



PRESS RELEASE

## UIA ratifies a Charter on access to justice for women victims of violence

**During the Association's 66<sup>th</sup> Congress in Dakar, the UIA General Assembly ratified a Charter of Fundamental Principles on access to justice for women victims of violence, presented by UIA's Women's Committee**

**Paris, November 15:** On October 26, at the end of the Association's General Assembly, UIA formally ratified the **Charter of Fundamental Principles on Access to Justice for Women Victims of Violence**.

The Charter had been proclaimed in Paris on March 8, 2022, by the UIA Women's Committee, chaired by Mrs. Elisabeth Zakharia Sioufi, following the seminar organized jointly with the French Conseil national des Barreaux (CNB) and with the participation of the European Bar Federation (FBE), on the occasion of International Women's Rights Day.

With this Charter, the UIA and the UIA Women's Committee reaffirms their commitment to support the cause of women around the world and calls on Bars and lawyers to play a fundamental and a key role in supporting women victims of violence by providing them with the appropriate and qualified protection and legal assistance they are looking for, but also as actors in raising awareness about this issue among the general public.

The Charter stipulates, in particular, that "Women victims of violence have the right to an unhindered and easy access to justice as well as to an effective remedy for the harm they have suffered. They are entitled to competent and highly qualified legal services and representation during judicial proceedings and to legal aid if they lack sufficient means. They must always be treated with respect of their dignity and their privacy and protected from repeated violence."

Since its proclamation, [bars and lawyers' associations from all over the world](#) have communicated their support for the principles and commitments set forth in the Charter, which remains open to new members. The full document is attached here for your reference.

### **More about the International Association of Lawyers (UIA)**

*UIA is a global and multi-cultural organization for the legal profession. Established in 1927, it now has members in 110 countries. UIA fosters professional development and the exchange of information and ideas internationally, promotes the rule of law, defends the independence and freedom of lawyers worldwide, and emphasizes friendship, collegiality and networking among members.*

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