

How women judges are shaping society

As the world commemorated International Women's Day on Sunday, we celebrate the remarkable contributions of women who continue to shape more just, inclusive and equitable societies. Among these trailblazers are women judges whose service extends far beyond the courtroom.

Guided by the global theme, *Women Judges on the Bench and Beyond: Protecting Access to Justice*, members of the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ) continue to play a transformative role in strengthening justice systems and advancing the rule of law.

The work of a judge is often associated with the courtroom, including the bench, the robes and the solemn responsibility of interpreting and applying the law. Yet, women judges across the world demonstrate that judicial service goes beyond technically adjudicating

cases. With the warmth of a mother's love, it includes mentorship, community engagement, public education and advocacy for fair and equal access to justice.

Globally, the IAWJ brings together thousands of women judges from diverse legal systems who share a common commitment: ensuring that justice systems work for everyone, especially the vulnerable and marginalised.

Through collaboration, professional dialogue, and cross-border learning, IAWJ promotes judicial independence, gender equality and legal systems that respond effectively to the needs of society. Within this global network, the Uganda Chapter contributes meaningfully to advancing these ideals. Composed of dedicated



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judicial officers serving at different levels of the justice system, and with the pride of having greater numbers in the Judiciary by gender (50.6%), on the Supreme Court (51.26%), among the registrars (55.69%), and a significant number in top management, the chapter brings together experience, professionalism and a shared commitment to strengthening the rule of law.

Under the leadership of Justice Elizabeth Jane Alividza, the president of the IAWJ – Uganda Chapter, the association continues to strengthen its impact both within the Judiciary and in the wider community. Alividza leadership reflects the broader vision of the IAWJ as the one that emphasises integrity, judicial excellence and justice systems that are accessible, responsive and

trusted by the public.

A central pillar of the work of women judges is promoting access to justice. In many communities around the world, legal processes can appear distant, complex or intimidating. Women judges actively participate in legal awareness initiatives, community dialogues and outreach programmes that help demystify the justice system and empower citizens with knowledge about their rights and responsibilities.

These engagements encourage individuals, particularly women and young people, to seek lawful and peaceful resolution of disputes.

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