



REGIONAL OFFICE
FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC



ANNUAL REPORT
2014

— LOOKING TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE: PROGRESS FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC IN 2014

UN WOMEN REGIONAL OFFICE
FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

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Photo: Piyavit Thongsai-Ard

ACRONYMS

ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nations
BPfA	Beijing Platform for Action
CEDAW	Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CSO	civil society organization
EVAW	Elimination of Violence Against Women
FGE	Fund for Gender Equality
GRB	gender-responsive budget
GTG	Gender Theme Group
LGBTI	lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgendered and intersexed
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MPs	members of parliament
NAP	National Action Plan
NGO	non-governmental organization
SCR	Security Council Resolution
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SOP	Standard Operation Procedure
UN	United Nations
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNAIDS	The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes
UNRCO	United Nations Resident Coordinator Office
WPS	Women, Peace and Security

– UN WOMEN WORKED IN 2014 ACROSS **32 COUNTRIES REGIONALLY** IN COLLABORATION WITH GOVERNMENTS, CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS, THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND THE UN SYSTEM. **OUR WORK REACHED THE MOST MARGINALIZED WOMEN AND GIRLS** BY TACKLING STARK AND RISING INEQUALITIES AND MULTIPLE FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION.



ABOVE: Ambassador Rosario G. Manalo (seated second from left), the first Filipino to chair the CEDAW committee, chairs the session at the Asian and Pacific Conference on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Beijing+20 Review. Photo credit: UN Women/Pornvit Visitoran

Foreword by the Regional Director

GLOBAL GENDER EQUALITY POLICY MEETS LOCAL NEEDS



In 2014, UN Member States from across Asia and the Pacific came together with civil society organizations to review the implementation status of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) adopted in 1995 at the Fourth World Conference on Women. The Platform is a stirring call to action to end the historical subordination of women and girls. It recognizes that equal rights, opportunities and access to resources, as well as equal sharing of family responsibilities by women and men, are critical to human development. The Platform further affirms that peace and security are inextricably linked with the advancement of women and that women must be involved as leaders in decision-making at all levels for effective conflict resolution and the promotion of lasting peace.

National reports prepared for the 20-year review of the BPfA show that the region has made progress toward gender equality as laws and policies respond to the specific needs and interests of women and girls. Most countries have attained parity in secondary education and several have higher female-to-male ratios in attendance at this level. This trend is also evident at tertiary level for some countries, especially in East and Southeast Asia. Maternal and child mortality has decreased in most countries and life expectancy has increased. These reports show that addressing intersecting inequalities is a critical enabler of women's empowerment and that universal gender-responsive provision of education, health and social protection is key to redressing inequitable power relations between women and men as well as to creating a more equal and just society for all.

Despite this progress, however, unequal gender roles continue to constrain women's lives. Discriminatory and harmful practices such as son preference and child marriage persist and violence against women and girls is pervasive, with perpetrators subjected to little moral or legal sanction. Women's parliamentary representation in the Asia-Pacific region is just 18 per cent, only a marginal improvement from 1995 when they comprised 12 per cent. While gains in educational attainment have contributed to narrowing gender gaps in labour force participation, important gender differences in outcomes remain, with women most likely to be found in the most vulnerable employment in agriculture and the informal sectors and undertaking most of the unpaid work in the productive and reproductive spheres.

Notwithstanding these challenges, there are incredible opportunities in this diverse and dynamic region for leadership on gender equality and social justice. The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) worked in 2014 across 32 countries regionally in collaboration with governments, civil society organizations, the private sector and the UN system. Our work reached the most marginalized women and girls by tackling stark and rising inequalities and multiple forms of discrimination. We utilized a range of approaches: partnering with governments in their programmes to advance women's rights; supporting feminist and women's movements to exert influence in policy decisions; encouraging greater contributions of men as gender equality advocates; and advocating for increased investments to realize gender equality.

