



**UNODC**  
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

# THE TIME IS NOW

ADDRESSING THE GENDER DIMENSIONS OF CORRUPTION

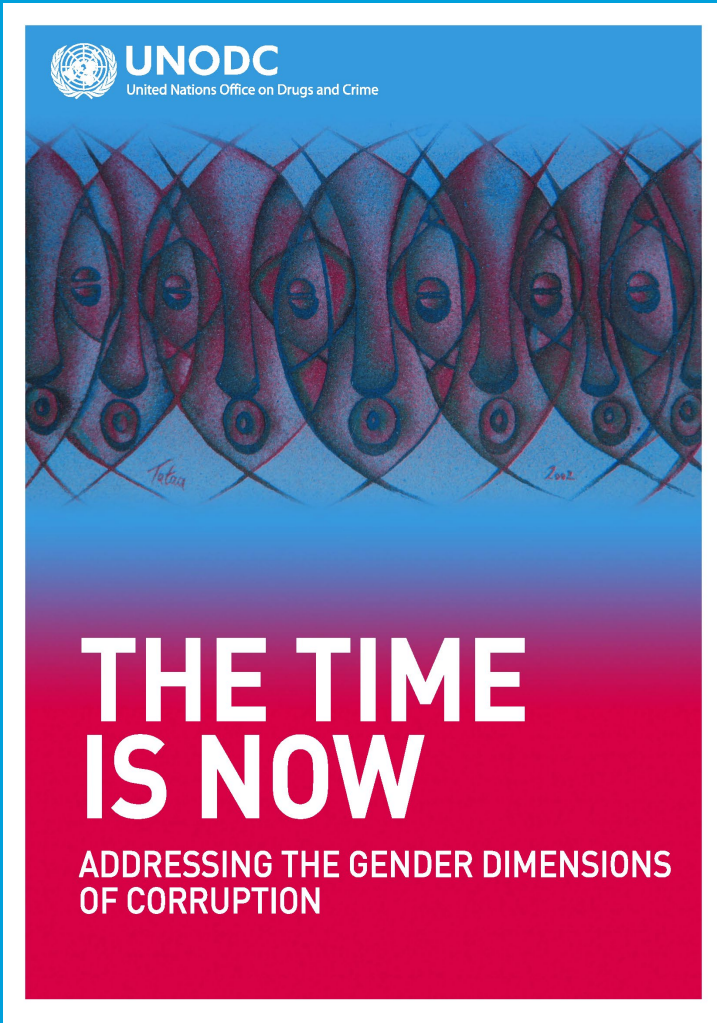
**Jennifer Sarvary Bradford**

*Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer*



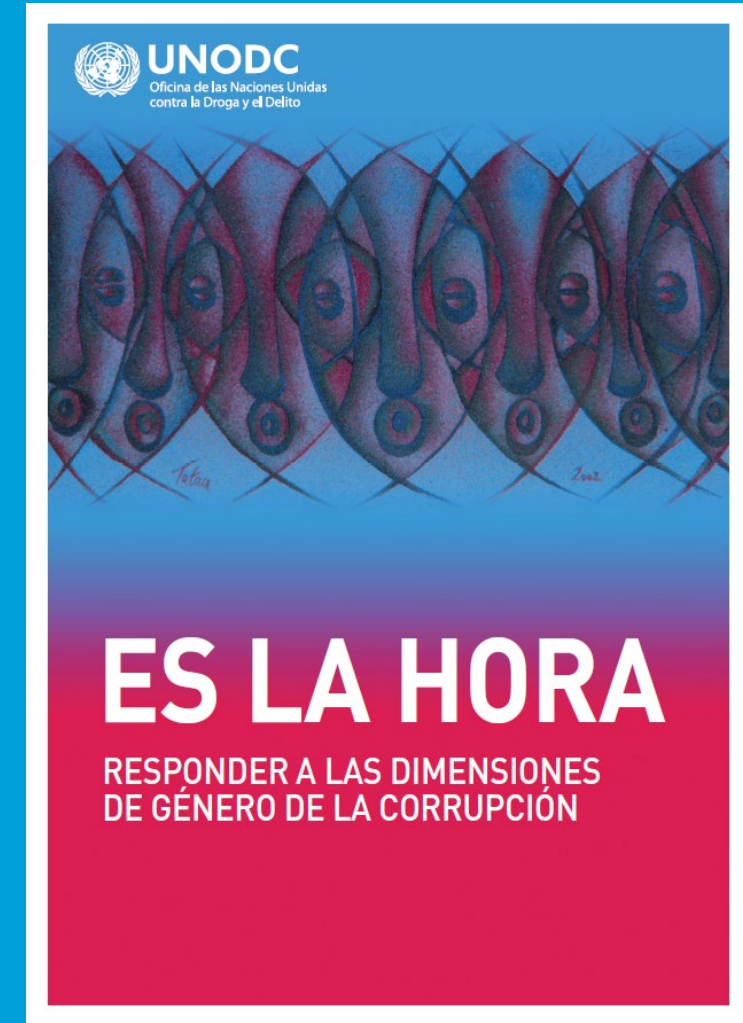
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**CORRUPTION AND ECONOMIC CRIME BRANCH | March 2023**

