

# Regional Ministers' and Parliamentarians' Conference on Review of Parliamentarians' Actions and Legislations on the Elimination of Violence Against Women

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Figures, Graphs and Photos to be added



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
PREFACE OR FORWARD	
BACKGROUND	
ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS	
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
OPENING CEREMONY	
KEYNOTE ADDRESS DAY TWO	
SESSION ONE: SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION	
SESSION TWO: REVIEW OF CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGISLATIVE RESPONSES TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN	
SESSION THREE: PANEL DISCUSSION ON MEDIA AND ITS RESPONSIBILITIES IN COMMUNICATING THE SITUATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN	
SESSION FOUR: MEN IN ACTION ON ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS	
SESSION FIVE: RETROSPECTIVE ON THE INTERSECTION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN WITH MIGRATION, HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND HIV/AIDS	
SESSION SIX: WOMEN'S HEALTH AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN	
SESSION SEVEN: OPEN FORUM OF PARLIAMENTARIAN'S ACTIONS AND ADVOCACY FOR REDUCING DISCRIMINATION AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN	
STATEMENTS OF COMMITMENT	
ANNEXES	
AGENDA	
PARTICIPATION LIST	

## **PREFACE**

The Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development has been mobilizing parliamentarians since 1981 and working to empower women and enhance the state of women parliamentarians through information and knowledge sharing. Legislation on EAW and male involvement in EAW have been AFPPD programmes. Each year AFPPD supports an Asian women ministers' and women parliamentarians' conference which not only examines many gender related issues but also provides updated information on these issues to equip parliamentarians for better national level action. In 2010 AusAID, recognizing the importance of parliamentarians' involvement, supported AFPPD to review the action undertaken at the country level. This conference was the result of this effort.

Senator Dr. Pinit Kullavanijaya  
Secretary-General AFPPD

## BACKGROUND

Since the Programme of Action adopted by the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), the Beijing Platform of Action and the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), governments have been increasingly promoting the elimination of violence against women and girls.

However, there remains a need for concerted advocacy aimed at lawmakers, decision makers, influential leaders and community groups to draw their attention to and increase their knowledge of their roles in preventing VAW. These key issues include domestic/family violence, rape, trafficking of women, violence in armed conflict, and violence against girls.

The aims of advocacy efforts to eliminate VAW are to obtain support of decision makers, to develop supportive legislation and policies and capacity for enforcing legislation and to encourage parliamentarians to publicly speak in support of the elimination of VAW. Specifically to see that legislation are implemented at the local level.

In keeping with AusAID's Gender Equality Framework, the project falls within the area of "Equal participation of women in decision making and leadership including in fragile states and conflict situations", specifically addressing the following outcomes:

*Political governance and civil society:*

*Increased involvement of women in political leadership, decision making, peace building and democratic processes at all levels that reflect their needs, interests and rights; increased demand by civil society for equitable and accountable governance.*

*Law and justice:*

*Promotion and protection of the human rights of women and girls in law and justice sector service delivery (e.g. gender-based violence and elimination of discrimination).*

The Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development's regional Ministers' and Parliamentarians' Conference on Review of Parliamentarians' Actions and Legislations on the Elimination of Violence Against Women held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia was attended by 65 male and female parliamentarians from 17 countries. Those present came out with commitments which they plan to follow at the country level.

## **ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS**

AFPPD	Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development
CEDAW	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination of Against Women
CSO	Civil Society Organization
EVAW	Eliminating Violence Against Women
FGM/C	Female Genital Mutilation/circumcision
GBV	Gender Based Violence
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
JUNIMA	Joint UN Initiative on Mobility and HIV/AIDS in Southeast Asia
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MP	Member of Parliament
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
RH	Reproductive Health
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
UN	United Nations
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
VAW	Violence Against Women
WHO	World Health Organization

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A conference on the Review of Parliamentarians' Actions and Legislations on the Elimination of Violence Against Women was held 21-22 October 2010 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Over 90 participants convened including parliamentarians from the Asia-Pacific region, Ministers of government agencies, experts from UN agencies, and representatives from international NGOs. The conference was organized by the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) in cooperation with the Indonesian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (IFPPD) and supported by AusAID and UNFPA.

Legislation to address violence against women has been passed in most countries in Asia-Pacific, the most recent example being Bangladesh. However, implementation mechanisms still need to be put in place, and require special attention. The conference was organized to review the current state of legislation and the progress of actions towards the elimination of violence against women in the region.

Over the two-day conference around 60 ministers and parliamentarians from 17 countries from the Asia-Pacific region were joined by representatives from UNFPA, UNIFEM, UNAIDS, UNDP to deliberate over their experience and share best practices on actions and legislation to prevent gender-based violence. The conference concluded with commitments made by parliamentarians from each country about the kind of follow up they plan to implement.

The Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development has given special emphasis to gender issues in the year 2010 to observe Beijing +15. A Meeting of the Standing Committee of Male Parliamentarians on Prevention of Violence against Women and Girls and the Standing Committee on the State of Women will be held at the end of this year. Other programmes include capacity building training, small grants for national level follow up, open parliamentary hearings on gender issues and advocacy programmes among women parliamentarians.

## OPENING CEREMONY

The opening ceremony of the Regional Ministers' and Parliamentarians' Conference on Review of Parliamentarians' Actions and Legislations on the Elimination of Violence Against Women was chaired by the **Honorable Dr. Ahmad Nizar Shihab**, MP Indonesia and chair of IFPPD. He noted several achievements of IFPPD in terms of legislation that has passed on VAW and trafficking and reviewed IFPPD's program focus on policy, capacity building, networking and information provision. He reviewed the meeting's purpose and the morning's agenda before introducing the first speaker.

The **Honorable Ir. Tri Harjun Ismaji**, Yogyakarta's Regional Secretary delivered a welcome message on behalf of **His Excellency Sri Sultan Hamengku Buwono X**, Governor of Yogyakarta, Indonesia. In his message the governor welcomed all participants to Yogyakarta and thanked the organizers for convening the meeting to discuss this important topic and choosing Yogyakarta to host the meeting. He noted that the government of Yogyakarta is against violence on other people, who are supposed to be protected, they are women and children. With the increasing number of cases the government is acting to prevent violence and protect women and children by endorsing regulations to protect these groups of people. Yogyakarta province has two specific decrees directed at eliminating violence against women. The first decree resulted in the formation of a forum for handling victims of violence against women and children and the second resulted in an integrated treatment center for the protection of women and children. The governor noted that the problem of violence against women and children is one of the main results of the cultural system of patriarchy, which is unfavorable for women and children. This and related issues need to be given serious attention. He indicated his hope that the forum will result in strategic thinking that can be used as a formulation in an integrated advocacy activities for parliamentarians, decision makers, influential leaders and community groups to attract attention and increase their knowledge on their role in preventing VAW.

**The Honorable Dr. Pinit Kullavanijaya**, MP Thailand and Secretary-General of AFPPD then addressed participants highlighting the efforts undertaken by AFPPD to support action and legislation eliminating violence against women through various women's empowerment and gender equality channels. He noted that since its inception in 1981 AFPPD has worked to undertake effective action to eliminate all traces of discrimination against women and to facilitate full and equal participation of women in all aspects of economic and social development. At the forefront of this is taking women's abilities, rights and needs into account at every stage of development and planning so that women's health, security and opportunity can be protected allowing them to maximize their contribution to society. Recognizing that the impacts and causes of violence against women are multidimensional, crossing all sectors and population groups he urged the MPs to address the issue using an integrated, multisectoral approach involving not only the government but also NGOs, communities and individuals. He underscored AFPPD's commitment to efforts on eliminating violence against women by citing the various standing committees and programs initiated by the organization. For example, a meeting organized jointly with UNFPA on Engaging Men in the Prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls which resulted in the establishment of the Male Parliamentarians Standing Committee on Prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls. Additionally, AFPPD has also established a Standing Committee on Women to

enhance the voice of women parliamentarians and promote awareness of gender related issues among parliamentarians. AFPPD also convenes an Asia-Pacific Women Parliamentarians' and Ministers' Conference annually to address gender related issues and serve as a platform for women parliamentarians. He urged the MPs to focus on investing in ending discrimination and violence against women, empowering women, and protecting those most vulnerable populations.

**Mr. Jose Ferraris**, UNFPA representative to Indonesia, spoke about the significance of the topic noting that "Violence against women has been called the most pervasive yet least recognized human rights violation in the world". He pointed out that VAW is so pervasive due to tacit social acceptance mediated by socio-cultural norms that devalue the role of women and girls. Overcoming VAW requires wide support from all sectors of society, including legislation passed by parliamentarians. He recognized the importance of the legal frameworks established by parliamentarians in establishing policies and programs to address the issue. He pointed out that parliamentarians' responsibility does not stop with passing laws but that they must also play a part in ensuring that the laws they have passed are translated into tangible actions which bring positive change. For example, consideration needs to be given to actions related to the social integration of migrant workers who have been victimized when they return home, economic dependency of women on their spouses, and rehabilitation of perpetrators of violence. He exhorted the MPs to work with the judiciary, law enforcement agencies, social welfare agencies, CSOs including women's organization, men's organizations, religious and traditional community leaders to develop a comprehensive approach to eliminating VAW and promoting gender equality.

**Ms. Gillian Brown**, Principal Gender Advisor, AusAID remarked that "Australia is committed to intensifying its efforts to help partner countries address violence against women as part of the Australian international development assistance program". She noted that the Australian government has zero tolerance for violence against women and is committed to reducing it nationally, as well as contributing to international efforts to end VAW globally and in our region. Currently the Australian government is in the final stages of developing a National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children. The plan will identify strategies and specific actions to respond to and prevent violence against women and will be endorsed by all levels of government. The government also recognizes that reducing violence is crucial to achieving global gender equality and delivering good development outcomes. It is recognized that responding to and preventing VAW requires a concerted response involving the combined actions of many institutions and individuals. She also recognized the efforts of women who have gained influential positions within the institutions of governance and who have used their positions to drive through changes that help to improve the lives of women, particularly those who lack a voice and opportunity to participate in formulation of policies. She also acknowledged the work of men who have advocated for and supported changes to improve the lives of women through legislation and policy. She noted the importance of partnerships and coalitions, recognizing all those working in NGOs and CSOs who have persisted in their campaigns to bring about changes in policy and have also been instrumental in helping to ensure implementation of policies and laws. She commended the MPs on their commitment and efforts to end VAW and reminded them that they play a key role in changing attitudes and improving responses to violence against women.



The conference was then addressed by **His Excellency Dr. H. Marzuki Alie**, SE, MM, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Parliament of Indonesia who noted Indonesia's work toward eliminating violence against women such as the passage of law number 23 year 2004 on the elimination of domestic violence. He exhorted the principles of establishing the culture of excellence and a noble civilization as an inevitable attribute for establishing mutual respect and avoiding acts of violence. He reviewed the different types of VAW and some of the laws that have been enacted in Indonesia. He noted that passage of such legislation indicated that the government pays serious attention to domestic violence and considers family a haven and a source of protection. He continued that home and family should be a place where social virtues can be well developed including honesty and justice. Willingness to help is an important norm and supported by other virtues including compassion, kindness, generosity, empathy, social responsibility and concern for others which can make every family member share mutual trust. Therefore, only in a family that has never experienced domestic violence can one learn to sacrifice other family members and recognize the value of shared empathy, which will generate togetherness and happiness. He continued discussing the important role of family as a conveyor to a larger community and as a conveyor to personalities which have bigger social structure. He noted that the social force in a family poses a special characteristic which cannot be found elsewhere and is a force that can continually control individuals. Thus families and communities must support each other. He then concluded by declaring the conference to be open.

## KEYNOTE ADDRESS

**H.E. Linda Amalia Sari**, S.IP, Minister for Women Empowerment and Child Protection, Indonesia gave the keynote speech on day two kicked off the meeting. She acknowledged that in Indonesia, women's quality of life shows different pictures in terms of education, political participation and economic decision making. Despite the increase in gender parity in education a gap in education between provinces still prevails. In terms of economy women still face discrimination in wages. Currently 18% of political representatives are women, an increase from 11.27% in 2004 but still below the goal of 30%. She pointed out that in Indonesia there is vast diversity in culture and geographic disparities and that each ethnic group has its own norms and social values, most of which are patriarchal "which is often claimed as the root of gender imbalance in decision making and discriminative treatment to women and girls." Recent national data shows an increase in the number of reported cases of violence, including trafficking in persons. The National Commission on Anti Violence Against Women reported over 140,000 cases in 2009 an increase of 263% from the previous year. It is believed that the increased number of reported cases may be due in part to implementation of a 2007 Supreme Court Decree which has resulted in better access to data in the religious court. In addition, victims may be less reluctant to report cases as public attitudes to victims of VAW changes. The government has further demonstrated their commitment to protecting the rights of women and children through enactment of the 2002 Law on Child Protection; Presidential Decree Number 87 National Action Plan on Elimination of Child's Sex Commercial Exploitation; Decree Number 88 Elimination of Trafficking of Women and Children; 2004 Law on Elimination of Domestic Violence; 2006 Law of Protection of Witnesses and Victims; 2007 Law number 21 on Elimination of Trafficking in Persons; Decree Number 69 of 2009 on the establishment of Anti Trafficking Task Force at the national level; Government Regulation number 9 of 2008 on Management and Networking on Recovery of Victims of Domestic Violence; Minister's Decree number 1 of 2010 Minimum Standard of Services for Integrated Services for women and children suffered violence which mobilizes the resources necessary to implement the laws and regulations; and the National Standard on Gender Responsive Handling of Natural Disaster.