This Annual Report, the first to be produced by the UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, documents this work.

We know what needs to be done to accelerate progress, and we look ahead to 2015 when the Sustainable Development Goals will be adopted. In the words of Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women: "A sustainable world that is without poverty depends on gender equality."

Roberta Clarke

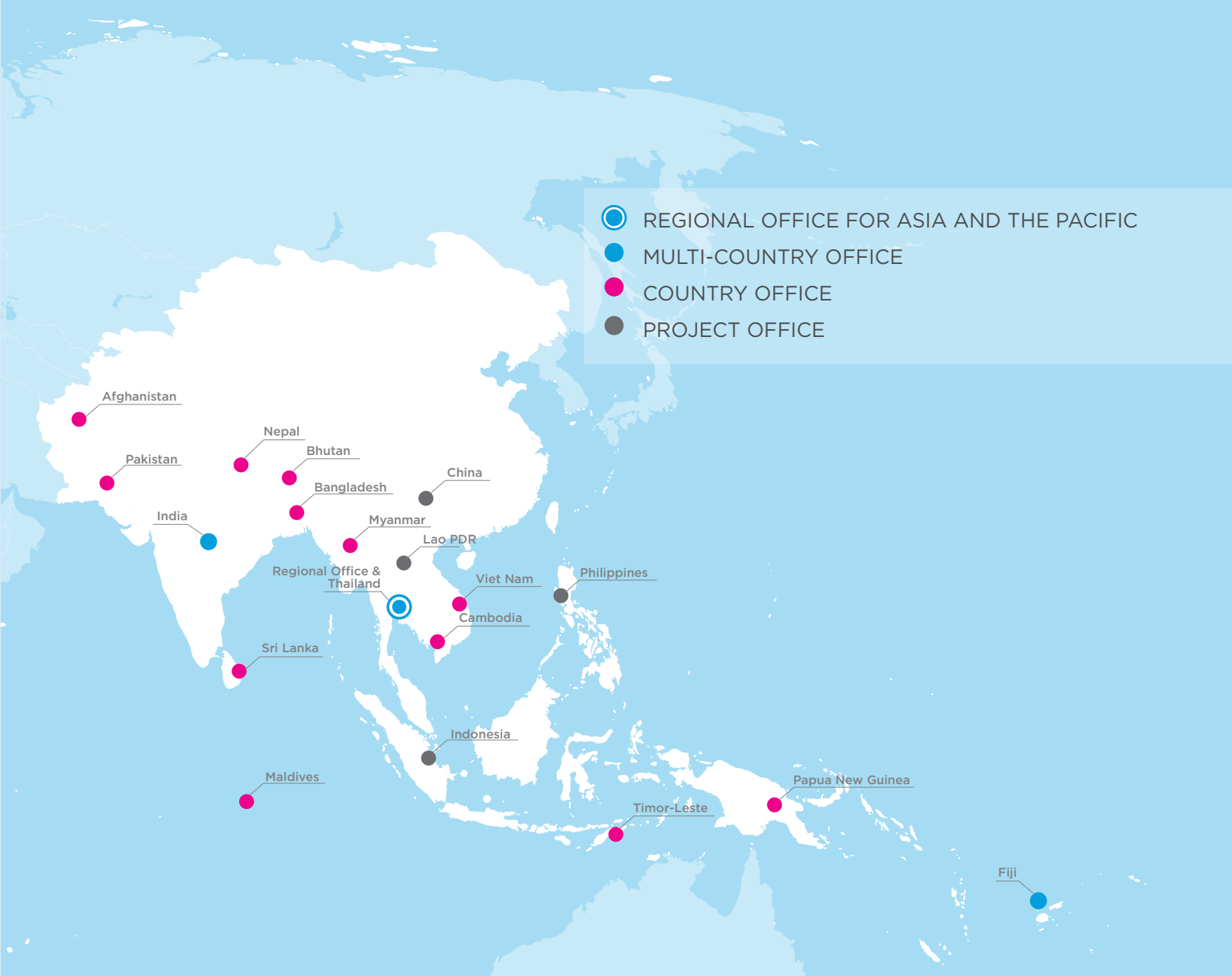
Regional Director

UN WOMEN'S MANDATE AND NETWORK IN THE REGION

UN Women's mandate is to assist UN Member States and the UN system to effectively progress toward gender equality and women's empowerment. It works in the Asia-Pacific region with Member States, civil society, partner UN agencies and other development partners to design and implement laws, policies, programmes and services in three ways:

