **Keynote Lecture:** Richard Meeran (Leigh Day, London) explored legal mechanisms for seeking reparations from multinational corporations in British and foreign courts for environmental and human rights violations in Latin America and Africa.
- **Case Studies:**
 - **Chiquita Case in the U.S.:** focusing on corporate complicity in human rights abuses.
 - **Forest People's Programme:** lessons from defending indigenous land rights.
 - **Supply Chain Litigation and Banking Accountability:** European perspectives by Richard Lord K.C.
- **Emerging Topics:**
 - **Tracking illicit financial flows** linked to corporate violations.
 - **Transitional Justice and Corporate Complicity in Colombia**
 - **Marine Justice** as a framework for sustainable and equitable marine biodiversity governance.
- **Outcome:** The conference strengthened legal networks advocating for corporate accountability and inspired future litigation strategies in Latin America.



Empowering Change: Women Leading AI for Anti-Corruption at IACC, June 20, 2024

At the International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC) 2024, Action4Justice contributed to discussions on the intersection of artificial intelligence (AI) and anti-corruption, highlighting the role of women in shaping technology-driven transparency initiatives.

Key Takeaways:

- **Gender Perspectives in AI Development:** Women-led innovations in AI-driven investigative tools for detecting corruption.
- **Legal and Ethical Challenges:** Addressing algorithmic bias and ensuring AI applications uphold human rights.
- **AI for Accountability:** Case studies on leveraging AI for whistleblower protection and financial transparency.
- **Impact:** Strengthened networks among female leaders in AI and corruption research, fostering future collaborations on ethical AI applications.

ACTION **4** JUSTICE

Empowering Change: Women Leading AI in Anti-Corruption

Thursday, June 20
14:30 -16:00
Vilnius, Lithuania
📍 Workshop 7



Irene Tello Arista
 Action4Justice
 Workshop Coordinator



Fernanda Odilla
 University of Bologna



Antonina Volkotrub
 Anti-Corruption
 Action Centre



Carolina Gerli
 University of Bologna



Ornella Belfiori
 DLA Piper



IACC
 INTERNATIONAL
 ANTI-CORRUPTION
 CONFERENCE



Oxfam's Infographics Project: Defending the Defenders

Action4Justice collaborated with Oxfam to develop a series of infographics aimed at raising awareness about threats faced by human rights defenders. The project focused on legal risks and retaliatory actions used to silence activists, journalists, and civil society organizations.

Key Issues Covered:

1. **Freedom of Information:** Legal barriers limiting access to public records and data.
2. **SLAPP Lawsuits:** Strategic lawsuits against public participation aimed at intimidating activists and journalists.
3. **Online Abuse:** Digital harassment tactics used to silence dissent.
4. **Criminalization of Protest:** The increasing use of criminal charges against peaceful demonstrators.
5. **Journalistic Freedom:** Loss of licenses, permits, and professional disbarment for legal practitioners and reporters.
6. **Physical and Legal Threats:** Arrest, detention, and direct threats against activists.
7. **Foreign Agent Laws:** Accusations of terrorism or foreign interference to restrict civil society operations.
8. **Digital Security:** Government and corporate surveillance targeting defenders.
9. **Freedom of Movement:** Travel bans and mobility restrictions imposed on key activists.

Outcome: The infographics serve as accessible educational tools for activists and organizations to understand their rights and advocate for stronger legal protections globally.

Defending the Defenders Legal Guide

In 2024, Action4Justice continued its commitment to supporting human rights and environmental defenders by advancing work on the Defending the Defenders Guide. This initiative aims to provide practical legal tools to help defenders navigate and counter the growing threats they face, including criminalization, SLAPP suits, online abuse, and restrictions on civic space. A4J is closely collaborating with Roots2Justice, drawing lessons from its series of workshops with environmental and human rights defenders to ensure that the guide reflects the real challenges and strategies emerging from frontline advocacy.

Additionally, A4J has expanded its partnership with Oxfam to develop a series of infographics that break down legal risks and defense strategies for defenders facing threats such as arbitrary arrests, digital surveillance, and financial restrictions on civil society organizations. These infographics serve as accessible, visual tools that can be used for legal training, advocacy, and rapid response efforts. Together, these initiatives aim to bridge

legal knowledge and practice, equipping defenders with the resources they need to resist repression and continue their crucial work for justice and environmental protection.

Action4Justice Water Guide: Freshwater Pollution – A Collaborative Effort

In 2024, Action4Justice partnered with Clyde & Co. to develop the Action4Justice Water Guide, a resource designed to equip communities, activists, and legal practitioners with the tools to tackle freshwater pollution through legal mechanisms. This pilot section of the guide focuses on freshwater pollution, outlining its key sources—including mining, oil spills, manufacturing waste, sewage, and agricultural runoff—and the legal avenues available to prevent and address environmental damage.

The guide provides a comprehensive legal framework, detailing how administrative, criminal, constitutional, and environmental law, as well as international legal mechanisms, can be leveraged to hold polluters accountable. Additionally, it offers practical guidance on gathering evidence, initiating legal action, and advocating for stronger enforcement of environmental protections.

By combining legal expertise with real-world application, this initiative marks an important step in empowering individuals and organizations to use the law as a tool for environmental justice. The collaboration with Clyde & Co. has been instrumental in ensuring that the guide provides both technical accuracy and accessibility, making it a valuable resource for those at the forefront of environmental defense.

This guide will be presented in 2025.

Conclusion In 2024, Action4Justice strengthened its advocacy for human rights and environmental justice through strategic litigation, knowledge-sharing initiatives, and collaborative projects. The organization remains committed to equipping individuals and communities with the tools to hold corporations and governments accountable. Looking ahead, Action4Justice will continue expanding its work in legal empowerment, policy advocacy, and technology-driven solutions for justice.