

Americas

In the Americas, particularly in Latin America, we see a trend to address impunity for past crimes which is a very positive development. We also see a growing social movement, a powerful social, civil society; activists that are playing a larger role in putting their demands forward in mobilising people and putting forward the human rights and social agenda.

On the negative side however, we see in Latin America a gulf between law and implementation between what is promised and what is delivered. Particularly in the area of the justice system, the gap actually is most felt by those who are at the margins of society because discrimination is still rampant particularly the poor, the marginalized, indigenous people suffering in that context.

My message to the leaders of the Americas would be to strengthen the institutions for human rights. In Latin America, people are suffering from the disappointments of democracy. Democratic institutions have failed to deliver justice and equality and it's about time that governments paid attention by addressing weaknesses in judicial systems, by addressing issues of corruption, by addressing issues of discrimination and unequal access.