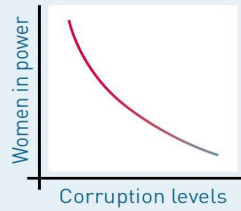


*Content:*

- I - What is the Connection between Gender Inequality and Corruption?
- II - What is the impact of gender on corruption and corruption on gender?
- III - International Frameworks
- IV - National policy responses to international commitments
- V - Case studies :  
*Ghana - Indonesia - Brazil*



**A correlation may exist:**



**It may exist because:**

Corruption reduces women's opportunities

Women in power reduce corruption

**The reason for this may be:**

Women's inequality is deepened by more negative impacts of corruption on those with less power, and also by intrinsically gendered forms of corruption, such as demands for sexual favours as the bribery currency.

To improve opportunities for career advancement, women in power cut corrupt practices orchestrated by collusive, male-dominated networks.

Women observe public officers in corrupt systems broadly treating people with less power in a biased manner. They also anticipate being held to higher ethical standards than men. Consequently, women assume that they would face unfair treatment if they were to seek more power, and so are put off trying.

Women in power avoid corruption because they face stronger incentives than men for clean management. They are often socialised to be risk averse, and may face additional social sanctioning for ethical transgressions.

Male-dominated networks that conduct corrupt activities and control access to power discriminate against women, keeping them out by various means such as the use of masculine norms to cement trust relationships.

To substantively represent women's interests, women in power improve delivery of public goods and services in "women's interests" policy domains, which requires cutting corruption in those sectors.

**For policymaking, this implies:**

Where gender inequalities exist, cutting corruption may help reduce them

Where gender inequalities exist, women's substantive empowerment may cut corruption

**Diversity disrupts established, collusive networks, which are pre-dominantly male, and tend to benefit men more than women.**