In addition, steps have been taken to establish the infrastructure needed to implement the laws and regulations. Services for the victims are provided through referral system and completed with all aspects needed such as legal advocacy, and health and psychosocial recovery. The Honorable Minister specifically noted P2TO2/A which renders a center of comprehensive services for women and children in 17 provinces and 116 districts/cities. There are also Special Units for Women and Children at police stations in all districts/cities and Women's Crisis Centers in several provinces. To coordinate these services task forces have been established at both the national and sub-national levels and MOUs improving the effectiveness and efficiency of inter-district and inter-provincial services have been reached between a number of provinces and districts.

The Honorable Minister noted that despite all the work previously noted there are still obstacles to overcome in eliminating VAW. Inter and intra country networking is still a challenge that needs to be addressed in measuring, reporting, legislating and taking action to eliminate VAW. She called on the forum to commit to challenging their governments to enact regulations which are responsive to VAW

issues, allocate the necessary resources, and strengthen cross border networking in taking action on these issues. She concluded by reminding the assembly that violation of the human rights of women and girls results in “devastating half of the world population” and called on the parliamentarians to end violence against women and girls.

## SESSION ONE: SITUATION ANALYSIS ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

**The Honorable Datuk Haji Roslan Awang Chik**, MP Malaysia chaired session one which provided a recap of domestic and intimate partner and other forms of violence including statistics found in a 2005 WHO report on women's health and domestic violence against women.

**Assistant Professor Dr. Philippe Doney**s of the Gender and Development Studies Department, Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand presented statistics of IP violence against women, criminal and civil laws, types of violence, promising developments regarding protection, lack of prevention, intentions versus results, risk factors, and common and emerging gender issues. From an academic standpoint action taken by parliamentarians' should include the following: focus on prevention; address men's sense of masculinity and encourage their involvement in fighting VAW; make reporting easier and safer for women; provide and contribute to an environment where economic and social dependency of women on men is reduced; provide capacity building opportunities for those involved in the response chain.

**Dr. Elli Nur Hayati**, board member of Rifka Annisa Women's Crisis Centre, Yogyakarta and lecturer at Ahmad Dahlan University, Yogyakarta presented a situational analysis of VAW in the Pacific region. She reviewed traditional forms of gender based violence in pacific countries, statistics on domestic violence in the region, the ecological framework of VAW, fatal and nonfatal outcomes of VAW, changes made by governments in the pacific islands since the year 2000, and lessons learned regarding EVAW. Policy and advocacy recommendations included designing a systemic approach to intervention utilizing the ecological framework to develop different programs at different levels; working to reform the traditional justice system which oversees customary laws; and guaranteeing the just implementation of law in both traditional and formal justice systems. Research is also needed to facilitate social change and should include documentation and estimation of the magnitude of health and economic consequences of GBV, and efforts to find unique approaches to prevent harmful traditional practices. Research results can be used to develop the systemic intervention required to address all forms of VAW.

### Discussion

The Honorable MP from India recapped his country's recent legislation on EVAW and then noted that neither speaker discussed religion as a key factor in EVAW, an important issue which should be addressed by this conference. The **Honorable Suzanne Moroney**, MP New Zealand asked if there was a correlation between the slow change in VAW legislation and the low number of women parliamentarians in the pacific region. The Honorable MP from Bangladesh noted that her country had just passed a bill against domestic violence which included restraint orders, rights for women to pursue damages and a special budget allocation for women to eliminate VAW and emphasis on education of girls.

## **SESSION TWO: REVIEW OF CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGISLATIVE RESPONSES TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

**The Honorable Ms. Katrina Shanks**, MP New Zealand chaired session two of the conference which covered a regional overview of legislation, and the current situation in Sri Lanka and Indonesia.

**Ms. Amarsanaa Darisuren**, Human Rights Specialist, UNIFEM, East and Southeast Asia Regional Office, gave a presentation covering global developments in legislation, international and regional legal and policy frameworks, model framework for VAW legislation, a review of responses in Southeast Asia, and ways to move forward. Legislative achievements were highlighted as found in the UN Secretary-General's report from August 2010. Sources of international and regional norms and standards were given along with a model framework for legislation on VAW. Recommendations were also given for legislation on VAW definitions; implementation; monitoring; prevention and protection; prosecution and punishment; and laws including family, civil, and asylum. Country specific constitutional responses to VAW were also covered along with ASEAN commitment to combat VAW and promote gender equality. The presentation also discussed how laws can achieve their objectives through prevention, mediation and conciliation, and remedies for violence giving specific examples of prevention, protection, and remedies available in some Southeast Asia countries.

**The Honorable Minister Tissa Karalliyadda**, Ministry of Child Development and Women's Affairs, Sri Lanka gave a speech outlining constitutional and legislative provisions in place in Sri Lanka to curb violence against women. He noted that the Ministry's primary focus relating to VAW has been to protect and assist victims of violence and empower them to leave abusive relationships. In addition, the Ministry is working to establish appropriate legal provisions and procedures to ensure that the perpetrators are effectively punished for their offenses. A specific example of work undertaken in Sri Lanka includes an amendment to the Penal Code in 1995/96 to increase penalties for rape and also made incest, sexual harassment and grave sexual abuse punishable offenses. Additionally, the parliament passed the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act Number 34 of 2005 with the objective of providing for the issue of Protection Orders by a Magistrates Court to prevent an aggressor from inflicting harm to persons within the home environment. This act also includes a provision for issuing Protection Orders against the acts of physical violence, extortion, intimidation, and emotional abuse. This provision allows any person who fears domestic violence to seek protection for a period of 12 months, effectively barring the aggressor from committing acts of domestic violence and entering the victim's residence among other prohibitions. Furthermore, the Ministry has made efforts to establish a proper support system for battered persons. They have opened 11 special desks at police stations as 'counseling centres', staffed by trained women police officers. They are also working on providing state sponsored shelters and other facilities for battered women and victims of sexual violence.

The Sri Lanka Women's Charter was also adopted in March 1993 with the aim of eradicating sex based discrimination, achieving gender equality, and establishing standards to be observed. The Charter observes that the State shall take measures to prevent VAW, children and young persons in society, the workplace, family, and in custody. The Charter was followed by the establishment of the National

Committee on Women (NCW) in 1994. The National Committee on Women works to end gender discrimination by evaluating the impact of all legislative and development policies on the rights and responsibilities of women and advise the appropriate Minister on matters relating to such. The Minister also noted that free legal advice and representation in courts is available for victims of violence. He then concluded by acknowledging the challenges facing the EAW and some strategies that are being considered to bridge the gap between intentions and outcomes of legislation.

**The Honorable Ms. Sriyani Wijewickrama**, MP Sri Lanka gave a speech about EAW from a legal perspective. She discussed EAW as a process of social development that needed to combat the views that support and condone violence. She also reviewed the current situation in her country and noted that the status of women was “quite satisfactory”. The current penal code in Sri Lanka prevents men from profiting from the prostitution of women and children and steps have been taken to protect Sri Lankan migrant workers, the majority of who are women employed as domestic servants in the Middle East and other regions. She also noted that Sri Lanka has a parliamentarian’s women caucus which promotes women’s interests in the country.

**Dr. Sugiri Syarif, Chairperson of the Indonesian National Family Planning Coordination Board (BkkBN)** presented the current situation in Indonesia. The National Commission on Violence against Women reported a significant increase in incidence of VAW from 2008 to 2009. There were 53,000 reported cases of domestic violence in 2008 and 154,000 reported cases in 2009. However, he noted that these statistics have been questioned by the CEDAW committee because of the lack of systematic collection of sex disaggregated data and lack of documentation on the extent, forms and prevalence of VAW in Indonesia. These deficiencies result in difficulty validating the quality of the data.

Dr. Sugiri noted that Indonesia ratified the CEDAW convention in 1984 and has continued to take additional measures to since then. Analysis of national law reveals that the criminal code (1946) has several provisions that criminalize violence against women depending on the nature and severity of the criminal act, however, these provisions only hold in cases where the victim is not the spouse of the perpetrator. Since then, Presidential Decree number 181 issued in 1998 led to the establishment of the National Commission of Violence Against Women. This commission has been tasked with collecting data on VAW, conducting public awareness campaigns, publishing reports, and supporting women’s crisis centers.

In 2001 the government formulated the National Action Plan on the EAW. The objective was to implement the concept of zero tolerance for VAW in all sectors including law and justice, military, education, religion and culture, health care, employment and media. The National Plan formulated medium term strategic objectives for 5 year spans including intensifying the campaign on VAW and children; and developing more comprehensive penalty law instruments to protect all individuals from violence, exploitation and discrimination. These strategic plans have been implemented in some provinces through activities such as the establishment of integrated services for the victims of violence or public awareness campaigns. Additionally, NGOs working in the country offer supportive services which link to hospitals, police stations, forensic facilities and women’s shelters with the support of the Commission on Women and the Ministry of Women’s Empowerment. Most recently, Law Number 23 in

2004 instructed the government to take all necessary efforts to prevent domestic violence. It also imposes sanctions depending on the severity and type of domestic violence act.

Dr. Sugiri then concluded by detailing further measures which needs to be taken to improve the country's success in EVAW. These actions include: addressing the discrepancy among laws and regulations on VAW by reviewing, revising, and amending them as needed to facilitate implementation and execution of policy, programs, and penalties; laws must also be concurrent with contemporary philosophy of preventing VAW and empowering women in order to prevent potential situations which may result in VAW; socialization of all laws related to prevention of VAW with special attention to law enforcers is also necessary; and strengthening the implementation system of the laws and regulations.

### **Discussion**

**The Honorable Senator Mr. Pichit Soontornpipat**, MP Thailand gave an update on the situation in his country. He noted that in August 2007 a new constitution was enacted in Thailand which put more focus on the right of those suffering abuse in the family covering their right to survival and development. It also prohibits influence or restriction of the rights of children, minors and family members. Provisions are also included to protect and develop children and minors to promote sexual equality and to strengthen the institution of family including the provision of welfare and security to ensure a better quality of life so they may better help themselves. He pointed out that the Thai parliament put a lot of support towards efforts to end VAW.

The honorable MP from Bangladesh provided information regarding the situation in her country noting that they have achieved enormous progress in EVAW and that their constitution recognizes equal rights. She then commented on the speakers' presentations and raised a few questions. Her first question was regarding reservations and reporting of CEDAW implementation. She suggested that the reporting committees should be comprised of non-political persons to ensure an accurate picture of implementation is being transmitted. She also suggested that political parties within countries need to be united behind the cause of EVAW rather than using it as a divisive political issue to gain support for their party. She also raised the question about a statute of limitations on trying a VAW case for damages because laws in Bangladesh do not give a specific time limit in which the case is to be dealt with. She also commented that the media needs to be given sensitivity training in dealing with victims of VAW as they regularly publish the names and particulars of victims but not the perpetrators. This practice results in victims being hesitant to come forward and extends to not only regular people but also high profile people such as politicians and celebrities who are afraid of negative publicity. This silence effectively supports the culture which contributes to VAW rather than working to eliminate the problem.

In response to the question regarding CEDAW, Ms. Amarsanaa of UNIFEM replied that countries should report their observations and reservations. She remarked that while the pace may be slow there is still progress being made in the implementation of CEDAW. She further suggested that protocols for standards of performance should be instilled among service providers such as courts and law enforcement. She also pointed out that reporting requirements improve accountability.

The Hon. Ms. Katrina Shanks closed the session by noting that parliamentarians' will is needed to ensure strong legislation on VAW, its implementation and enforcement.

## SESSION THREE: PANEL DISCUSSION ON MEDIA AND ITS RESPONSIBILITIES IN COMMUNICATING THE SITUATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

**The Honorable Mr. Teburoro Tito**, MP Kiribati chaired session three which provided media perspective on their role in EVAW. Mr. Surasak Glahan, Bangkok Post, Thailand.

