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# INTERNATIONAL ACTION NETWORK FOR GENDER EQUITY & LAW

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2020: A YEAR IN REVIEW

## Shedding light on the “Shadow pandemic”

2020 has undoubtedly been shaped by the devastating effects of COVID-19. One such effect is the unacceptable rise in gender-based violence (GBV) experienced by women and girls globally, referred to as the “Shadow Pandemic.” In response, IANGEL hosted an online training on providing trauma-informed legal representation to domestic violence, sexual assault and trafficking survivors, emphasizing the impacts of COVID-19. We also contributed to a set of recommendations urging Congress and various US Agencies to step up their efforts in preventing, mitigating, and responding to gender-based violence as a COVID-19 response priority. And at the local level, we urged California Governor Gavin Newsom to address the risk of human trafficking during COVID-19 by providing more funding for current California Office of Emergency Services grantees, as well as setting up a statewide hotline.

*Through our networks, knowledge, and action, we  
can interrupt the isolation of violence.*

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## IANGEL partners with UN Special Rapporteur for cultural rights

We were pleased to continue our work with Karima Bennouné, the UN Special Rapporteur for cultural rights this year. We submitted a report on the intersection of women, culture and climate change to Special Rapporteur Bennouné, asserting that in order to build a fair and sustainable future, global responses to the pandemic must not only be climate-sensitive, but gender-inclusive as well. Our report was cited by the Special Rapporteur in her 2020 thematic report to the UN General Assembly. An addendum to our submission to the Special Rapporteur shed light on the catastrophic impacts that COVID-19 has had on human rights and health. The addendum will be used to inform the Special Rapporteur’s next report to the General Assembly.



IANGEL attending Karima Bennouné's lecture and appointment as the Homer G. Angelo and Ann Berryhill Endowed Chair at UC Davis School of Law.

# Shaping future reproductive justice activists

This year, IANGEL continued developing a curriculum to teach teenagers about their reproductive rights and freedoms. In collaboration with Queen’s Bench Bar Association of the San Francisco Bay Area, feminist educators, and IANGEL volunteers, legal fellows, and interns, the Teen Information Project for Reproductive Justice, will teach middle and high school-age students about their legal rights relating to sexual and reproductive health through online learning modules. Given the recent changes to the composition of the US Supreme Court, there is an increased need for reproductive justice activists. This project will empower the next generation of advocates to advance reproductive freedom in their communities.



Young activists at the City of Alameda Women's March 2020.

## Comment on proposed rule to end gender-based asylum

Several departments of the Trump Administration proposed a rule that would nearly obliterate the ability to use gender-based violence as a valid basis for asylum. In response, IANGEL submitted a public comment, written by legal intern Zoya Chakourski, disputing the proposed rule “on the grounds that it is inhumane, unreasonably burdensome, and contrary to the U.S. Government’s international obligations”. The comment also urged the departments to rescind the proposed rule and instead implement policies that advocate for those fleeing gender persecution.

## IANGEL By The Numbers: continuing to grow since 2013



### Thank you to our 2020 Collaborators & Partners!