- **NORMATIVE** – to support policy formation and the setting of global standards and norms.
- **OPERATIONAL** – to help Member States meet global standards by providing technical and financial support and to form effective partnerships with civil society.
- **COORDINATION** – to lead, coordinate and promote the accountability of the UN system to work towards gender equality and the empowerment of women.





- REGIONAL OFFICE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
- MULTI-COUNTRY OFFICE
- COUNTRY OFFICE
- PROJECT OFFICE

UN WOMEN IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

UN Women carries out its work in the Asia-Pacific region via a network that encompasses 32 countries including a regional office, two multi-country offices, nine country offices and five project offices:

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

MULTI-COUNTRY OFFICES

- India – Bhutan, Maldives and Sri Lanka.
- Fiji – Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

COUNTRY OFFICES

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam.

PROJECT OFFICES

China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Philippines.

UN Women also carries out programmes and activities in countries in the region where there is no office presence such as Malaysia, Mongolia and Singapore.

Normative Role

MAKING COMMITMENTS COUNT

— IN **2014**,
ACROSS THE
ASIA-PACIFIC
REGION, MEMBER
STATES PREPARED
NATIONAL **REPORTS**
DOCUMENTING
THE
ACHIEVEMENTS
AND **CHALLENGES**
IN THE BEIJING
PLATFORM
FOR ACTION
IMPLEMENTATION.

UN Women's work at the regional and national level is informed by the global commitments set out in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA), the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under negotiation.

2014 was a significant year for this work with the convergence of the 20-year review of the BPfA, the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, the 58th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), at which Member States reviewed the implementation of the MDGs, and planning for the SDGs in the post-2015 development agenda.

Across all of these processes, there was a consistent call for accelerated achievement of gender equality as a precondition for sustainable and inclusive development through increased financial investments, more political will and stronger partnerships.

TWENTY-YEAR REVIEW OF THE BEIJING DECLARATION AND PLATFORM FOR ACTION: BEIJING+20

Together with CEDAW, the BPfA outlines in a multi-sectoral and integrated manner the obligations of States to advance gender equality. Its significance as a roadmap for the achievement of gender equality and women's empowerment remains undiminished 20 years after its adoption by 189 Member States.

In 2014, across the Asia-Pacific region, Member States prepared national reports documenting the achievements and challenges in its implementation. UN Women contributed to these review processes including through providing technical advisory services, facilitating consultations and supporting the participation of civil society organizations (CSOs) in the preparatory meetings. For example, the Government of Viet Nam, supported by UN Women, undertook consultations in which more than 200 representatives from government and civil society contributed to the development of the national review report. Regional consultations of CSOs for the CSW 58th Session and Beijing+20 complemented national engagement.

This consultation, as one NGO representative commented: *“is a clear example of political commitment of the government to work with and cooperate with CSOs to promote gender equality, and we hope in the future there will be more and more regular dialogues between government and local CSOs so that we can exchange and learn from each other”*.

The Regional Beijing+20 review report, prepared by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in collaboration with UN Women, was drawn from the national reports, which also informed the deliberations at the “Asian and Pacific Conference on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment: Beijing +20 Review”, convened in Bangkok in November 2014 (see box).