**Ms. Mardiyah Chamim**, Tempo News Magazine, Indonesia discussed the media as a tool and how women and VAW are portrayed by the media in Indonesia. She noted that “media is a strategic tool” that can create a social reality by consistently providing a specific angle or idea. Doing so results in slowly and pervasively building a “certain identity and image” of many things in our lives. She then discussed how in Indonesia women’s portrayal in the media has changed over time. In the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the media presented women as intellectuals and strategic change agents. This was in alignment with the image of women as an active part in the national struggle to gain independence. The late 20<sup>th</sup> century could be considered the new order era where the media portrayed women as agents of development and supportive of their men. Many women’s organizations promoted traditional stereotypes. At the same time glossy magazines promoting modern lifestyles were on the rise and were presenting women as taking on modern roles and as sexual objects. Currently, Indonesian media can be considered to be in the reform era. Technology today has resulted in a media explosion with the advent of self-publishing, blogs, and internet home video websites to name just a few non-traditional outlets which garner as much media attention as traditional newspapers, television shows and magazines. Anyone with access to a modem and, or a digital camera can become a media outlet expounding on their views of any given issue or topic.

Ms. Mardiyah noted that the media has played a positive role to build awareness of gender equality featuring profile stories of many brave women and their struggles, and bringing focus to fearless females and inspiring ladies. She gave an example from her magazine TEMPO which ran a story about myths and facts surrounding a 1998 rape tragedy. The cover story created many responses from various parties and an investigation was launched. She went on to point out that serious topics like VAW and other gender sensitive issues have a very limited audience and that media coverage on such topics is mostly circulated among activists.

She closed by acknowledging that the media receives many complaints about their victimization of women or tendency to blame them in instances of criminal or domestic violence. These complaints are generally triggered by television programs which present women as weak creatures easily fooled and extremely unrealistically. She also mentioned that frequently in coverage of stories of domestic violence, secret affairs or criminal involvement the media tend to blame women. She gave examples of female, Indonesian celebrities who had recently undergone victimization in the media. In one instance an Indonesian actress involved in a sex tape scandal was the focus of intense media scrutiny and was the focal point of blame, portrayed as a woman of seduction. She acknowledged that media reporting can have fatal insensitivity in reporting on VAW, frequently revealing the identity of the victim either overtly or through obvious hints which may jeopardize the victim’s position in society. But what can be done?



Ms. Mardiyah noted that media is a reflection of public reality. They have a role in educating the public as a whole and influencing public policy but they must also respond to popular demand. She noted that media coverage can be improved by educating journalists; building good relationships with journalists; and helping them give voice to those stories which need to be told by feeding them a good angle. Participation in conferences and meetings such as this one is a good start in this direction.

**Mr. Surasak Glahan**, Bangkok Post, Thailand focused on raising questions regarding the role of journalists as change agents and how the industry's structure may present challenges to reporting. He began by defining the structure of media in three groups: broadcast, print and internet. He gave an overview of media ownership in Thailand noting that there are hundreds of radio stations but only six television channels in the country. One is the government channel, one is the military channel and the other four channels are commercial but may have their licenses revoked by the government at any time if the content they are broadcasting is deemed threatening by the government. He also touched on internet media which is mostly utilized for political information, current events, and cultural issues but rarely used for in-depth coverage of heavy topics such as VAW. He then discussed how traditionally VAW has been covered as part of mainstream crime reporting with semi or full exposure identification and sensation. Most reporting is one sided and there is a lack of varieties and angles. There is rarely any follow up on reported these stories. Politics and leaders usually make the news, thus stories on women's rights have gone unreported. However, women's voices are not left unheard.

There are instances of both the good and the bad; the media have done exceptional work on promoting achievements of women and girls in their fights for justice and questionable work on proactively protecting the rights of marginalized women. Mr. Surasak noted that VAW stories rarely discuss values, economics and other contributing factors. He pointed out that from the journalist's perspective there is only limited space available in the daily print media and most of it is allocated to celebrities, politicians, and other leaders. Not much space is available to cover gender based issues and many may hesitate to get involved in reporting as they are worried about the right and wrong or gray areas that may be involved. This applies not only to journalists but anyone speaking up on behalf of VAW. In those instances where there is a clear distinction of right and wrong people can easily cry foul but if VAW involves sex workers or a flirtatious girl or some other perceived gray area it becomes more difficult for people to speak up. From his perspective the media has acted in this manner regarding VAW due to Thai social values pitting conservatism against liberalism; male dominated family and relationships; the reality that shock and sensation sell (e.g. domestic violence, rape, ridicule, harassment, murder); journalists lack of resources, time, and editorial support; tight deadlines, limited space and domination of other 'bigger and newer' stories; lack of developed understanding on individual rights; and lack of engaging men and gaining their support for a strong push for change.

Mr. Surasak then gave some case studies of VAW as portrayed in the media. He pointed out Thailand's special and unique phenomena, blaming the entertainment media. Thai soaps are dominated by stories on romantic rapes and brutalities, and conservative and other certain stereotypes. He questioned if they should really be blamed. Instead we should ask aren't these story lines a question of artistic or entertainment choices? The bottom line is a lack of balance or reflection of the soaps and the

entertainment industry. In terms of reports on legislation he pointed out the reluctance of the media to throw their support behind certain laws such as those regarding teen pregnancy and abortion as there is insufficient representation of human sides behind those legislation efforts.

In conclusion he asked if it should really be the responsibility of the media to bring about change on violence against women. The media's job is both to report and to set agendas but journalists are not activists so they have various priorities. However he also recognizes that the media is also expected to be social change agents so they cannot avoid their responsibility.

### Discussion

The Honorable MP from the Philippines noted that it is easier to influence policy makers if public support is out there, thus the media does play a key role as a change agent. **The Honorable Dr. Vijay Laxmi Sadho**, MP India brought up the issue of housewives and women working at home are not counted as making a contribution to GDP, she pointed out that the media should bring out the role of women in every level of GDP. **The Honorable Mr. Abdul Matin Khasru**, MP Bangladesh stated that the media must be sensitized on what to do and that VAW should not be considered a violence issue but rather a human issue. **The Honorable Mrs. Tarana Halim**, MP Bangladesh stated that the media is the most important thing in forming public opinion. She pointed out that in her country the media effectively created public support against corruption. **The Honorable Mr. John Hyde**, MP Australia noted that media reflects our societies and suggested that the MPs should make a commitment to lobby and tell our local media that violence against women is not acceptable and to work to discourage advertisers from supporting shows that portray VAW. The Honorable MP from Cambodia supports the importance of the media but notes that we should be aware of the negative factors. For example, by reporting on rapes it affects the ability of the victim to live in their society with the stigma that comes with rape, particularly if it is within a family. The media must follow the law in terms of giving out information therefore we need to find an appropriate way to broadcast the rights of people.

Ms. Mardiyah responded to the comments and questions agreeing that the media should improve its role in EVAW. She encouraged MPs to approach journalists with new angles and back stories that can be reported in depth. She agreed that insensitivity in media reporting does sometimes happen. She also agreed that there was a need to address advertisers and that civil society needs to raise its voice as guardian of ethical reporting. Finally she wanted to make clear that Indonesia also has a code of ethics for journalists.

Mr. Surasak brought up the ethics of journalism and media as agents of change; for example when reporting on corruption in politics. However when it comes to reporting on marginalized groups they may be more hesitant due to social conventions. He pointed out that VAW is mostly reported as a feature story. The focus can be altered to news story by changing the angle of reporting. For example, approaching a journalist with information in terms of the impact of VAW on GDP would be interesting but it needs to be accessible to journalists who are not economists. Finally in regards to ethical standards in the media he pointed out that it depends on legislation within each country. For example,

in Thailand there are ethical standards but no penalties for violation, therefore it becomes a decision to be made by journalists and editors.

## SESSION FOUR: MEN IN ACTION ON ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

**The Honorable Dr. Surya Chandra Surapaty**, MP Indonesia chaired session four which focused on the importance of men's involvement in EVAW and strategies to increase their participation.

**Mr. James Lang**, Programme Coordinator, Partners for Prevention a Regional Joint Programme for Asia and the Pacific of UNDP, UNFPA, UNIFEM, and UNV working with boys and men to prevent GBV focused on the importance of involving boys and men in EVAW. This is important because despite decades of work there has been no measured decrease in prevalence of VAW and men are overwhelmingly the perpetrators of VAW and the beneficiaries of gender inequalities, therefore effective interventions must include their involvement in stopping violence. VAW is also an essential element of patriarchy and gender inequality. Additionally, research shows boys and men can be positive agents for change and many men and boys condemn violence but are not yet involved in prevention efforts. In addition to addressing the unequal power relations among men and women, it is also important to clearly define what change we want to see by involving men and also taking into consideration what resistance will be faced and where it will come from.

Mr. Lang then reviewed examples of conditions that exist where prevalence of VAW is high compared to where it is low. In high prevalence communities men have rigid and discriminatory ideas about women, there may be violence in the street, women have lower rates of education and political participation, women's ownership of assets is very low, and notions of masculinity are associated with dominance and control over women. Conversely, in communities with low prevalence of VAW there are low rates of alcohol and substance abuse; women and girls have equal access to education, health, divorce, custody, and inheritance; violence is not a socially acceptable means of responding to violence; women have equal earning power and own land; and masculinity is associated with kindness, respect, and harmony. Changing men's attitudes and behaviors requires addressing known associations between gender norms and behavior. Therefore VAW is less likely to occur in societies where gender norms do not discriminate against women and girls, policies are in place for intervention to protect potential victims and violence is not sanctioned, perpetrators know they will be punished, men do not view women as adversaries, men have empathy for women, children are not disciplined through violence, and women are economically and socially empowered.

Strategies involving men and boys working for gender equality are becoming more common worldwide. They have been proven to be effective in showing sustained results, leading behavior change, and promoting positive and culturally specific ways to redefine masculine norms. This can be effectively undertaken by providing gender relational information about VAW laws and women's rights; promoting a critical reflection about masculinity and gender norms that reinforce men's power; providing opportunities for rehearsing positive roles and non-violent forms of conflict resolution in intimate relationships; creating a safe space where men and boys can express their views without being criticized but are encouraged to question VAW, and to sustain connections to the larger environment including but not limited to family, friends, school, and media.

EVAW must be pursued using a multi-tiered approach including through the use of specific laws against the use of violence against women such as domestic violence acts and laws or CEDAW; legislation and policy that promotes women's rights and empowerment, such as Women's Rights to Inheritance Laws and policies which promote women's political and economic advancement; and addressing norms and values through media campaigns and education and labor policies which promote more positive roles for men and women.

Mr. Lang concluded by suggesting nine areas of action that can be taken by parliamentarians. These include the following:

- Promote research on prevalence and root causes of violence to build evidence on the causes and cost of violence
- Fund prevention campaigns focusing on selected target groups using the right media, messengers and messages
- Support effective local interventions
- Be role models by speaking out in public and to peers
- Promote gender equality through policies that support women's empowerment and healthy relationships
- Implement policies to reduce corporal punishment of children
- Make public spaces safer
- Promote health responses by reaching out to boys and men with messages about VAW at public health centers
- Promote men's involvement in caregiving

**The Honorable Mr. Abdul Matin Khasru**, MP Bangladesh and member of AFPPD Standing Committee of Male Parliamentarians on Prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls then gave a speech about the role of men in ending VAW. He pointed out the VAW "is the most oppressive and pervasive violation of women's human rights and an impediment to achieving gender equality, as well as promoting development and peace". Not only is VAW a human rights issue but it is also a public health and gender issue. He noted that "although great advances have been made in the international context regarding legal frameworks and mechanisms and policies to protect women from violence, challenges remain in effective implementation of these laws and standards". After recapping action taken by the UN in combating VAW including CEDAW, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the 1993 adoption of the UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, he then turned to the role of men. "An important aspect of the significance of involving men in efforts to eliminate violence against women is that men hold higher positions of power and decision-making in most communities in the world, making it crucial to garner their support and commitment in ending violence against women." Violence also directly affects men as witnesses, relatives, perpetrators, and victims. Additionally men's involvement is necessary as part of the socialization processes that support men's behavior. Men need to take responsibility for their actions, choose not to use violence and develop alternate norms of masculinity. Cooperation, partnership and dialogue between men and women must be fostered to

create safer and healthier environments. Men need to take collective action to encourage other men to get involved and show that violence is a sign of weakness rather than a sign of strength.

He continued by highlighting how UN declarations and committees have emphasized the importance of men working in partnership with women in ending VAW and achieving gender equity. As early as 1997 at a UNESCO meeting it was recognized that “the transformation from a culture of violence to a culture of peace is dependent on the development of more egalitarian and partnership-oriented forms of masculinity, as opposed to traditional forms premised on dominance, authority, control and force”.