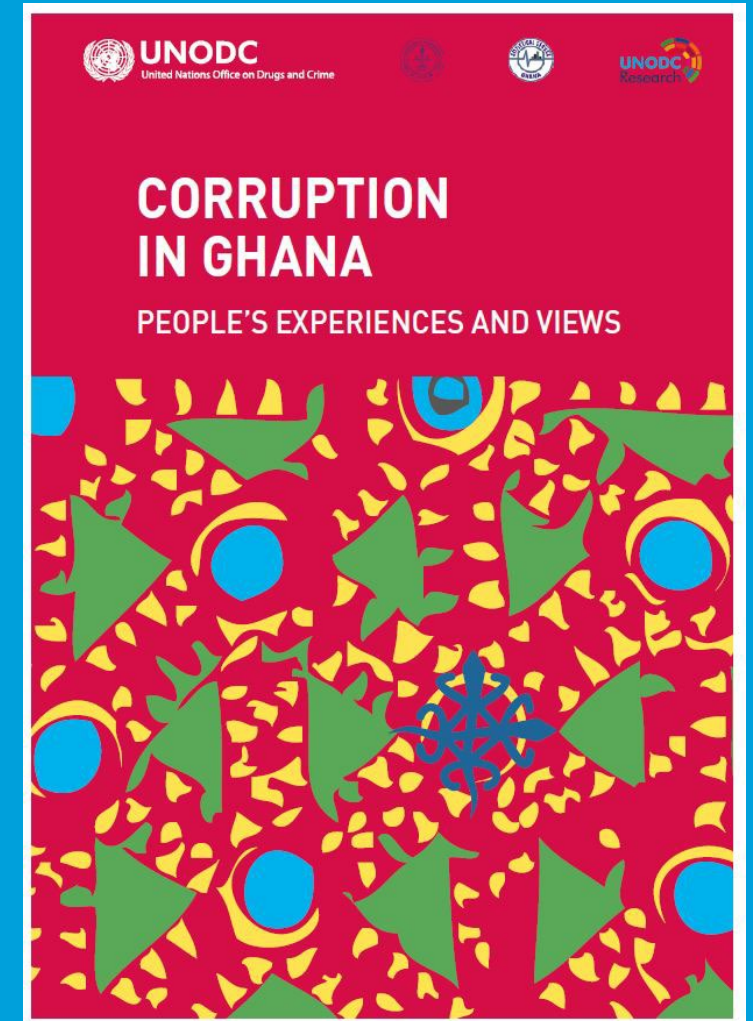
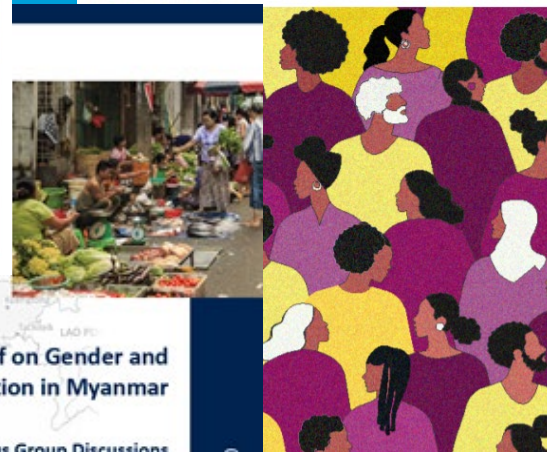


***Gender equality and anti-corruption policies  
can be mutually reinforcing***

A more gender equal top-management improves opportunities for women and boosts the financial performance of a company, including through increased transparency



# Creating an evidence base to address the gender dimensions of corruption



# Integridad judicial: Igualdad ante la ley

PREJUCIOS DE  
GÉNERO



Suprema Corte  
de Justicia de la Nación

¿QUÉ VES?

Homosexual   
Tratante   
Gerente

Madre   
Médica   
Trabajadora del hogar

Maestra   
Abogada   
Madre de familia

¿QUÉ VES?

Amigos   
Esposos   
Colegas

**PROTOCOLO  
PARA JUZGAR  
CON PERSPECTIVA  
DE GÉNERO**

HACIENDO REALIDAD EL DERECHO A LA IGUALDAD

¿QUÉ VES?

Niña   
Niño   
Intersex

¿QUÉ VES?

