



Trust Fund for Victims



Photo: Alexandra Boulat/VII

The Trust Fund for Victims is one of a series of unprecedented steps taken by the International Criminal Court to fully acknowledge the rights and needs of victims. The Rome Statute provides for victims' active participation in the criminal justice process, and enables them to claim reparations from perpetrators. The independent Trust Fund complements these efforts, and its activities and projects will provide concrete means by which victims' broader needs may be addressed.

As the Court examines the most serious crimes, its trials involve victims who have often been damaged in the most severe manner. Victims can include child soldiers - minors pressed into military service who may have suffered great ordeals as a result of being forced into front line service. Or they may be victims of rape or other sexual violence, needing help, not just for material losses, but for trauma counselling or other physical or psychological rehabilitation. Other victims may have seen their property and livelihood destroyed. In other cases, collective or symbolic projects will be needed in order to help a community to heal.

Providing justice to these victims is important. But so too is providing them with help and compensation to enable them to rebuild lives often shattered by conflict. The existence of the Trust Fund for Victims will help bring this goal closer to realization.

Established in September 2002 by the Assembly of States Parties of the International Criminal Court, the Trust Fund for Victims complements the Court's reparations function. It is administered by the Registry, but it is independent from the Court and is supervised by a Board of Directors.

The purpose of the Trust Fund is to channel assistance to victims. It may be asked by the Court to help implement reparations awards ordered against a convicted person. Under Article 75, paragraph two of the Rome Statute, the Court may order a convicted person to provide compensation, restitution or rehabilitation. The judges will determine the amount and form of a reparation order for victims. But the Trust Fund will play an important role in the granting of reparations awards to victims in the case of collective awards or in cases where, at the time of making the order, it is "impossible or impracticable" to make individual awards directly to each victim. In such cases, the Court may order that a reparations award be deposited with the Trust Fund for Victims. It may also use the contributions it receives to finance projects for the benefit of victims.

The funds collected by the Trust Fund for Victims will come from two main sources. Firstly, funds collected through fines, forfeiture and awards of reparations ordered by the Court against convicted persons. Secondly, contributions from external sources such as governments, international organisations or individuals. Voluntary contributions from outside sources to the Trust Fund must first be approved by the Board of Directors.

The rules governing the Trust Fund set out strict financial controls. The Trust Fund is obliged to report annually to the Assembly of States Parties on its activities and projects and on all offered voluntary contributions. The Committee on Budget and Finance of the Assembly of States Parties is tasked with examining the budget of the Trust Fund on a yearly basis and making recommendations as to its best possible financial management.

Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for Victims

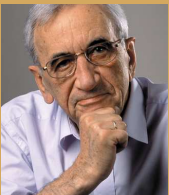
The Board comprises five members of high moral character, who are elected by the States Parties for a three year term. They can be re-elected once only. Each member will serve in an individual capacity on a *pro bono* basis.

The board meets at least once a year at the International Criminal Court headquarters in The Hague, Netherlands.

The member of the Board of Directors representing the Latin American and the Caribbean Region (GRULAC), Dr. Oscar Arias Sánchez, presented his resignation in September 2005. A new Member will be elected by the Assembly of the State Parties.



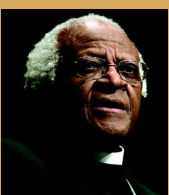
Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah of Jordan was elected to serve as representative for the Asian Region. As First Lady, Queen Rania's activities encompass issues of national and international concern, such as the environment, youth development and human rights. Internationally, she serves on the Board of Directors of The Vaccine Fund, The World Economic Forum, The International Youth Foundation and The Foundation for International Community Assistance. In Jordan, Queen Rania chairs the Royal Commission on Human Rights. In addition, she has established the first centre in the Arab world dedicated to combating child abuse and has actively promoted educational reform and IT learning.



His Excellency Mr. Tadeusz Mazowiecki (Poland) represents Eastern Europe. He was one of the founders of the Solidarity Movement and served as the first Prime Minister of Poland in the post-communist era. He was also the founder and the chairperson of The Democratic Union which later became the Union for Freedom. He has served in various positions in the Polish Parliament, including member of the Parliamentary Constitutional Committee, member of the Parliamentary Defence Committee, and Chairman of the EU-Poland Joint Parliamentary Committee. In the international arena he has served as a UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights for the Former Yugoslavia. At present he is the Chairman of the Polish Robert Schuman Foundation. His Excellency has received several prizes and honorary doctorates in recognition of his activities in the field of human rights.



Madame Minister Simone Veil (France) represents the Western Europe and Others Group (WEOG). Madame Veil was elected as first President of the European Parliament by universal suffrage in 1979 and has served as President of the Judicial Commission for the European Parliament. In France, Madame Veil has held prominent positions with the Ministries of Health and Social Security and was appointed as State Minister, Minister of Social Affairs, Health and Urban Affairs in 1993. As an Auschwitz survivor, she is currently President of the Foundation for the Memory of the Shoah and she has been a Member of the French Constitutional Council since 1998. Madame Veil is widely recognised as a defender and campaigner for human rights and particularly for women's rights and has received honours from governments and organisations in Europe, Africa and the Americas.



His Grace Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu (South Africa) was elected to serve as the representative of the African Region. His Grace Archbishop Tutu gained international prominence in 1984 when he was awarded the Nobel Peace prize for his work toward a democratic and just society without racial divisions. His Grace continued his work to facilitate South Africa's transition from Apartheid as Chairperson of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. His Grace Archbishop Tutu holds numerous honorary doctorates and international awards.