The Conference led to the adoption of a Ministerial Declaration in which Member States noted that progress, though uneven, had been made to ensure equal access to

education and health – including sexual and reproductive health – as well as increased labour force participation. The pay equity gap is closing especially in East and Southeast Asia, with women entering the workforce in a diversity of occupations and with more access to management positions in both the public and private sectors. Still, the majority of those working do so in the informal economy unprotected by labour laws and without access to social protection. And everywhere, despite law and policy reform across a range of areas, discrimination persists and its negative effects are compounded by other equally defining inequalities. This stubborn persistence is evident from high levels of violence against women and low levels of women in political decision-making. Women’s worth and work remain undervalued even though progress is discernible.



ABOVE: Government officials and CSOs have a chance to discuss gender equality and women’s empowerment issues during the Regional Meeting of the Beijing+20 review in Bangkok, Thailand. Photo: UN Women/Pornvit Visitoran

ASIA-PACIFIC MEMBER STATES EXPAND THEIR COMMITMENT TO THE BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION

In November 2014, delegates from 44 Member States met in Bangkok, Thailand for the “Asian and Pacific Conference on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment: Beijing+20 Review”.

The resulting Ministerial Declaration affirms the necessity of accelerating the achievement of the strategic objectives of the BPfA for the full realization of human rights and equitable, inclusive and sustainable development and focuses on means of implementation. Key policy and action approaches are recommended in order to:

- 1) Strengthen public institutions (national women’s machineries, human rights commissions, parliaments, ombudsmen, etc.) to remedy the structural and underlying causes of gender inequality;
- 2) Enhance and diversify the sources of financing, including through domestic resource mobilization, official development assistance, taxation of financial transactions, private sector investment and the engagement of philanthropic foundations;
- 3) Create and strengthen accountability systems for full and effective implementation of the BPfA in national policy-making, planning and public expenditure, including through reporting

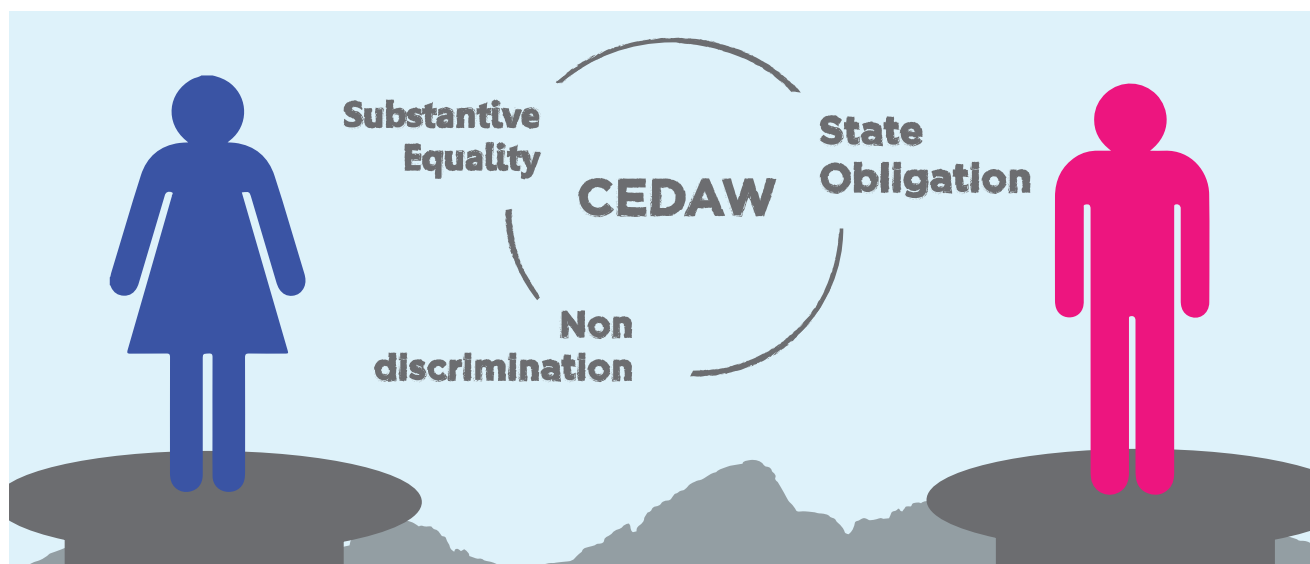
and information sharing between government institutions and with parliament, civil society and the public and private sectors in support of local and national coordination, transparency and accountability;