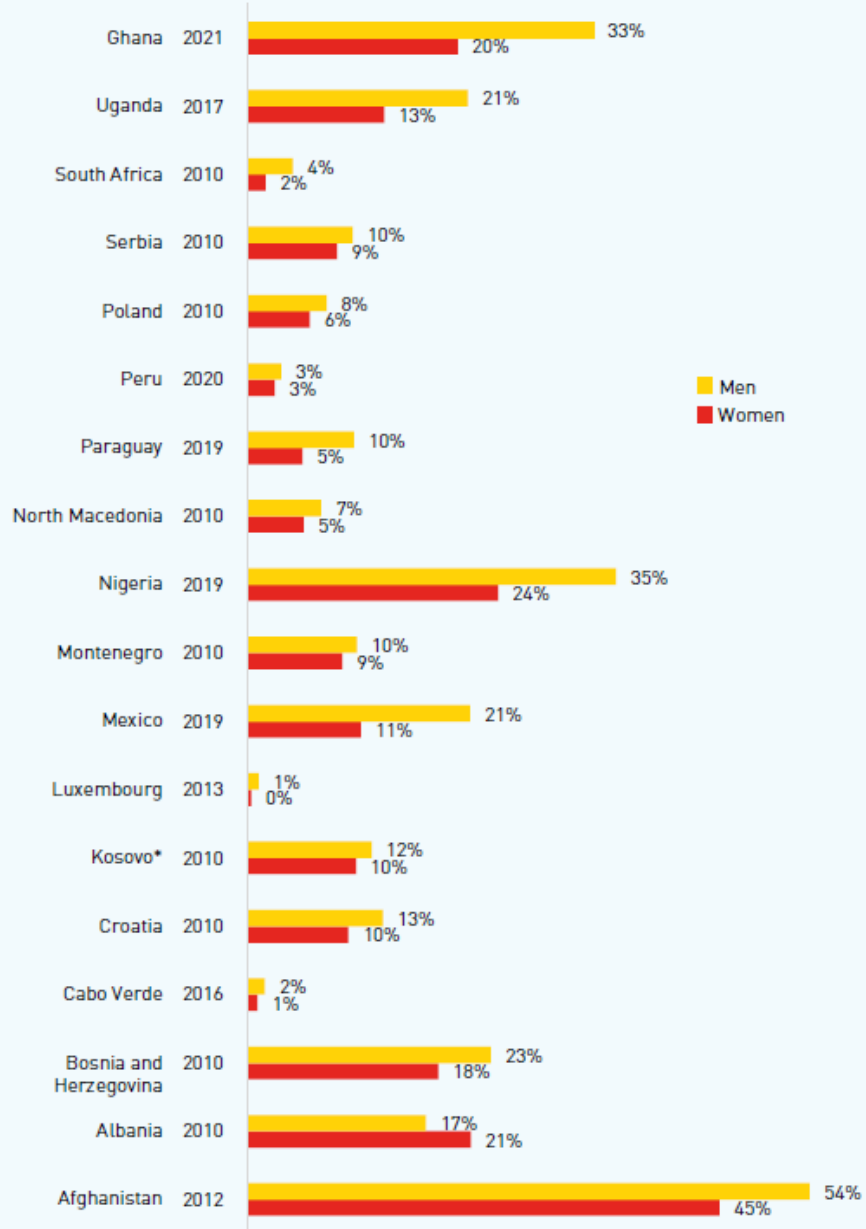
Victima de violencia   
Ama de casa   
Empresaria

¿QUÉ VES?

Mamá y papá   
Amiga y amigo   
Agresor y víctima

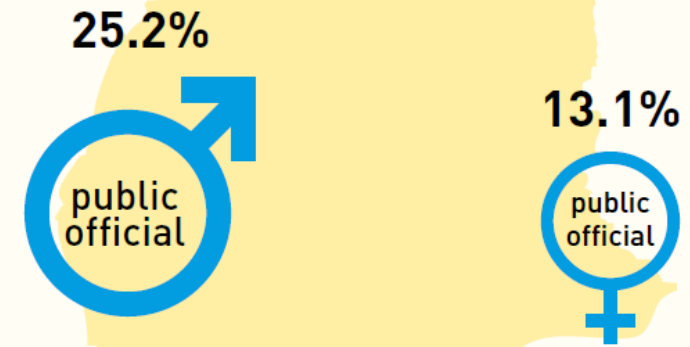
Figure 51

Prevalence of bribery, by sex of bribe-payer, countries/territories with available data since 2010



