Reparations programs seeking to provide for victims of gross and systematic human rights violations are becoming an increasingly frequent feature of transitional and post-conflict processes. Given that women represent a very large proportion of the victims of these conflicts and the authoritarianism generating them, and that women arguably experience conflicts in a distinct manner, it makes sense to examine whether reparations programs can be designed to redress women more fairly and efficiently and seek to subvert gender hierarchies that often antecede the conflict.

Focusing on themes such as reparations for victims of sexual and reproductive violence, reparations for children and other family members, as well as gendered understandings of monetary, symbolic, and collective reparations, The Gender of Reparations gathers information about how past or existing reparations projects dealt with gender issues, identifies best practices to the extent possible, and articulates innovative approaches and guidelines to the integration of a gender perspective in the design and implementation of reparations for victims of human rights violations.

Ruth Rubio-Marín is a Chair in Comparative Public Law at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy, and holds a tenured position in constitutional law at the Law School of Seville. She is author and editor of several books, including Immigration as a Democratic Challenge (Cambridge University Press, 2000), The Gender of Constitutional Jurisprudence (Cambridge University Press, 2004), and What Happened to the Women? Gender and Reparations for Human Rights Violations (2006).
The Gender of Reparations

UNSETTLING SEXUAL HIERARCHIES WHILE REDRESSING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

Edited by

RUTH RUBIO-MARÍN
International Center for Transitional Justice
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The Gender of Reparations is a book that explores a subject that had never before received specific and in-depth scholarly attention. Two elements have made it possible. First, the courage of the authors who decided to venture into this new domain, many of whom confessed to being challenged and motivated by the opportunity to explore new ground and by the wide set of expertise that writing each of these chapters required. Thanks to all of them for their
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South Africa Women’s Memorial, 1913
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Vietnam War Women’s Memorial, Washington, DC
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Arthur Ashe Memorial in Richmond, VA
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Yuri Gagarin Memorial in Moscow
Photograph by Andy House
The International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) assists countries pursuing accountability for past mass atrocity or human rights abuse. The Center works in societies emerging from repressive rule or armed conflict, as well as in established democracies where historical injustices or systemic abuse remains unresolved.

In order to promote justice, peace, and reconciliation, government officials and nongovernmental advocates are likely to consider a variety of transitional justice approaches including both judicial and nonjudicial responses to human rights crimes. The ICTJ assists in the development of integrated, comprehensive, and localized approaches to transitional justice comprising five key elements: prosecuting perpetrators, documenting and acknowledging violations through nonjudicial means such as truth commissions, reforming abusive institutions, providing reparations to victims, and facilitating reconciliation processes.

The field of transitional justice is varied and covers a range of disciplines, including law, public policy, forensics, economics, history, psychology, and the arts. The ICTJ works to develop a rich understanding of the field as a whole and to identify issues that merit more in-depth research and analysis. Collaborating with colleagues in transitional societies and often commissioning outside studies, the Center targets its research to address the complex issues confronting policymakers and activists. Identifying and addressing the most important gaps in scholarship, it provides the benefit of comparative analysis to its staff and to practitioners worldwide.