- 4) Forge stronger, inclusive and mutually accountable partnerships at the local, national and regional levels, engaging governments, parliaments, the UN system, international and regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, academia, educational and research institutions, the private sector, organizations of employers and workers and the media;
- 5) Facilitate regional cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation and the sharing of best practices.

The Declaration calls for adequate financing and strengthened support for UN Women’s coordination role within the UN system. It concludes with a call for gender equality and the empowerment and human rights of women and girls to be reflected as a stand-alone goal and to be integrated into the goals of any new development framework, using gender-sensitive targets and indicators.



ABOVE: Government officials from Cambodia take the floor during the Regional Meeting Beijing+20 in Bangkok, Thailand. Photo: UN Women/Pornvit Visitoran



ABOVE: *The three principles of CEDAW. Graphic: UN Women Asia-Pacific*

CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW)

STRONGER ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CEDAW

CEDAW is one of the most broadly endorsed human rights treaties in the world, with almost all countries in the region having ratified or acceded to the Convention.

Supporting States to meet their accountability obligations through CEDAW reporting and implementation mechanisms is one of UN Women's priority areas. Three countries in the Pacific completed their CEDAW reports in 2014, including the very first such reports for the Federated States of Micronesia and Solomon Islands. The Government of Myanmar completed its CEDAW report by creating a multi-ministry report-writing mechanism that included consultation with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to improve ownership and accuracy. India's government delegation worked together with CSO representatives to prepare for the CEDAW review, leading to several media stories covering the country's performance regarding implementation. Pakistan's Inter-Provincial Ministerial Group developed and adopted key indicators for reporting on the CEDAW Committee's Concluding Observations on its Fourth Periodic Report related to education and violence against women.

The CEDAW reporting processes were also enhanced through the advocacy and inputs of diverse groups of women. UN Women collaborated with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to support the preparation of shadow reports on gender and HIV/AIDS and on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) rights, recommendations from which were taken up by the CEDAW Committee in its consideration of the China report in 2014 for the first time. Following UN Women-supported

training on CEDAW in Indonesia, LGBTI and other women's human rights defenders committed to draft a CEDAW Shadow Report to highlight the rights of marginalized groups of women.

Local leaders in the Philippines and Thailand addressed the specific discriminations faced by women living with HIV/AIDS following a CEDAW training supported by UN Women for leaders from a network of women living with HIV. Priority concerns for this vulnerable group were included in the draft Shadow Report. In Viet Nam, women living with HIV from across the country shared experiences and improved their advocacy skills as a result of a UN Women and Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS) collaboration on the relevance of CEDAW to the HIV response. The chairwoman of a national network of women living with HIV stated: "After the training, we feel stronger, have a better understanding of each other and are more confident. We found it very important to claim our rights as women living with HIV in the CEDAW Shadow Report."

STRENGTHENING LEGAL AND JUDICIAL SYSTEMS FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS

UN Women's Regional Programme on Improving Women's Human Rights (CEDAW SEAP II) includes a focus on enhancing women's access to justice through awareness raising and capacity development of key stakeholders from the judiciary. Supported by the Government of Canada, CEDAW SEAP II recognizes the important role of the judiciary in applying the Convention in court decisions, thereby sending powerful messages to society that gender discrimination will not be tolerated. As a participant from a workshop for policy and lawmakers in Viet Nam on tools to address cases of violence against women using CEDAW principles noted: "The training workshop is very helpful for my daily work. It has become my conditioned response to review legislative documents from gender, CEDAW and other human rights conventions' perspectives."