The Honorable Mr. Abdul then turned to the current situation in Bangladesh presenting legal interventions and support services that are in place. The country’s penal code contains provisions protecting women from rape, kidnapping, abduction, acid throwing, and attempts to cause death or grievous injury because of dowry. Government laws and modifications include the Dowry Prohibition Act 1980 and its amendment in 1986 making dowry practice an offence punishable by fine and imprisonment; Prevention of Women and Child Repression Act 2000 which deals with cases of VAW; the Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act 1933 provides for detention of women under 18 years of age if found in a place where prostitution is being carried out; the Family Court Ordinance 1985 provides for the exclusive jurisdiction of the court on matters relating to marriage, dowry, maintenance, guardianship and custody of children; the Cruelty to Women (Deterrent Punishment) Ordinance 1983 amends the relevant section of the Penal Code providing life imprisonment for some forms of VAW; and the Trafficking in Women and Children Act 1993 which provides a maximum penalty of up to three years for forced prostitution and its abetment. Additionally, recent laws have been enacted to restrict the import and sale of acid in the open market, impose the death penalty for acid attack offenses, and address the issue of sexual harassment in the workplace.

Other steps that have been taken to combat VAW include signing the SAARC Convention of Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children; establishment of a permanent Law Commission to review and make recommendations on women’s rights; organization of One Stop Crisis Centres to help victims of violence quickly secure formal investigation records; formation of special cells for women at some police stations; institution of violence prevention cells in the Department of Women’s Affairs and Jatiyo Mahila Sangastha, and the creation of shelter homes for abused and tortured women.

Despite all these measures there are still challenges in EVAW. Inadequate resources, poverty, lack of understanding of women’s rights, weak law enforcement, and corruption within the justice system are some of the limitations facing efforts to combat VAW.

In conclusion “Effective solutions to comprehensively address violence must recognize certain established and underlying dynamics based on the complex social, cultural, religious and economic ideologies that serve to maintain the unequal relationships between men and women.”

**The Honorable Congressman Edcel C. Lagman**, MP Philippines discussed why men and boys are indispensable in the crusade to eliminate violence against women and girls. He remarked that home is

not a sanctuary for millions of women worldwide, rather it is the most dangerous place to be due to the overwhelming prevalence of VAW. He illustrated the problems resulting from the perceived private nature of VAW by citing the results of the Community Based Monitoring System being conducted in his legislative district. This involves the use of a questionnaire given to random respondents to enable the local government to respond to community needs in various areas ranging from drinking water to law enforcement to health care. While residents are willing to discuss drug use and other criminal activity they are “ominously silent” when it comes to answering questions about VAW. The survey results indicated that out of a population of 125,000 not a single woman has experienced GBV. Silence is the complicit partner of VAW. Fear, stigma, and shame permit abuse of women and girls to continue. After reviewing worldwide statistical data published by UN agencies he turned his attention to the current situation in the Philippines. The Philippine Commission on Women reported that the number of VAW cases filed with the police rose by 37.4% from 2008 to 2009. This increase may be a cause for concern considering the preceding downward trend in the period 2001 to 2006. Alternately, some attribute the rise to a successful public awareness campaign that has emboldened women to come forward and report a case knowing that the law is on their side. Either way the statistics indicate the gravity of the problem and require further action.

The Honorable Congressman stated that while there are as many approaches to eradicating this problem as there are different crimes classified as VAW, it is clear that men and boys are indispensable in winning the war against VAW. Men and boys are central to finding a permanent solution to this issue because they play a key role in changing unequal power relations between the sexes. He detailed that gender inequalities and inequities are central to the prevalence and virulence of VAW because they subjugate women in both the public and private domains, they are denied the same educational opportunities as men, are unhealthy because of unremitting pregnancies and are discriminated against when seeking healthcare; and are economically disenfranchised due to limited employment opportunities or prevented from seeking remunerative work.

In addition to the violation of human rights VAW also has significant social and economic costs. “GBV is considered one of the biggest roadblocks to genuine and sustainable human development and poverty reduction.” The economic costs attributable to GBV include social services, medical expenses for victims, loss of work hours for perpetrators and victims, criminal apprehension, legal fees and court costs, incarceration for those found guilty, and rehabilitation. He cited a recent cost benefit analysis conducted by the Ministry of Women in New Zealand which measured the actual costs incurred by the government because of gender specific violence and found that the State’s expenses exceeded the income earned from the country’s largest revenue earning industry. The largest social cost is the continuation of the cycle of violence which is passed on in households where children, particularly boys, are victims or witness to violence with the father as aggressor. Unfortunately, these children are taught that it is acceptable to use violence to resolve issues or demonstrate masculinity.

VAW is also a public health concern impacting all aspects of women’s health and well being, thereby undermining their potential to make valuable contributions to development and nation building. Violent crimes against women not only impede human development and economic progress but also

social justice for the most vulnerable and marginalized citizens of our countries most of whom are women and girls.

“To end VAW we need both effective laws and the transformation of age-old practices.” The Honorable Congressman summarized that national strategies to promote EVAW should include a combination of pro-women laws and social policies which are strictly implemented and enforced; programs which seek a fundamental transformation of longstanding customs and traditions which inhibit many from seeing VAW as a crime and clear violation of the basic human rights of women and girls; and active involvement of men and boys.

### **Discussion**

During the discussion session the forum heard comments and questions from the Honorable MPs representing New Zealand, Timor L’este, Indonesia, and Bangladesh. The Honorable MP from New Zealand mentioned a successful television and billboard campaign in their country which used the tag line “It’s not OK” and involved celebrities and community leaders stating VAW is not acceptable. The Honorable MP from Timor L’este asked Mr. Lang what can be done to change the mentality of men from violence to non-violence in situations where there is a lack of human resources and insufficient financial support. The honorable MP from Indonesia commented on Mr. Lang’s recommendations noting that the issue must be raised with MP’s constituencies. The honorable MP from Bangladesh raised the importance of religious leaders in changing attitudes and building community support.

Mr. Lang replied to the honorable MP from Timor L’este that currently a regional curricula is being developed that can be adapted to each country for implementing EVAW projects, he agreed with the honorable MP from Indonesia that the issue must be raised with your constituency and also agreed with the honorable MP from Bangladesh that lessons can be learned from their successful campaign against acid throwing and that it would also be beneficial to have religious leaders involved in the EVAW process.

The Honorable Mr. Abdul Matin Khasru summarized by stating that to combat VAW we must go to the root causes of the problem and work to change mindsets.

The Hon. Congressman Edcel C. Langman summarized by suggesting three courses of action to make men and boys desist from VAW. One is to actively involve men and boys in the crusade against VAW. Two is to encourage men to be more modest. Three is to start early in educating boys to respect women’s rights.



## **SESSION FIVE: RETROSPECTIVE ON THE INTERSECTION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN WITH MIGRATION, HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND HIV/AIDS**

**The Honorable Dr. Mr. Somphou Douangsavanh**, MP Laos PDR chaired session five which covered the relationships between trafficking, migration and HIV/AIDS.

**Dr. Ms. Jane Wilson**, Regional Advisor on Gender and Human Rights, UNAIDS stated that there are many aspects of women, health and GBV that are still not clearly understood. However, it is known that there is an empirical link between GBV and HIV although the relationship is a complex one. Globally, the single leading risk factor for death and disability in women of reproductive age in low- and middle-income countries is unsafe sex, which can lead to sexually transmitted infections, including HIV. Women who do not know how to protect themselves from such infections, or who are unable to do so, face increased risks of death or illness. So do those who cannot protect themselves from unwanted pregnancy or control their fertility because of lack of access to contraception. There is emerging evidence that violence against women is an important risk factor for their health, although the full dimensions of the problem remain insufficiently measured. The number of women infected by HIV is increasing and women are affected more through stigma, discrimination and violence. Dr. Wilson reported some alarming statistics from the Commission on AIDS in Asia (2008). The proportion of women living with HIV has risen gradually from 19% in 2000 to 35% in 2008. In some Asia-Pacific countries the percentage of women living with HIV is higher, Thailand 39%, Cambodia 46%, India 40%, and Papua New Guinea 60%. The majority of new infections among women in Thailand and Cambodia and some states in India happen in women in long lasting relationships. In India, it has been found that wives with abusive husbands who have unprotected sex outside the marriage have HIV rates 7 times higher. Additionally, 90% of HIV widows are thrown out of their marital homes following their husband's death. HIV spreads and deepens poverty; strains overstretched health system's ability to reach vulnerable populations; and deepens gender inequalities. Effective interventions should focus on income generation and skills for women who require practical activities that can help them escape their dependence and the cycle of violence. Also, testing, counseling and reproductive health services need to know how to deal with these issues. Healthcare workers need to know what to do when dealing with victims of violence. Strategies are also needed for sex workers who face GBV from intimate partners, clients, pimps, police, and brothel owners.

Being a migrant worker compounds the entire process. On average, 50 % of migrants from the region are women. However, there is great variance among countries. For example, Philippino women accounted for 60% percent of legal migrants (1998) and an airport survey in Sri Lanka showed that 84% of migrants were women. Women endure not only the vulnerabilities associated with migration, but intense gender discrimination, sexual exploitation, and other hardships and abuses. However, it is very important to note, migration is not a risk factor for HIV infection. It is the conditions in which some migrants find themselves, separated from families, communities and social support systems, which make them more vulnerable to be exploited and victimized, or to engage in risk behavior that can result in HIV infection. Women, in particular, often migrate under unsafe conditions, live under very difficult circumstances, are targets of sexual exploitation and violence. With little or no access to health services

and social protection, Asian women migrants are highly vulnerable to HIV. Many of the underlying causes that have been driving the HIV epidemic are the same inequalities that drive mobility. Poverty, inequality and social inequity push people away from their homes in search of a better life, alternative livelihoods and hopes of a wealthier future. Additionally, approximately 300,000 women and children are trafficked in Asia every year. Though women and girls are trafficked for various purposes, sexual exploitation remains the single largest category of exploitive trafficking crime throughout the region. There is a close linkage between trafficking and HIV. The younger the age of being trafficked the higher the risk of becoming infected with HIV. About 40% of the rescued trafficked sex workers have been found to be HIV positive. Trafficking and HIV share common causal and consequential factors: gender inequalities, domestic violence, poverty, stigma, discrimination, and sexual exploitation. HIV prevalence among vulnerable migrants and victims of trafficking calls for immediate action. HIV programmes are needed at all stages of the migration process: before departure, on arrival, while in the destination country, and upon return and reintegration into the country of origin. The intention is that this dialogue and study will lead to action that will shift the conditions of women's migration that of silence, stigma and shame to mobility with dignity, equity and justice. The UN Joint Initiative on Mobility and HIV/AIDS in South East Asia (JUNIMA) brings together governments, NGOs, networks, and UN agencies, to promote universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support for mobile and migrant populations in the region. JUNIMA focuses its work on strategic information, policy and advocacy, and multi-stakeholder and multi-country mechanisms.

Dr. Wilson summarized by giving examples of three strategies parliamentarians can take to effectively address the situation. MPs can promote effective programs, be the voice of the voiceless, and work to increase create linkages with related networks and movements working to eliminate VAW.

**The Honorable Mrs. Susan Yap**, MP Philippines, focused her presentation on trafficking. She illustrated the problem by relating two different cases of Filipino women who had been trafficked. She began by reviewing the current situation of women in the Philippines noting that it is one of the most advanced countries in achieving parity between men and women in academic, professional, political, legal and economic spheres. In the 1987 Philippine Constitution "The State recognizes the role of women in nation building and shall ensure the fundamental equality before the law of women and men." Other legislation and government provisions include the establishment of the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women in 1975 (renamed the Philippine Commission of Women), Rape Victim Assistance and Protection Act, Anti-Sexual Harassment Act, Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children Act, Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act, Anti-Mail Order Bride Act, and Anti-Rape Act. Additionally, the country has a vibrant women's movement and strong civil society groups which have filed cases against traffickers for victims. The country fully supports the UN global plan of action to combat human trafficking. To this end the government has created an Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking in Persons which has formulated a National Strategic Plan of Action Against Trafficking in Persons with the goal of eliminating trafficking, particularly of women and children, and ensuring their recovery, rehabilitation and reintegration into mainstream society. In addition to being home to large numbers of migrant workers many countries in the region are source, transit and destination sites for persons

subjected to trafficking. The victims are often from rural areas, have a history of abuse in the family, a sense of duty to support the financial needs of the family, perceive they will find a better life elsewhere, have a lack of awareness and understanding of human trafficking and their individual human rights. Factors which aggravate trafficking are poverty, gender discrimination, dysfunctional families, socio-cultural practices, lack of information, weak and uncoordinated implementation of laws, lack of a peaceful environment, lack of focused programs, graft and corruption. Governments can combat trafficking by providing access to legal, medical, and psychological services; providing temporary shelters and relief from deportation to foreign victims; and providing reintegration programs for overseas workers who have been abused while working abroad. In the Philippines, where more women than men leave the country to seek employment, women's causes have been significantly represented in the lower chamber of congress where currently 25% of the members are women. At present pending legislation includes a Reproductive Health bill, Anti-discrimination Act, Women's Higher Education Act, and an act providing further protection to women against abuses of unequal power relations. The Honorable MP concluded by stating "As a Filipina legislator I believe that women are great assets of our country, having two women as former presidents. With a caring and empowering environment, we can certainly contribute to poverty alleviation -the essential key to preventing, if not totally eradicating human trafficking, especially of women and children. Furthermore, I believe that international collaborations especially among policymakers must be sustained not only to share information and the best practices; to put in place appropriate policies that will address trafficking of women in the region; policies that are gender sensitive to the root causes of the continuing exploitation of women. Laws that will effectively cut the life blood of the international syndicates preying on our women."

