

Open Government Partnership | 2020 Justice Activities

About OGP and Justice

The Open Government Partnership (OGP) provides an opportunity for government and civil society reformers to make government more transparent, participatory, and accountable. Working together, government and civil society co-create two-year Action Plans with concrete commitments across a broad range of issues that are then monitored by OGP's Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM). Until recently, justice has been a small part of these Action Plans. However, thanks to increased global activity around justice and the commitment to continue this activity as demonstrated in the Justice for All Strategy, there is growing interest by many governments and civil society leaders to better link justice with open government.

Launch of the OGP Coalition on Justice

There are currently over 170 commitments related to justice in OGP from all regions of the world. These commitments reflect a wide range of initiatives, from making the justice sector more transparent to empowering citizens to use the justice system to defend their rights.

At the 2019 OGP Global Summit in Ottawa, Canada, 14 ministries of justice and a number of civil society organizations met to share activities to advance access to justice, open justice, and justice as a means to enforce open government through OGP. They explored how these efforts, some of which are captured in OGP Action Plans, link to global agendas like SDG 16, and expressed support for founding a new OGP Coalition on Justice.

The Coalition is conceptualized as a group of self-selected governments and organizations interested in advancing justice by sharing best practices and lessons learned. Individual coalition members will also work to develop justice-related commitments in their OGP Action Plans.

The inaugural meeting of the Coalition on Justice will take place in 2020. More details to come.

Justice Policy Series Research

To both understand how justice has figured into OGP Action Plans and identify successful types of justice-related commitments that can be credibly implemented through government and civil society partnerships, OGP has developed a Justice Policy Series of research papers:

- **September 2019 – [Access to Justice](#):** Examines the justice gaps within 60 OGP countries, using the dataset found in the [World Justice Project's Global Insights on Access to Justice 2019](#). Based on these findings, the paper offers suggestions on how countries can use their OGP Action Plans to improve access to justice, and highlights ambitious or successful existing commitments.
- **Sep - Nov 2020 – Open Justice:** The research will focus on open government approaches to criminal justice reform in three areas: policing, trials, and corrections. The team has carried out preliminary interviews to identify problems, innovations, and potential unintended consequences of transparency, participation, and public monitoring. OGP will host a public consultation in February 2020 to seek feedback on the conceptual framework, evidence, case studies, and recommendations gathered so far.
- **TBD – Justice for Open Government:** This research aims to engage the judiciary and justice system, not as the subject of openness, but as the protectors of the rights and values that are central to open government. So far, the team has begun to assemble a database of *justiciable* open government reforms, i.e. those that relate to the fulfillment or implementation of common constitutional and procedural rights.