Governments in the region took steps to review and reform laws from a CEDAW perspective. These include a law on violence against women and children in Lao PDR and on regulation of medicalization of female circumcision in Indonesia. Penal code reforms were also undertaken in the former country, and legislative reviews and reforms to laws covering domestic violence, migration, elections and decentralization were conducted in Cambodia and Timor-Leste.

The International Commission of Jurists and the Thailand Office of the Judiciary worked in partnership with UN Women to convene a regional judicial dialogue to enhance South-South knowledge exchange on “Good Practices in Promoting Women’s Human Rights Compliant Justice Delivery”. Over 86 judges came together to identify how the administration of justice can more effectively recognize and eliminate harmful gender stereotypes in judicial

practice. Drawing on the training, participating judges agreed that judicial education institutes in Southeast Asia should institutionalize CEDAW-related curricula to advance understanding of the Convention and eliminate bias and negative gender stereotyping.

In Viet Nam, a more equitable Marriage and Family Law was promulgated with the removal of the same sex marriage prohibition. In Thailand, UN Women helped shape the draft Gender Equality Law through sharing international experiences on similar CEDAW-compliant laws. Women’s organizations in Indonesia came together to advocate for the revision of discriminatory provisions in the 1974 Marriage Law, leveraging UN Women support and the Concluding Observations of the CEDAW Committee. The successful campaign to raise women’s minimum age at marriage from 16 to 18 captured media and public attention.

CEDAW WORKSHOPS YIELD RESULTS IN TIMOR-LESTE

In the midst of a room full of young women buzzing with enthusiasm and ideas, Yane stands up to be heard: “We must not just reach out to women but also to men, to parents, to children and to every member of our community if we want to deliver our message of gender equality.” Yane attended a training workshop in 2014 along with 29 other young women from across Timor-Leste to learn about the importance of critical thinking and evidence-based arguments when advocating for change. Organized by the International Women’s Rights Action Watch (IWRAP) Asia Pacific and the Aloia Foundation with support from the UN Women Fund for Gender Equality (FGE), the workshop built the capacity of the attendees to recognize gender discrimination and fight for change using international law as enshrined in CEDAW.

Juliana, another participant, remarked: “CEDAW makes it clear that women should have equal rights to men, so women have a right to be involved in politics. A woman can become the President...it’s not only men who should be having a say.” Another participant, Maria, noted how the workshop empowered young women to push for changes within their own communities and beyond: “It is important to understand CEDAW because it is a policy that acts as an umbrella, protecting all women across the globe. We not only need to be aware of the constitutional and penal codes in Timor that protect our rights, but we also need to understand that CEDAW is an international instrument that we can use to ensure that all women are protected from discrimination and that our laws respond to this right.”



ABOVE: Yane, Juliana and Maria (from left to right), together with 29 other participants, get trained on gender equality in the context of CEDAW. Photo: UN Women/Christina Yiannakis

Operational Role

ACHIEVING RESULTS IN PRIORITY AREAS

In 2014, UN Women provided programme support to countries in the region with a strong focus on five global priority areas: (1) leadership and political participation; (2) women's economic empowerment; (3) ending violence against women and girls; (4) humanitarian action, peace and security; and (5) governance and national planning.

LEADERSHIP AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

Regional gains in education and labour force participation have yet to effectively translate into gender equality in leadership. Though women have the right to stand for election, there has been a slow rise in advancing women's participation and leadership in political processes, and women continue to have a weaker voice than men in decision-making bodies in the region, holding just 18 per cent of the seats in national parliaments.

Women's empowerment and participation in all spheres of life is instrumental to good governance that meets the needs of women, men, girls and boys. Enhancing women's leadership and political participation in governance requires engagement at a number of levels. In 2014, UN Women's work throughout the region supported local initiatives to empower women to vote and run in elections. Programmes also targeted women and men leaders, building capacity for gender equality accountability in leadership. In addition, UN Women supported efforts to enable a greater voice for women in local level governance, focusing on decentralization processes.