## **Discussion**

**The Honorable Mr. Abdul Matin Khasru**, MP Bangladesh spoke passionately and sympathetically about the difficult situation in which most rural women in his country face. The Honorable MP from India agreed with the presenters that trafficking and migration are issues of poverty and asked what increasing role the UN could play. He suggested that this problem was of such significance that the UN, World Bank and IMF divert funds to combat trafficking. The Honorable MP from Indonesia asked Dr. Wilson about creating databases when it is difficult to collect data, particularly on HIV/AIDS and VAW. He also asked the Hon. Mrs. Susan Yap to elaborate on the Philippines government's efforts to protect and rehabilitate overseas workers; specifically the types of programs that are employed. An Honorable MP from the Philippines asked Dr. Wilson about the growing number of young women involved in the sex trade not driven by poverty, survival or lack of education but simply driven by the desire to purchase consumer goods. He wondered if this was common in other countries and strategies that could be used to address this problem. Another Honorable MP from the Philippines pointed out that trafficking cannot be addressed simply through legislation of VAW, particularly when other government policies counteract their intent. **The Honorable Ms. Suzanne Moroney**, MP New Zealand commented that sex work was decriminalized in New Zealand in 2004 and since that time they have seen a significant reduction in HIV/AIDS as surveillance and worker safety programs have become a part of the sex trade industry. She wondered how many other countries in the Asia-Pacific region have decriminalized sex work and if they have seen similar results.

Dr. Wilson responded by applauding the passion and empathy of the parliamentarians and noted that the UN tries to work with health and labor ministries of member countries as they are limited in terms of budget to run individual country programs. She also mentioned that UNAIDS and other UN agencies can easily distribute necessary data and highlighted the importance of managing data intelligently without duplicating or overlapping efforts. She also confirmed that not all sex workers are driven to do so from poverty. There is a segment of the population in many countries that can be classified as transactional sex workers who choose to work in the industry for a good income. She pointed out that it is important to take a public health point of view rather than a moral point of view when considering sex workers. While one may not like their behavior it is important to make sure that sex workers are practicing safely in order to reduce the health issues that may arise. This is the harm reduction approach.

The Hon. Mrs. Susan Yap gave examples of how the Philippine government protects and rehabilitates their overseas workers upon their return. She explained that they undertake an assessment of the returning workers to determine if they require medical assistance or counseling. The government also works with NGOs that introduce alternative employment and livelihoods for returning workers.

## SESSION SIX: WOMEN'S HEALTH AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

**The Honorable Senator Dr. Pinit Kullavanijaya**, MP Thailand and Secretary-General AFPPD, chaired session six on health and VAW.

**The Honorable Ms. Fang Xin, MP China**, summarized headway made in China toward safeguarding women's rights and interests of health, reviewed China's anti-domestic violence legislation, reviewed China's work to combat VAW, and noted areas to improve and future proposed action. The Chinese government considers women's health top priority in its efforts to promote gender equality and women's development. Over the past decade, a series of laws have been enacted and put into force. The government also set up health objectives in The Development Outline for Chinese Women and Children. Significant efforts and great fiscal inputs have been made to improve the service network of women's health care. As a result, statistical indicators showed a significant improvement in the health of Chinese women.

A review of anti-domestic violence legislation demonstrates that even prior to 1995 the government resolved to protect family members' rights and say no to domestic violence. At that time, the issue of domestic violence was not regarded as an independent social issue. People tended to consider incidents of VAW as family disputes and often sought civil mediation to resolve them. In serious cases that constituted crimes, perpetrators would be punished according to regulations of Criminal Law.

In the period 1995 to 2001 since the 4th international women's conference, especially with the adoption of Beijing Declaration and Program of Actions, Chinese society witnessed increasing concerns over the issue of domestic violence, intensified relevant legislative research and significant increase of social interventions and assistance. In 2000, the words 'domestic violence' was first seen in a local regulation in Changsha, capital city of Hunan Province with an aim to preventing and stopping the violence inside families. Many provinces soon followed suit and the call for a clear definition of domestic violence in state legislation increased.

In 2001, the Marriage Law amendment was adopted in which 'domestic violence should be prohibited' and 'occurrences of domestic violence is a circumstance which people's court shall grant divorce'. The amendment also made provisions for assistance and succor measures to the victims of domestic violence and the legal liability of the perpetrators. It was the first time, China had clear stipulations related to domestic violence in state-level legislation. Later on, the Supreme Court further defined domestic violence as "acts of causing bodily, spiritual, sexual harms committed by one family member against another member of the same family" and enumerated the six common forms of domestic violence, including bodily injury, restriction of freedom, insult and intimidation.

She then reviewed China's work to combat VAW. China has signed CEDAW, the Convention on the Rights of the Children, Beijing Declaration and Program of Actions and in the constitution stipulates that "women shall enjoy equal rights with men in all aspects of political, economic, cultural, social and family life". Civil law, through the stipulation of rights to health, honor and freedom of marriage, is playing an important role in preventing and stopping domestic violence. Local legislatures have also passed some

regulations to ensure the implementation of Law on the Protection of Women's Rights. As of July 2005, 15 provinces have already adopted local statutes such as Resolution of Preventing and Stopping Domestic Violence.

Other measures adopted by the Chinese government to protect women's rights and interests include establishment of special governmental organizations and multi-organ coordinative and advisory institutions; call centers and complaint windows at police stations for domestic violence grievances; and legal assistance, disability evaluation centers and shelters for victims of domestic violence. Additionally, the Women's Federation employs 40,000 and is active at all levels, in some provinces they are even invited to serve as jurors in cases involving domestic violence.

However, there are still problems and challenges including the lack of decline in VAW; relatively low status of women in politics, economics, culture, social and family; insufficient and infeasible laws regarding many types of VAW; and need for improved mechanisms to provide shelter, combat crimes and rescue victims.

She then gave specific examples of ways the government can further improve legislation, establish and perfect a multi-organ cooperative prevention and treatment mechanism; and strengthen judiciary protection of victims. Suggestions to further improve legislation included conducting a survey of current legislations to make them compatible with international conventions and treaties; verifying legislative possibility for a Law on the Prevention and Control of Domestic Violence; establish legal definitions of domestic violence and sexual harassment in the amendment to the Law on the Protection of Women's Rights and Interests; conduct further legislative research, heeding the opinions of women's organizations, NGOs, experts and scholars as well as victims of VAW; and intensify research into the difficult points and countermeasures of legislation, enforcement and jurisdiction.

In terms of establishing and perfecting a multi-organ cooperative prevention and treatment mechanism with the government playing a pivotal role, she suggested the following: formulating anti-domestic violence policies that really accord to our national conditions; creating institutions that can provide shelters and material assistance for victims; providing legal consultation and assistance to victims; and attaching importance to mediation organizations' role in anti-domestic violence work.

Suggestions to strengthen judiciary protection of VAW victims include exploring the establishment of civil protection orders; rationally distributing the burden of proof; and improving the compensation system for the harms of VAW.

The honorable MP concluded by declaring our common objective is to eliminate violent conduct against women and reduce the harms of VAW. China's National People's Congress will as always address the issue of gender equality and women's development, assist and urge the government to take active and effective measures to eliminate violence against women, safeguard women's health and further protect women's rights.

**The Honorable Dr. Sumarjati Arjoso**, MP Indonesia started with a case study reported to a Kompas health correspondent illustrating the severity of the problem of VAW. Victims of violence "have poorer

physical and mental health, suffer more injuries, and use more medical resources than non-abused women". She then provided details of injuries, death, sexual and reproductive health, risk behavior, mental health, and physical health consequences of VAW. She also pointed out that VAW can continue throughout the life cycle of women and girls beginning before birth causing immediate and long term impact and frequently continuing into old age. Victims of abuse often have chronic health problems and frequently exhibit negative health behaviors including but not limited to the following: chronic pain, neurological problems, gastrointestinal disorders, cardiac problems, depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, sexually transmitted infections, and drug and alcohol abuse. Many do not seek treatment for these problems and the illnesses and injuries of those who do are rarely attributed to abuse.

In Indonesia data recorded by the National Commission on Violence against Women indicated that in 2009 there were over 143,000 cases of VAW reported. This figure is more than double that of 2008 (54,425 cases) which was more than double that of 2007 (25,522 cases). While these numbers may be alarming it is believed that the increase is due to greater accessibility to the data of Religious Courts based on the Head of Supreme Court Decree No. 144/KMA/SK/VIII/2007 on information disclosure.

In Indonesia domestic violence is the most common form of VAW; 91% of reported cases in 2008 were domestic violence. Categorization of VAW was described and it should be noted includes restrictions on freedom, arbitrary arrest, stigmatization, shootings, and humiliation in addition to physical, psychological, sexual and economic violence.

Dr. Sumarjati also spent some time discussing female genital mutilation/circumcision (FGM/C). Noting that a 2006 study undertaken by the WHO and Indonesian Ministry of Public Health found that it was prevalent in Indonesia. The practice has no health benefits for girls or women and is considered to be dangerous for women and can be deadly for newborns. Interestingly, FGM/C is not yet classified as VAW in Indonesia.

She went on to discuss the types of practice, the practitioners, and the victims. Of importance is evidence showing "that extensive medicalization of FGM/C has started in some parts of Indonesia and is already established in others" despite the fact that any form of the practice is considered a source of danger. The Indonesian government has made significant efforts along with NGOs and professional medical associations to eliminate FGM/C. Since 2006 the Ministry of Health of Indonesia has been working to put an end to this practice reaching out to health providers, traditional birth attendants, midwives, communities and families. Currently discussions are taking place between the Ministry of Health and religious leaders; upon their successful conclusion it is hoped a decree on the topic can be issued by the MOH.

In addition to prevention efforts, services should also be available to victims of VAW. These should include but are not limited to free shelter, medical and psychological assistance, counseling, legal aid, women's crisis centers, and specially trained personnel in hospitals, police stations, and forensic facilities. Many of these services are available in Indonesia through the support of the Commission on Women and the Ministry of Women's Empowerment.

Since the majority of victims remain silent about the real causes of their injuries and illnesses, one of the most effective means for addressing gender-based violence is to institutionalize public health and, in particular, RH responses to the problem. Health workers, particularly those in RH services should be given the knowledge and skills necessary to be alert to the possibility of GBVS among their clients. She suggested responses to GBV should include the following:

- Establishment of an information sharing and coordination mechanism, such as an inter-sectoral working group made up of health professionals with diverse expertise and representatives from local organizations that provide service to victims of violence;
- Development of specific protocols on domestic violence highlighting clinical profiles of victims; referral systems; screening questions and legal information;
- Training of staff to enable them to acquire skills in counseling, examining victims and collecting legal evidence for prosecution;
- IEC or RH efforts incorporating such protocols and training related to all forms of gender based violence;
- Incorporation of gender-based violence as a topic in the public health training curriculum of care providers, such as doctors, nurses and midwives; and
- Establishment of partnerships with community-based experts and resource persons involved in gender-based violence programs and services.

She concluded by recapping that VAW has serious consequences on the health and well being of its victims in both the short and long terms. Health care workers “can take the lead in introducing awareness and behavior change in the community” and “have the opportunity and the obligation to identify, treat, and educate women who are being abused”. “Developing and institutionalizing national health-sector policies, protocols, and norms about violence call attention to the problem of gender-based violence, and help ensure quality care for survivors of abuse.”

**The Honorable Mrs. Nguyen Hong Dien**, MP Vietnam presented the current situation of domestic violence and legislation in her country. In her presentation she provided background information on Vietnam, domestic violence legislation in the country, the current situation of domestic violence in the country, challenges, and experiences from Vietnam.

There is one parliamentary committee which deals with health issues; population and RH; labor and social security; poverty alleviation; religion, gender and gender equity (including Domestic Violence issues); and patronage for national parliamentary organizations.

Legislation on domestic violence includes constitutional stipulations, laws on gender equity, laws on domestic violence, code on marriage and family, and other procedural codes. For example, article 63 of the constitution states that all citizens are equal politically, culturally, and socially. It prohibits any activities which are discriminatory against women. Other legislation includes article 4 and 6 intended to eliminate discrimination and ensure gender equity; article 1 of 2007 which regulates the prevention and



control of domestic violence, protecting and assisting the victims of domestic violence; article 3 which provides combined and integrated measures to prevent and fight domestic violence and gives special attention to communication and education on family values; article 7 in which the State encourage international cooperation on domestic violence prevention and control; article 17 which addresses community action in cases of domestic violence; article 26 which provides for shelters and support for victims of domestic violence; and article 42 detailing civil and criminal penalties for acts of violence.

