AAWJ Statement on International Criminal Court Sanctions

The Australian Association of Women Judges (AAWJ) is committed to promoting justice, equality, judicial independence, and the rule of law. Central to that commitment is support for judges in the independent and conscientious discharge of their judicial functions, free from interference, intimidation, or external pressure.

The AAWJ affirms that judicial independence, both institutional and individual, is a fundamental pillar of the rule of law and must be protected in all jurisdictions. Courts and judges must be able to exercise their lawful functions without impediment or coercion.

The AAWJ opposes sanctions imposed on, or proposed against, the International Criminal Court (ICC), its judges, and their family members. Such measures risk undermining judicial independence and the effective functioning of the Court. ICC judges must be able to perform their duties independently, including undertaking necessary travel and engaging in lawful financial transactions.

The AAWJ further expresses concern that sanctions affecting the operations of the ICC may impair the Court's ability to fulfil its mandate of adjudicating allegations of war crimes, genocide, and crimes against humanity. Such measures may also diminish access to justice, accountability, and redress for victims of these grave crimes.