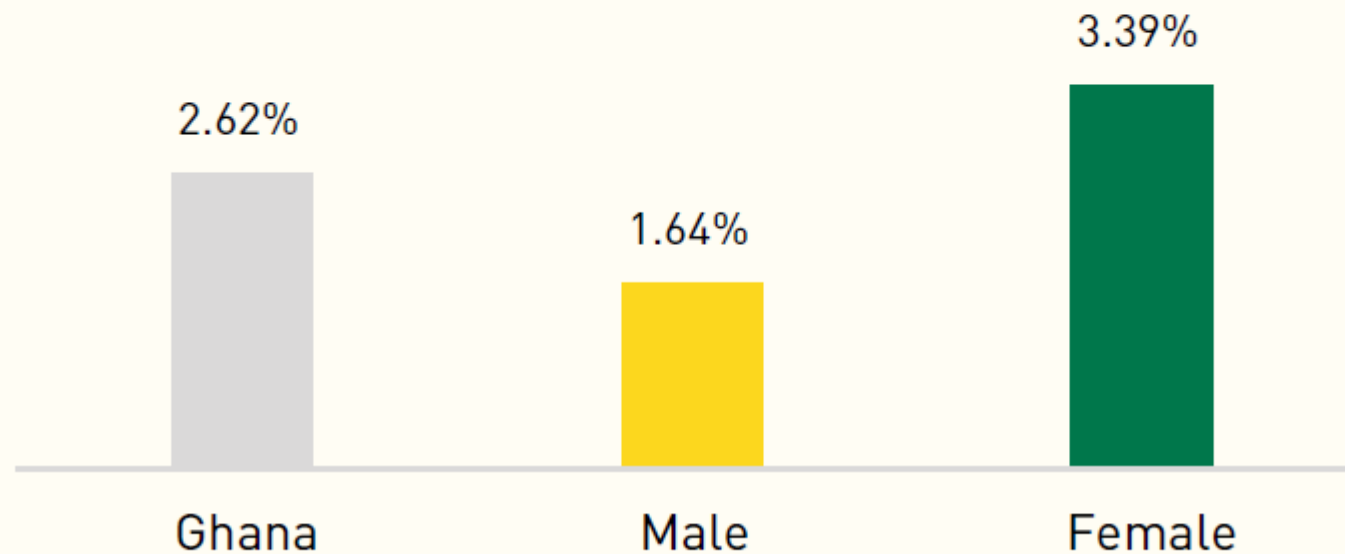
Prevalence of bribery, by sex of public officials, 2021

The share of male public officials who solicit or take a bribe when interacting with the public is roughly **twice** that of female public officials





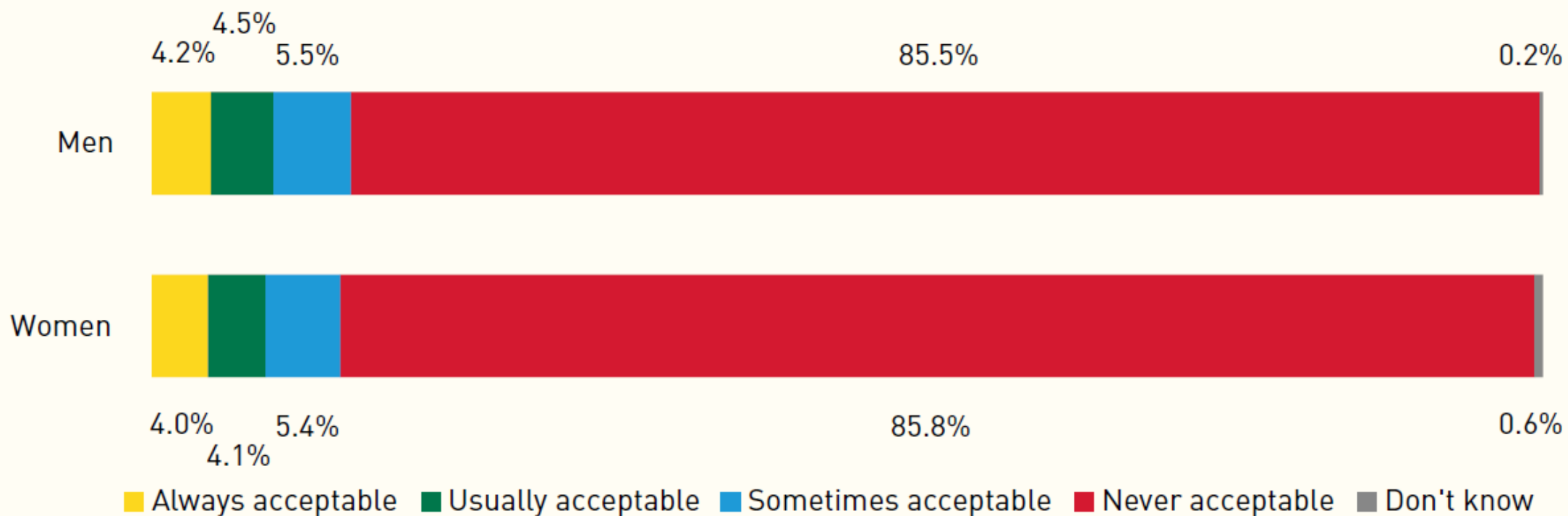
## Share of the adult population who were asked for sexual favours when interacting with public officials, 2019–2021