Implementation of domestic violence laws has been undertaken by a collaboration of Vietnamese authorities, other international organizations, and NGOs. Additionally, members of the justice system have received training in dealing with domestic violence issues. Support services for domestic violence victims include a national hotline for victims; a shelter which can support more than 1200 people in Hanoi; and the Center for Women and Development which offers counseling, housing and raises awareness on domestic violence.

The Honorable MP then reviewed the situation of domestic violence in Vietnam noting that it is a serious problem throughout the country, perhaps more so in rural areas and among communities of ethnic minorities. She cited national statistics showing 21% of married couples having experienced some form of domestic violence, and 50 to 70% divorces linked to domestic violence. Statistics also indicated that the two main factors contributing to domestic violence in Vietnam are alcohol use (60-70%) and gambling (25-30%). Other reported factors include adultery, lack of education, drug use, lack of legislation knowledge, and others. She then proffered some case studies illustrating the factors reported as statistically significant.

While much has been done to address domestic violence some challenges still remain. Patriarchal customs and beliefs still exist in many remote and rural areas. Some leaders at the administrative level are not interested in domestic violence prevention and control thereby inhibiting the implementation of legislation and support services. Victims are still reluctant to report cases to the relevant authorities because of the shame, stigma and continuing belief that it is a private matter. This silence in turn results in a lack of reliable statistics and current studies on the issue. And lack of resources for support and infrastructure in rural areas.

She concluded by listing other activities related to domestic violence prevention and control in Vietnam including commitment of political parties; work on the legal framework on domestic violence prevention and control by the National Assembly; interest by MPs and parliamentary organizations in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of laws on domestic violence prevention and control; ratification of most of the contents of the CEDAW convention; establishment of central and local governmental organizations to administer domestic violence prevention and control provisions; creation of a national committee for the advancement of women; focus on domestic violence prevention and control by Women's Unions at the central and local levels; establishment of boards for the advancement of women by all local governments; emphasis on communication and education on domestic violence prevention and control in the mass media; creation of policies which encourage women to improve themselves; and encouragement of women to be involved in domestic violence prevention and control efforts.

**Ms. Kiran Bhatia**, Technical Adviser on Gender, UNFPA Asia-Pacific Regional Office sent a recorded presentation as she was unable to attend the meeting in person. She addressed the regional context of women's health and VAW, the life cycle of violence facing women, forms and prevalence of VAW, key legislative and policy frameworks in the region, women's right to health, violence as a health issue, socio-cultural norms and SRH, lessons learned, essential components of a system approach, policy analysis, documentation and data management, examples of integrated governmental responses to GBV, institutionalization of health sector response to GBV, areas needing attention, and priorities for women's health and reduced risk of violence. Importantly, she noted the costs of violence against women which includes specific costs such as medical care including mental health, police, criminal justice system, and social services. The related costs are multiplied when viewed in terms of macroeconomics, the labor market and intergenerational impacts and should include consideration of decreased labor market participation of women; reduced productivity on the job; lower earnings and decreased investment and savings; increased absenteeism; intergenerational productivity impacts lower educational attainment of children; and intergenerational transmission of violence.

She then reviewed UNFPA's efforts to incorporate GBV programs into health care which include identification of entry points; RH services to integrate treatment of GBV into their services; commissioning of the programme guide "A Practical Approach to Gender-based Violence"; integration of measures on GBV into health facilities; research, capacity building and support for multisectoral response; and regional assessment on health sector response to violence. Through their efforts they have learned the following key lessons: the need to integrate GBV programs; need for a multidisciplinary approach to health care; importance of the role of health sector in secondary and tertiary prevention of GBV; and the need for an intervention strategy targeting male perpetrators.

She also reviewed the essential components of a systems approach to eliminating VAW. The following are necessary to ensure an effective program: an institutional commitment to GBV as a public health and human rights issue; sexual harassment legislation; policies and infrastructure that protect patient privacy and confidentiality; awareness of local GBV laws; ongoing training and support for staff; referral networks to help survivors access legal services, counseling, shelters, etc.; protocols for the care of survivors; and emergency supplies such as STI prophylaxis and emergency contraception.

Ms. Bhatia then reviewed the UNFPA regional assessment of health sector response to GBV. Highlighting the need for scaled up policy level commitment to GBV as a public health problem; need for multisectoral approach; challenges facing implementation; and need for both formal and informal referral systems. Another key finding of the assessment was a gap in documentation and data management. The six primary areas to be addressed were monitoring and evaluation of interventions; institutionalization of data on GBV burden; institutionalization of capacity building; prevention strategies; multisectoral collaboration and referrals; and formalization of care through protocols.

Priority areas that were identified for women's health and reduced risk of violence were strengthening prevention of and response to GBV; expanding access to more equitable and inclusive reproductive health information and services; improving equitable access to pre-natal, safe delivery and post natal care for pregnant women; promoting and facilitating the integration of safe motherhood, FP and HIV

prevention services; restoring family planning as a major component in national development agendas; and improving data collection, analysis and research.

Moving forward, responses are needed in terms of leadership, policies, capacity building, institutionalization, and documentation. Political will and leadership should work to improve investment in systemic response to violence. Policies and protocols require urgent review and amendment. Capacity building is needed on gender equality and consequences of GBV. Institutional responses should be strengthened by mainstreaming GBV in health systems through scaled up advocacy and policy support and establishment of multisectoral collaboration. And support is needed for improved documentation and data management systems to strengthen the evidence base.

In terms of prevention the way forward should include empowerment of women, security measures, investment, prevention, accountability, policy and gender equality. Supporting the legal and economic empowerment of women means supporting equitable property rights and income and engaging men to support joint decision-making related to household income. Public security measures for violence reduction should include control of alcohol sales, gun control, and making public spaces, including schools and the workplace, safe and violence-free for women and girls. Priority investment is also needed in integration of gender and GBV in curriculums of key services; health, education, justice and law enforcement. Primary prevention needs to reach men and boys, and women and girls with evidence-based educational approaches. Additionally, men must be held accountable for their use of violence, including incarceration and court-mandated or voluntary participation in rehabilitation groups. Policies should also engage men in achieving overall gender equality, including policies related to paternity and care giving, HIV and SRH. Finally, gender equality and consequences of GBV should be included in the agenda for parliamentarians' discourse and capacity development.

### **Discussion**

The Honorable MP from China commented that there were four key steps that needed to be taken to prevent domestic violence. First, we must nurture good civilization. Second, we must improve the economic status of women. Third, local level government should be utilized more including mediation centers to diffuse family crises after the initial occurrence of violence. Fourth, law makers must intensify efforts to punish perpetrators. **The Honorable Ms. Helen Kroger**, MP Australia then asked if each country has undertaken an economic study of the cost of VAW particularly in regard to health care. She commented that the ability to statistically assess the costs related to VAW will be of help in passing legislation, implementing policies, and obtaining funding for activities to combat VAW.

## **SESSION SEVEN: OPEN FORUM OF PARLIAMENTARIAN'S ACTIONS AND ADVOCACY FOR REDUCING DISCRIMINATION AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

**Mr. Samidjo Samidjo**, National Programme Officer on Advocacy, UNFPA chaired session seven which was an open forum on ways to reduce discrimination and VAW.

**Honorable Mr. Praveen Rashtrapal**, MP India spoke on how discrimination of women can stop. He took a historic approach to the topic citing the history of Indian politicians who fought for equal rights and the structure of the Indian political system. He gave examples of India's success stories in promoting women's rights and outstanding women who have served in Indian politics. He noted that discrimination still exists and that as parliamentarians there was a need to channel action to ERAW. He noted that laws alone will not win the battle; there must also be channels for action.

**The Honorable Muhammad Oheo Sinapoy**, MP Indonesia, spoke extemporaneously referring his colleagues to copies of his presentation and speech which had been distributed for details about the situation in Indonesia. He wanted to discuss two aspects; the first being parliamentary activities and the second being our standing on the issue of VAW. He outlined what can be done from the parliamentary point of view citing the adoption of CEDAW and the rapid passage of trafficking laws which occurred in a period of six months. These and other laws were passed in order to address the mindset of some of those in our society who do not understand about this kind of change. He raised questions about addressing political peers on how to enlarge parliamentarians' authority in implementing laws addressing VAW. One of the main challenges with passing these kinds of laws is the level of caring and understanding of the local government. They may not feel the issues are important or they may not understand the intent of the national lawmakers in passing such laws. He proposed that one solution may be to give local governments more power by passing regulations empowering them to take necessary action within the local region. Secondly he urged all parliamentarians to use their power to push the issue of VAW, implement policies, and show the government that these are our concerns regarding women. He called on parliamentarians to use their power to push for greater budget allocations for programs addressing VAW issues. He encouraged parliamentarians to talk to their national peers about these issues like VAW so that within the short and medium term VAW can be significantly reduced.

**The Honorable Ms. Carmelita Moniz**, MP Timor-Leste, presented the current situation in Timor-Leste. Equality of women and men is mandated by Article 17 of the Constitution and the country has ratified the CEDAW convention. Studies on GBV in Timor-Leste indicate that domestic violence is the most prevalent type of VAW. In July 2010 a law against domestic violence was approved. It is important to note that collaboration between the government and NGOs to support victims and protect against VAW was taking place prior to the law's approval. The domestic violence law that was passed is broadly defined to include acts within the family with or without cohabitation. It also covers couples living together but who are not married. In addition, it covers not only damages and suffering caused by physical, sexual, psychological and economic violence. Through the law the State is obligated to advocate at all areas and levels of government including central, districts, sucos, and schools. The law offers protection to victims through State institutions including the police, Ministry of Social Solidarity, Public Defender, shelters, healthcare centers, and the judiciary; the creation of a network of those institutions; and the establishment of one stop crisis centers. The law stipulates that cases must be acted upon within 5 days of being reported including legal assistance and livelihood support to the

victim. In addition to sanctions including fines, compensation to victims, community work, and prison time, perpetrators may receive counseling and education. Judges may also order perpetrators to leave the home and stay away from victims and children during the investigation period.

Additional government efforts to combat VAW include working with UNFPA on Socializing the Law Against Domestic Violence which involves training officials, police, judiciary, prosecutors and suco chiefs, establishing gender focal points, and creating working groups for strategic referral network and referral support services. The government is also working with other CSOs, NGOs, and UN agencies to establish social service directorate child protection officers; provide vital services to victims; develop a public information campaign; create a vulnerable persons unit within the police department; and advocate for the issue at all levels.

Looking forward the government intends to continue national awareness raising campaigns, civic education, strengthen the capacity of community leaders, create a unified national database on VAW, improve police reporting and response, and continue collaboration with CSOs and NGOs. Recently, a special bill was prepared to address the rights of victims of war and slaves which will be on the parliamentary agenda in early 2011. Also up for debate next year are land and property bills which will address the equal rights of men and women in relation to these economic rights.

**The Honorable Ms. Ho Naun**, MP Cambodia, presented the current situation in Cambodia. The Constitution of Cambodia guarantees human rights and includes specific provisions aimed to protect women and children from violence. Following are a few examples of articles contained within the constitution: Article 31 declares men and women equal rights to the law, Article 32 ensures the right to live with freedom and security, Article 38 guarantees protection from physical and mental abuses, Article 45 prevents discrimination of women based on gender, and Article 72 guarantees people health.

She continued outlining the three levels at which intervention is required to prevent VAW. These include a legal framework, national policies and mechanisms to protect and eliminate VAW, and priority measures to prevent violence. In terms of a legal framework Cambodia is a signatory of CEDAW and has adopted many laws including the 2005 Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence and Protection of Victims; 2005 Protocol on Prevention, Suppression and Punishment of Human Trafficking; 2008 Law on Suppression of Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation; and the 2009 Law on Approval of Optional Protocol on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women.

She also gave some examples of policies and mechanisms that have been established to protect and eliminate violence. These include action programs on gender equality as part of the Ministry of Women's five year plan; action plan on prevention of violence against women; and migration policy of the Ministry of Labor. The government has also established various committees to address VAW issues including the Cambodia National Council for Women which is chaired by The Royal Majesty of Cambodia Norodom Muni Neath Sihanu and Vice-Chair the Prime Minister, Samdech Akke Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen.

Prevention action plans include school and regionally disseminated programs on VAW, other media campaigns, establishment of social and economic rehabilitation, training of professional health and social workers, counseling and legal services to victims, reintegration of trafficking victims into the community, skills training programs for former sex workers, and other collaborative programs with various NGOs.

She concluded by making recommendations of the essential roles that can be undertaken by parliamentarians. These included treating domestic violence as a criminal act and encouraging further reforms toward uniform legislation on VAW; ensuring laws on human trafficking; promoting media campaigns for community education on all forms of VAW; advocate and support functional support and referral systems for victims of VAW; collaborate with CSOs and NGOs on programs combating VAW; support the training of counselors for victims of violence; and work with other Ministries to introduce gender issues, women's rights and VAW stigmatization education.

