



## THE VICTIMS' RIGHTS WORKING GROUP (VRWG) AND THE *LUNCH TALKS* SERIES

The Victims' Rights Working Group (VRWG) is a network of over 300 national and international civil society groups and experts created in 1997 under the auspices of the [Coalition for the International Criminal Court](#) (CICC). It has evolved over the years to include NGOs from a wide array of countries including those currently under the focus of the International Criminal Court (ICC), such as the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Libya, Sudan and Uganda. The VRWG is facilitated by [REDRESS](#).

The VRWG works to ensure that victims' rights are effectively protected and respected, and that their needs and concerns are met throughout the ICC's judicial process. The VRWG played an historic role in ensuring that key provisions for victims were incorporated into the Rome Statute, leading to strong measures respecting victims' dignity, ensuring their support, protection, and assistance, and allowing their ability to participate in proceedings, be legally represented and to claim reparations. The VRWG's member organisations continue to advocate for victims' issues, meeting regularly with the Court at its annual ICC-NGO Roundtable meetings and attending the annual [Assembly of States Parties](#) Sessions.

The VRWG's current priority is to ensure that victims' rights at the ICC are fully respected and effectively implemented, making justice for victims a reality of every stage of proceedings. Particular attention is paid to ensuring that re-victimization is prevented and that the Court's policies are reflective of victims' views, concerns and needs. The VRWG considers that the **20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Rome Statute** presents an important opportunity to recall the centrality of victims to the Rome Statute system. As part of this historic year of reflection, the VRWG's series of ***Lunch Talks*** are specifically organized to bring attention to and address matters of importance to victims, such as reparations, participation and outreach. The June VRWG *Lunch Talk* entitled "Making Sense of Reparations at the ICC" (organised by REDRESS and hosted by the Embassy of Finland) is the **first of four *Lunch Talks* to be held in 2018**. The second *Lunch Talk* will address the issue of victim participation and will be **hosted by the Embassy of Chile on 18 July**. Additional *Lunch Talks* are planned for **September and November**.

*For further information concerning the Lunch Talks series, please contact Sarah Finnin ([sarahf@redress.org](mailto:sarahf@redress.org)) or Lorraine Smith van Lin ([lorraine@redress.org](mailto:lorraine@redress.org)). Information about REDRESS' ICC work can be found at [www.redress.org](http://www.redress.org).*

*To apply to subscribe to the VRWG listserv (a restricted membership listserv for organisations and individuals working on victims' rights) send an email to: [ICC\\_VictimsRights-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:ICC_VictimsRights-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)*

*For further information about the ICC, you can subscribe to the CICC listserv (Coalition for an International Criminal Court) by sending a blank email to: [icc-info-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:icc-info-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)*