— WOMEN'S **EMPOWERMENT**
AND **PARTICIPATION** IN ALL
SPHERES OF LIFE IS INSTRUMENTAL
TO **GOOD GOVERNANCE** THAT
MEETS THE NEEDS OF WOMEN,
MEN, GIRLS AND BOYS.

EMPOWERING WOMEN IN ELECTORAL PROCESSES

A significant number of women in Afghanistan exercised their right to vote in the 2014 presidential and provincial elections despite overt threats to their safety and well-being. Voter turnout was 36 per cent female in the first round of elections and 38 per cent female in the second round. UN Women Afghanistan, along with other development partners, advocated for greater women's participation in the elections, using television and radio broadcasts to raise women's awareness of their rights to choose and be chosen as political leaders. This approach included a special televised presidential debate on women's rights and candidates' agendas for greater women's empowerment.

The Election Commission of India's SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) campaign contributed to an increase in the overall percentage of women voting in five key states. From 2009 to 2014, the female voter turnout increased three percentage points in Andhra Pradesh, nine points in Karnataka, 13 points in Madhya Pradesh, 11 points in Odisha and 16 points in Rajasthan. UN Women supported the development and roll-out of the campaign through the provision of technical support to the Commission. The Election Commission of Pakistan developed the first-ever gender mainstreaming

strategy for enhancing women's participation in political processes with collaborative assistance provided by UN Women and UNDP. The Commission's second Strategic Plan (2014–2018) now includes a goal for promoting women's participation in electoral and political processes in addition to having gender as a cross-cutting theme across other goals.

The Pacific region has historically seen the lowest level of participation of women in parliament; however, following UN Women's multi-year investments to promote women's political participation, including through transformational and political leadership programmes, significant results were achieved in 2014. Eight women were elected to Parliament in Fiji's first democratic elections since the 2006 coup, one of whom was appointed as the first-ever female Speaker of the House in the Pacific. In Solomon Islands, Freda Tuki became only the second woman to be successful in a national election, while a record 18 women ran for office with the support of a political party. Samoa elected its third female parliamentarian and Tonga's national elections saw a historic 16 women run for Parliament, with several crediting UN Women and UNDP's capacity training programme for influencing their decision to run. Though none was elected, the female candidates garnered a larger share of the vote than in the past, which given the extremely small number of women in leadership positions is a step forward.



ABOVE: Duli Bai visits women in her community to encourage them to stand up and fight for their rights. Photo: UN Women/Gaganjit Singh

BUILDING LEADERSHIP SKILLS FOR GENDER EQUALITY

The ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) and its Women's Caucus partnered with UN Women to strengthen South-South networks and knowledge exchange among women parliamentarians. As a result, parliamentarians from Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Philippines, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam committed to advocating for the prioritization of legislation that facilitates women's political participation, including campaign financing and gender-responsive budgeting; to working together for gender-sensitive parliaments; and to encouraging the strengthening of mechanisms for electoral transparency.

The first "South Asia Regional Exchange Meeting of Women Parliamentarians, National Women Machineries and Commissions, and Election Management Bodies" was held in Nepal in 2014 for representatives from South Asia (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka). A Joint Resolution was adopted to take forward a regional agenda for women's political empowerment, including measures to end violence against women, which was identified as a principle hurdle to empowerment. Pakistan's Women Parliamentary Caucus and National Commission on the Status of Women together with Nepal's National Women Commission were instrumental in piloting this regional initiative, with technical and financial support from UNDP and UN Women Pakistan.

UN Women Timor-Leste expanded cooperation with the country's Parliament in 2014 to work more broadly with all Parliamentary Commissions, providing guidance in the gender analysis of laws and state budgets. The Parliament integrated gender equality in plenary discussions and established stronger coordination between Members of Parliament and the Parliamentary Women's Caucus, leading to broader awareness of state allocations and expenditures for gender equality.