**The Honorable Senator Mrs. Helen Kroger**, MP Australia, presented the current situation in Australia noting that the country has a zero tolerance policy on VAW. This is not to imply that the country has eliminated VAW, it is in fact still an issue. The country faces unique challenges being a nation of migrants; it was only about 30 years ago that equal opportunity laws were introduced which prohibited discrimination of any kind. Work continues on providing equal opportunity and gender equity. For example, in recent national elections both major parties presented plans for paid parental leave which would contribute to women's empowerment and economic independence. She noted that one of the biggest challenges in Australia lies with their indigenous communities which have rates of unemployment and very low economic status. The cycle of poverty, unemployment, alcohol fueled abuse, and poor health standards compared to the Australian average was the trigger for a package of legislation to address the situation. The package of changes included legislation on welfare provision, law enforcement, land tenure and other measures and was intended to address the cycle of poverty and accompanying social ills in the community that was driving VAW. The intervention was the first of its kind in Australia and faced resistance from those who claimed it infringed on the human rights of the indigenous people. However, many leaders in the indigenous community were strong supporters of the package. As a large portion of the community relied on social welfare plans to support their families the proposed legislation addressed the distribution of these payments. Traditionally the payments were made to the male head of household who proceeded to spend the money on alcohol, gambling and other vices and then go home and abuse the women and children. The legislation effectively quarantined some of the money so it would go to the women in the households who could then spend it on food, education, healthcare and other necessities. Giving women in the household economic power allowed them the opportunity to break the cycle of poverty and abuse. Another provision of the intervention included increased law enforcement to address the alcohol fueled violence of the men. She also mentioned a high profile national campaign on eliminating VAW which was effective at raising awareness and discussion on the issue. She concluded by pointing out that VAW is a serious issue which requires a lot of money and resources to address it and that the parliamentarians need to convince their governments that this is a priority issue. She suggested that the parliamentarians need to "make sure the argument and discussion is not only about human rights and not only about ensuring that we value and appreciate women in our communities...but that we argue that it is a vital economic issue." She argued that "if we can statistically establish what it is costing all of our countries to deal with all the problems we have been raising and discussing here then we will be able to convince the governments that it is in their political interest to advance this as a mainstream issue" because at least in Australia VAW gets lost behind attention paid to education, health, employment, and affordable housing issues. As parliamentarians "we have to make sure that VAW and all the insidious things that are a consequence of it become a mainstream issue for us all because it is only when we achieve that, that we will succeed in addressing this in the way in which it is necessary and that is to eradicate it totally off this earth".

There were no questions or comments following these presentations.



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**Regional Ministers' and Parliamentarians' Conference on  
Review of Parliamentarians' Actions and Legislations on  
the Elimination of Violence Against Women  
21-22 October 2010  
Yogyakarta, Indonesia  
Statements of Commitment**

We the Parliamentarians' and Ministers' from nineteen countries of Asia and the Pacific, gathered in Yogyakarta, Indonesia on 21-22 October 2010 to participate in the Regional Ministers' and Parliamentarians' Conference on Review of Parliamentarians' Actions and Legislations on the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

The following commitments are made in recognition that our main vehicle in the crusade to eliminate violence against women is the enactment of laws to protect women's rights and promote gender equity. We recognize that the intent of law as envisioned by the lawmakers and the implementation of the laws may differ significantly, thus there is a need for constant exercise of oversight functions to monitor and evaluate the implementation and enforcement of laws. We further recognize that as duly elected and popularly mandated leaders, we must take the lead outside the confines of parliament to relentlessly pursue the campaign to eliminate violence against women.

We hereby pledge to pursue the following:

**Australia**

- Commit ourselves to a whole of government approach to promoting and advancing the economic imperative of eliminating violence against women.

**Bangladesh**

- Identify the women who are being subjected to domestic violence and arrange shelter and rehabilitation for them.
- Visit door to door and create awareness of men and women on the elimination of violence against women as well as the rights of women.

- Undertake systematic and continuous efforts and institutional arrangement to combat violence against women. Truly establish human rights through the revision of existing laws and formulate new laws relating to VAW.
- Monitor the execution and implementation of law relating to VAW.
- Emphasize and focus on legislations to stop violence against sex workers.

#### **Cambodia**

- Work to have domestic violence considered a criminal act and encourage further reforms towards uniform legislations in the area of violence against women.
- Ensure the enforcement of law on Human Trafficking and public awareness on EVAW legislations through community education and media campaigns.
- Advocate for and support the establishment of functional support/referral systems and financial aid for victims of VAW.
- Publicly challenge the culture of impunity, silence and sexual double standard.
- Collaborate with MoWA and NGOs to promote the elimination of violence against women.

#### **India**

- Promote the following message and actively work in constituencies to disseminate these ideas:
  1. The decision to have a child or abort a child should be left to women.
  2. All religions, castes, races, communities, civic societies and the National Government should stop discrimination of all forms.
  3. Adequate representation should be given to women at all levels of Governance.
- Support the efforts of the UN and this Forum to stop discrimination and violence against women.

#### **Indonesia**

- Urge the Indonesian Government to implement the laws of Anti-Trafficking (2007) and the Elimination of Domestic Violence (2004) in terms of a comprehensive system.
- Review many local regulations which are gender biased particularly against women.
- Propose the House of Representatives and the government revise the Marriage Law (1974) in terms of eliminating Violence against women.
- Strengthen intersectoral support of implementation of the programme to stop violence against women from the central level to the grassroots level.
- Commit to support the Elimination of Violence against Women not only in domestic areas but also in the Public sector.
- Support confirmation of the implementation of policies through Parliamentarians not only at the National level but also in the provinces and local areas.
- Develop a control mechanism, and monitoring and evaluation policies in every sector.

#### **Iran**



- Focus on healthy family behavior by advocacy through media and educators.
- Fair legislation, justice system and allocation of enough budget is essential.

#### **Laos PDR**

- Organize a national conference on ERAW.
- Draft legislation on ERAW.

#### **New Zealand**

- Work to ensure that Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) branches' main focus is to support the election of women to the parliament of Pacific Island nations to help with the legislative change to eliminate violence against women in the Pacific.
- Encourage campaigns on elimination of violence against women to be articulated and communicated at all international conferences wherever possible.

#### **Philippines**

- Implement and monitor pro-women laws and social policies with the active participation of NGOs, civil society and enforcement agencies.
- Work for the transformation of the longstanding beliefs and practices of both institutions and individuals through VAW prevention seminars and gender sensitization workshops for men.
- Work for active involvement of men and boys in advocacy campaigns to curb and stamp out VAW starting with their own relationships and within their own communities and schools.
- Start early in the education of boys towards respecting women's rights since boys are potential perpetrators of VAW.
- Conduct studies on the economic cost of gender based violence.
- Review the labor export policy of the Government that puts women workers at risk and prone to VAW.
- Work toward legislation of the following:
  - a. National reproductive health laws with special provisions on gender equality and maternal health
  - b. Anti-corporal punishment laws
- Hold the state accountable for violence perpetrated on women by its law enforcement and military organization.

#### **Samoa**

- Commit to set up a men's group with the assistance of the ministries and NGOs concerned. This will consist of traditional leaders who will become role models in village communities advocating messages to eliminate violence against women and children.
- Have men's groups working to eliminate VAW be recognized and endorsed by Parliament.

#### **Sri Lanka**

- Increase media campaigns to reduce violence against women and arrange training for police, magistrates and prosecuting officers.
- Increase free legal aid facilities to women affected by violence.

- Promote the provision of the Domestic Violence Act, and also the Penal Code provisions on sexual harassment and incest.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of current law on sexual harassment and take appropriate measures to strengthen the law.
- Support research and training on EVAW.
- Collaborate with concerned agencies to help them develop complaint investigation procedures and awareness programs in relation to sexual harassment.

#### **Vietnam**

- Establish a legal framework on domestic violence preventions and control.
- Parliamentary organizations will monitor the implementation of law on domestic violence prevention and control.
- Improve the effectiveness of the National Committee of the advancement of women's unions.
- Increase the role of Vietnam's Women's Union at all levels to focus on domestic violence prevention and control programmes.
- Promote the elimination of violence against women through education and media.
- Involve family members in prevention and control of domestic violence.

#### **Vanuatu**

- Empower and help rural leaders such as village chiefs, church leaders and women's groups to eliminate violence against women.
- Allocate funds to organize meetings to help eliminate violence against women.
- Support bills to eliminate violence against women.
- Support women candidates in general, provincial and municipal elections.

#### **Note:**

These statements of commitment were made by parliamentarians who attended this conference as what they plan to do on their return. This will be followed by concerned staff at AFPPD to remind them of their pledge (commitment).

# ANNEXES



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## Programme Agenda

### Regional Ministers' and Parliamentarians' Conference on

### "Review of Parliamentarians' Actions and Legislations on the Elimination of Violence against Women"

21-22 October 2010, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

<b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2010</b>		Registration of Participants at AFPPD's Secretariat Room No. 234, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor (Lobby Level) Hyatt Regency Yogyakarta Time: 17.30-19.30 Hrs.
		Day 1- Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> October, 2010 Venue: Semeru Meeting Room Ground Floor, Hyatt Regency Yogyakarta
<b>09.00-09.30</b>		<b>Registration (In Front of the Meeting Venue)</b>
<b>9.30-10.30</b>	<b>Opening Ceremony</b> <b>Chair:</b> Hon. Dr. Ahmad Nizar Shihab, MP Chair of IFPPD, Indonesia  <b>Welcome Address</b> - <b>Hon. Ir. Tri Harjun Ismaji, M.Sc.</b> Yogyakarta's Regional Secretary on behalf of H.E. Sri Sultan Hamengkubuwono X, Governor of Yogyakarta, Indonesia  - <b>Hon. Sen. Dr. Pinit Kullavanijaya,</b> AFPPD Secretary-General  - <b>Mr. Jose Ferraris,</b> UNFPA Representative, Indonesia  <b>Remarks</b> - <b>Ms. Gillian Brown,</b> Principal Gender Adviser, AusAID  <b>Opening Address</b> - <b>H.E. Dr. H. Marzuki Alie, SE, MM</b> Speaker of the House of Representatives, Parliament of Indonesia	

<b>10.30-11.00</b>	<b>Group Photo/ Coffee Break</b>
<b>11.00-12.30</b>	<p><b>Session One: Situational Analysis on Violence against Women in Asia-Pacific: A Recap of Domestic &amp; Intimate Partner and other Forms of Violence</b></p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Hon. Datuk Haji Roslan Awang Chik, MP, Malaysia</p> <p><b>Speakers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Dr. Philippe Doney,</li> <li>Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Thailand</li> <li>- Dra. Elli Nur Hayati ,</li> <li>Board member of Rifka Annisa Women’s Crisis Centre, Yogyakarta and Lecturer at Ahmad Dahlan University, Yogyakarta, Indonesia</li> <li>- Followed by Discussion</li> </ul>
<b>12.30-13.30</b>	<b>Lunch at Kemangi Bistro Restaurant, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Hyatt Regency Yogyakarta</b>
<b>13.30-15.00</b>	<p><b>Session Two: Review of Constitutional and Legislative Responses to Violence against Women: Needs and Priorities</b></p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Hon. Ms. Katrina Shanks, MP, New Zealand</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Ms. Amarsanaa Darisuren,</li> <li>Human Rights Specialist, UNIFEM, East and Southeast Asia Regional Office</li> <li>-Hon. Minister Tissa Karalliyadda,</li> <li>Ministry of Child Development and Women’s Affairs, Sri Lanka and</li> <li><i>Hon. Ms. Sriyani Wijewickrama, MP, Sri Lanka</i></li> <li>-Dr. Sugiri Syarief,</li> <li>Chairperson of National Family Planning Coordination Board (BKKBN)</li> <li>-Followed by Discussion</li> </ul>
<b>15.00-15.30</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>15.30-17.00</b>	<p><b>Session Three: Panel Discussion on Media and its Responsibilities in Communicating Situation of Violence against Women</b></p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Hon. Ms. Ledia Amalia Hanifah, MP, Indonesia</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms. Mardiyah Chamim,</li> <li>Tempo News Magazine, Indonesia</li> <li>- Mr. Surasak Glahan,</li> <li>Bangkok Post, Thailand</li> <li>-Followed by Discussion</li> </ul>
<b>17.00-18.00</b>	<b>Session Five: Retrospective on Intersection of Violence against Women with Migration,</b>

	<b>Human Trafficking and HIV/AIDS</b> *This session has been moved from Day 2*  <b>Chair:</b> Hon. Dr. Somphou Douangsavanh, MP, Lao PDR  <b>Speakers:</b> -Dr. Jane Wilson, Regional Adviser on Gender and Human Rights, UNAIDS -Hon. Rep. Susan A. Yap, Member of the House of Representatives, Philippines -Followed by Discussion
19.00	<b>Reception Dinner &amp; Cultural Show at the Pool Side</b> <b>(Outside Kemangi Bistro Restaurant, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Hyatt Regency Yogyakarta)</b>