Note: The specific question was: “In the past 3 years, since December 2018, did it happen to you that a teacher, master, lecturer, professor, health worker or other public official who may be your supervisor or colleague if you work in the public sector, made you understand that unless you provide sexual favours you will not, for example, get a job, promotion, pass an exam, get medical treatment or any other public service?” Also included in the prevalence estimates were respondents who answered “Yes” to the follow-up question: “In the past 3 years, since December 2018, have you been asked for sexual favours from public officials and you refused?”



## Percentage distribution of men and women who think that providing sexual favours for public services is acceptable, 2021



Note: The specific question was: "What is your opinion about the following behaviour? Is it Always acceptable, Usually acceptable, Sometimes acceptable or Never acceptable for a citizen to provide sexual favours for services that otherwise would have not been made available to them?"



## **Conclusion:**

- ✓ *An inclusive society is a less corrupt society.*
- ✓ *Gender equality and anti-corruption policies are mutually reinforcing.*
- ✓ *National context matters.*
- ✓ *Civil society has an important role to play.*





**UNCAC AT 20:  
UNITING THE WORLD  
AGAINST CORRUPTION**

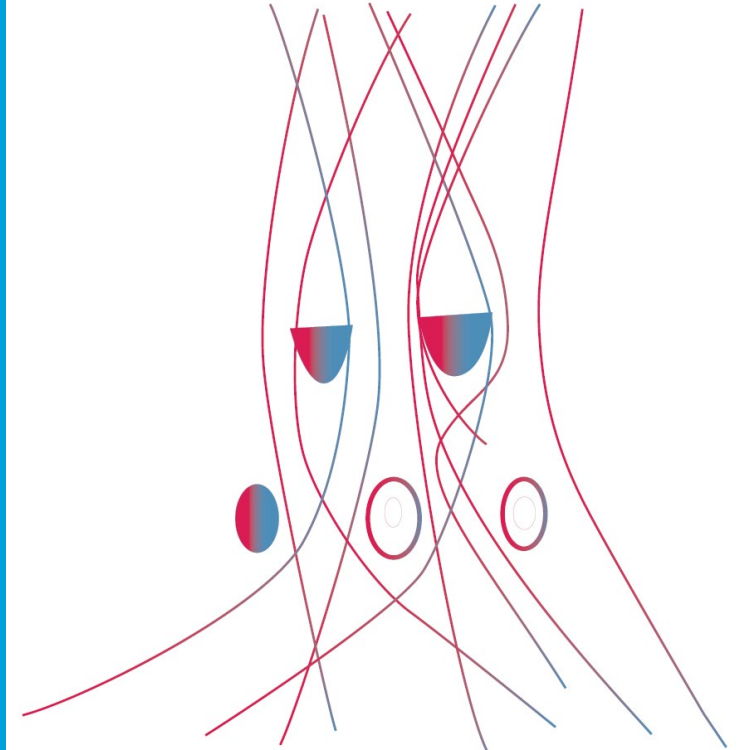


#UNCAC20

#UnitedAgainstCorruption

[www.anticorruptionday.org](http://www.anticorruptionday.org)





## UNODC Gender & Corruption

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/gender/gender-and-corruption.html>

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/publications.html>

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**UNITED  
AGAINST  
CORRUPTION**