<b>Day 2 - Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2010</b> <b>Venue: Semeru Meeting Room</b> <b>Ground Floor, Hyatt Regency Yogyakarta</b>	
09.30-10.00	<b>Chair and Welcome</b> <b>-Hon. Ahmad Nizar Shihab, MP</b> Chair of IFPPD, Indonesia  <b>Keynote Address</b> <b>-H.E. Linda Amalia Sari, S.IP</b> Minister for Women Empowerment and Child Protection, Government of Indonesia
10.00-11.00	<b>Session Four: Men in Action on Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls</b>  <b>Chair:</b> Hon. Dr. Surya Chandra Surapaty, MP, Indonesia  <b>Speakers:</b> -Mr. James Lang, Programme Coordinator, Partners for Prevention: Working with Boys and Men to Prevent Gender-based Violence, UNDP, UNFPA, UNIFEM & UNV Regional Programme for Asia and the Pacific - Hon. Mr. Abdul Matin Khasru, MP, Bangladesh Member of AFPPD Standing Committee of Male Parliamentarians on Prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls - Hon. Congressman Edcel C. Lagman, Member of the House of Representatives, Philippines - Followed by Discussion
11.00-11.15	<b>Coffee Break in front of the conference room</b>
11.15-12.15	<b>Session Six: Women's Health and Violence against Women</b>  <b>Chair:</b> Hon. Sen. Dr. Pinit Kullavanijaya, Thailand  <b>Speakers:</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hon. Ms. Fang Xin, MP, National People's Congress of China,</li> <li>- Ms. Kiran Bhatia, (Recorded Presentation) Technical Adviser on Gender, UNFPA Asia- Pacific Regional Office</li> <li>- Hon. Dr. Sumarjati Arjoso, MP, Indonesia</li> <li>- Hon. Mrs. Nguyen Hong Dien, MP, Vietnam</li> <li>-Followed by Discussion</li> </ul>
<b>12.15-13.15</b>	<b>Lunch at Kemangi Bistro Restaurant, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Hyatt Regency Yogyakarta</b>
<b>13.15-14.15</b>	<p><b>Session Seven: Open Forum of Parliamentarians' Actions and Advocacy for Reducing Discrimination and Violence against Women</b></p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Mr. Samidjo Samidjo, National Programme Officer on Advocacy, UNFPA- Indonesia</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Hon. Mr. Praveen Rashtrapal, MP, India</li> <li>-Hon. Muhammad Oheo Sinapoy, MP, Indonesia</li> <li>-Hon. Ms. Carmelita Moniz, MP, Timor Leste</li> <li>-Hon. Ms. Ho Naun, MP, Cambodia</li> <li>-Hon. Sen. Helen Kroger, Australia</li> <li>-Followed by Discussion</li> </ul>
<b>14.15-15.00</b>	<p><b>Presentation and Discussion of Parliamentarians' Commitment</b></p> <p>-Parliamentarians are requested to write down their commitment to the Elimination of Violence against Women</p>
<b>15.00</b>	<p><b>Prambanan Archaeological Exotic Tour</b></p> <p>Prambanan Temple is from the 9th Century and is the largest Hindu shrines compound in Indonesia. The visit also includes Sewu Temple, the second biggest Buddhist temple, Plaosan, Kalasan and Sari Temple</p>

## PARTICIPANT LIST

### Regional Ministers' and Parliamentarians' Conference on "Review of Parliamentarians' Actions and Legislations on Elimination of Violence Against Women (EVAW)"

October 21-22, 2010, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

NAMES	POSITION
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	
1. Hon. Mr. John Hyde	Shadow Minister for Arts and Culture, Heritage, Multicultural Interests and Citizenship
2. Hon. Ms. Helen Kroger	Senator of Australia
3. Ms. Joanna Lindner	Parliamentary, Advocacy and Communications Officer of Australian Reproductive Health Alliance
<b>BANGLADESH</b>	
4. Hon. Mr. Abdul Matin Khasru	Member of Parliament
5. Hon. Mrs. Begum Tahura Ali	Member of Parliament
6. Hon. Mrs. Tarana Halim	Member of Parliament
7. Hon. Mr. Shah Jikrul Ahmed	Member of Parliament
8. Mrs. Salima Sobhan Khasru	Wife of Hon. Mr. Abdul Matin Khasru
9. Engr. Mohammad Ali	Husband of Hon. Mrs. Begum Tahura Ali
<b>CAMBODIA</b>	
10. Hon. Ms. Ho Naun	Chairwoman of the Commission on Public Health, Social Works, Veteran, Youth Rehabilitation, Labor, Vocational Training and Women's Affairs
11. Hon. Ms. Chuonh Sochhay	Member of the Commission on Public Health, Social Works, Veteran, Youth Rehabilitation, Labor, Vocational Training and Women's Affairs
12. Mr. Ngy Vichet	Assistant
<b>CHINA</b>	
13. Hon. Ms. Fang Xin	Member of the Standing Committee of National People's Congress, Member of the Education, Science, Culture and Public Health Committee of NPC
14. Hon. Ms. Ma Li	Member of the Education, Science, Culture and Public Health Committee of the NPC



<b>15. Hon. Mr. Zhang Wu</b>	Vice Counsel of the People, Health and Sports Office of the Education, Science, Culture and Public Health Committee of NPC
<b>16. Hon. Ms. Wang Lina</b>	Vice Counsel of the Office of the Education, Science, Culture and Public Health Committee of NPC
<b>17. Hon. Mr. Zhang Chuangsheng</b>	Director of the Office of the Education, Science, Culture and Public Health Committee of NPC
<b>INDIA</b>	
<b>18. Hon. Mr. Praveen Rashtarbal</b>	Member of Parliament
<b>19. Hon. Dr. Vijay Laxmi Sadho</b>	Member of Parliament
<b>20. Mr. Manmohan Sharma</b>	Executive Director, IAPPD
<b>INDONESIA</b>	
<b>21. Hon. Dr. Ahmad Nizar Shihab, Sp.An</b>	Chairman, IFPPD
<b>22. Hon. Ir. Hj. A.P.A. Timo Pangerang</b>	Member of Parliament
<b>23. Hon. Mr. Muhammad Oheo Sinapoy, SE, MBA</b>	Member of Parliament
<b>24. Hon. Dr. Surya Chandra Surapaty MPH, Ph.D</b>	Member of Parliament
<b>25. Hon. Dr. Sumarjati Arjoso SKM</b>	Member of Parliament
<b>26. Hon. Mrs. Hj. Hadiah Suaka</b>	Member of Parliament of West Kalimantan Province
<b>27. Mrs. Ledia Amalia Hanifah</b>	Commission 9 DPR RI
<b>28. Mr. Drs. H. Imam Suroso, MM.</b>	Commission 9 DPR RI
<b>29. Hon. Mrs. Darmayanti Cubis</b>	Senator
<b>30. Mrs. Tuti Lukman Soebisno</b>	Former MP and Former AFPPD Treasurer
<b>31. Mrs. Latifah Iskander</b>	Former Member of Parliament
<b>32. Mr. Eddy Hosmi</b>	BKKBN
<b>IRAN</b>	
<b>33. Hon. Mrs. Tayebah Safaee</b>	Member of Parliament
<b>34. Hon. Mrs. FATEMEH ALIA</b>	Member of Parliament
<b>35. Mr. Ahmad Khas Ahmadi</b>	Secretary, IRPPDC
<b>LAOS</b>	
<b>36. Hon. Dr Somphou Douangsavanh</b>	Vice Chairman of the Social and Cultural Affairs Committee
<b>37. Hon. Ms. Chantoum Latmany</b>	Vice President of the Lao Women's Union
<b>38. Ms. Kaysone KEOMANYKHOT</b>	Deputy Director, LAPPD
<b>39. Hon. Mr. Douangdy Outhachack</b>	President, LAPPD
<b>40. Mr. Bounlert Lounedouangchanh</b>	Deputy Director General of Social and Cultural Affairs Department

<b>MALAYSIA</b>	
41. Hon. Datuk Haji ROSLAN Awang Chik	Senator
<b>NEW ZEALAND</b>	
42. Hon. Ms. Katrina Shanks	Member of Parliament
43. Hon. Ms. Suzanne Moroney	Member of Parliament
<b>PHILIPPINES</b>	
44. Hon. Rep. Edcel C. Lagman	Congressman
45. Hon. Cong. Angelo Palmones	Congressman
46. Hon. Cong. Rachel Marguerite B. del Mar	Congresswoman
47. Hon. Rep. Mrs. Susan A. Yap	Member of the House of Representatives
48. Hon. Antonio Tinio	Member of the House of Representatives
49. Mr. Ramon San Pascual	Executive Director, PLCPD
50. Atty. Nancy Rivas-Palmones	Wife of Cong. Angelo Palmones
<b>SRI LANKA</b>	
51. Hon. Mr. Tissa Karalliyadda	Minister of Child Development and Women's Affairs
52. Hon. Ms. Sriyani Wijewickrama	Member of Parliament
<b>THAILAND</b>	
53. Hon. Sen. Dr. Pinit Kullavanijaya	Senator
54. Hon. Sen. Ms. Achara Techaritpitak	Senator
55. Hon. Sen. Mr. Anan Ariyachaipanich	Senator
56. Hon. Sen. Mr. Songkram Chuenpibal	Senator
57. Hon. Sen. Mr. Pichet Soontornpipat	Senator
<b>TIMOR-LESTE</b>	
58. Hon. Ms. Carmelita Moniz	Member of Parliament
59. Ms. Lumena Freitas Exposto	Translator
<b>VIETNAM</b>	
60. Hon. Mme. Nguyen Hong Dien	Member of Parliament
61. Hon. Mr. Le Dung	Member of Parliament
62. Hon. Mme. Pham Quang Vinh	Representative of People Council of Phu Tho Province
63. Mr. Nguyen Duc Thu	Deputy Director of VAPPD

<b>PACIFIC ISLANDS</b>	
<b>SAMOA</b>	
64. Hon. Mr IOANE Lufi	Associate Minister for Women Community and Social Development
<b>VANUATU</b>	
65. Hon. Mr. James Wango	Member of Parliament
66. Hon. Kisito Teilemb	Member of Parliament
<b>RESOURCE PERSONS</b>	
67. Mr. Jose Ferraris	UNFPA Representative, Indonesia
68. Ms. Gillian Brown	Principal Gender Adviser, AusAID
69. Mr. Anggiet Y. Ariefianto	Gender Unit Manager, AusAID Indonesia
70. H.E. Sri Sultan Hamengkubuwono X	Governor of Yogyakarta
71. H.E. Dr. H. Marzuki Alie, SE. MM	Speaker of the House of Representatives, Parliament of Indonesia
72. Dr. Philippe Doney	Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand
73. Ms. Amarsanaa Darisure	Human Rights Specialist, UNIFEM East and Southeast Asia Regional Office
74. Dr. Sugiri Syarif	Chairperson, National Family Planning Coordination Board (BKKBN), Indonesia
75. Mr. James Lang	Programme Coordinator, Partners for Prevention: Working with Boys and Men to Prevent Gender-based Violence, UNDP, UNFPA, UNIFEM & UNV Regional Programme for Asia and the Pacific
76. Ms. Emma Fulu	Research Specialist, Partners for Prevention: Working with Boys and Men to Prevent Gender-based Violence, UNDP, UNFPA, UNIFEM & UNV Regional Programme for Asia and the Pacific
77. Dr. Jane Wilson	Regional Adviser on Gender and Human Rights, UNAIDS
78. Mr. Samidjo Samidjo	National Programme Officer on Advocacy, UNFPA - Indonesia
79. Mr. Surasak Glahan	Bangkok Post
80. Ms. Mardiyah Chamim	Tempo News Magazine
81. Dra. Elli Nurhayati	Former Director of REFKA ANISA Crisis Center, Yogyakarta
<b>AFPPD SECRETARIAT</b>	
82. Mr. Shiv Khare	Executive Director
83. Ms. Pariyaporn Sappapan	Administrative Associate
84. Ms. Sirisaranya Paknirrat	Programme Associate
85. Ms. Mary Antonette Abello	Programme Associate

86. Ms. Nancy Noma	Programme Associate
87. Ms. Khuantawan Rujeephisit	Account Associate
<b>IFPPD STAFF</b>	
88. Ms. Sri Utari Setyawati	Executive Director
89. Ms. Nelita Endon	Administrative Assistant
90. Milliana Endah Wardani	Finance and Administrative Assistant
91. Ms. Cut Idawani	National Project Coordinator of UNFPA at IFPPD
<b>VOLUNTEERS</b>	
92. Munifah Bachmid	
93. Zulianty Octaviana	
94. Dian Kumalasari	
95. Siska Marga Rene	