Women's leadership in the private sector was the focus of a seminar on "Women's Leadership and Workplace Diversity: Benefits to Businesses", attended by more than 120 senior business leaders in China and hosted by the Cheong Kong Graduate School of Business in partnership with UN Women. The seminar sparked broad media coverage and lively discussions about the benefits to businesses that promote gender equality. As small-scale entrepreneurs, women working in the markets in several countries in the Pacific assumed leadership roles in market management as a result of the implementation of UN Women's Markets for Change Project. In 2014, women were elected to head seven of the eight new vendor associations established in eight large markets in Fiji and Solomon Islands. In Papua New Guinea, women claimed 50 per cent of the executive positions in the new market vendors associations established under a UN Women-supported Safe City Programme.



ABOVE: Parliamentarians from Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Philippines, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam commit to advocate for the prioritization of legislation that facilitates women's political participation. Photo: UN Women Asia-Pacific

RAISING WOMEN'S VOICES IN DECENTRALIZATION

In Timor-Leste, the Secretary of State for the Promotion of Equality and women's CSOs collaborated with UN Women in organizing "Women's Congresses" to mobilize women voters and potential candidates and increase women's representation in local decision-making bodies. As a result, District Women's Associations were established to ensure women's participation in decentralization. UN Women Timor-Leste further supported women's groups to adopt the "Declaration on Gender Equality and Women's Human Rights in Decentralization and Local Development", which outlines critical areas for joint Government-CSO action.

Demonstrating its commitment towards gender-responsive governance, India passed legislation in 2014 to institutionalize Women Village Councils in select states. UN Women contributed to the passing of this law through policy advocacy, technical assistance and capacity building. With the support of UN Women, women's groups from all regions of Thailand – including indigenous women from the hill tribes in the north, Muslim women from the south and women living with HIV/AIDS – made inputs into constitution drafting and policy reform to ensure substantive gender equality.

REALIZING WOMEN'S ECONOMIC RIGHTS

Women's participation rates in the labour force are variable across the region, ranging from a low of 16 per cent in Afghanistan to 82 per cent in Myanmar. Everywhere, women still earn less than men for similar work and remain clustered in vulnerable forms of employment. In several countries, the effects of climate change pose additional challenges to livelihood security. UN Women's work has focused on decent work and social protection for home-based workers, migrant workers and poor women in communities affected by climate change.

WEPS: PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY IN THE WORKPLACE

Subtitled *Equality Means Business*, the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) elaborate the gender dimensions of corporate responsibility.

- 1 Establish high-level corporate leadership for gender equality
- 2 Treat all women and men fairly at work – respect and support human rights and nondiscrimination
- 3 Ensure the health, safety and well-being of all women and men workers
- 4 Promote education, training and professional development for women
- 5 Implement enterprise development, supply chain and marketing practices that empower women
- 6 Promote equality through community initiatives and advocacy
- 7 Measure and publicly report on progress to achieve gender equality



ABOVE: A migrant worker is drawing patterns on porcelain bowls and plates. Women are the majority of skilled employees in Asia's pottery enterprises. Photo: UN Women/Pornvit Visitoran

EMPOWERING WOMEN TO IMPROVE LIVELIHOODS AND CLAIM THEIR RIGHTS

In Nepal, 150 women affected by conflict built skills and generated greater income for themselves and their families through intensive training on entrepreneurship development supported by UN Women. More than one third subsequently opened profitable businesses, including beauty parlours, small restaurants, poultry farms, tailoring shops and shops selling seasonal vegetables.

Over 20,000 informal women workers in Pakistan gained improved access to registration services, health care, food security and/or income-generating opportunities as a result of greater government recognition of the economic rights of home-based workers. UN Women's advocacy and technical support helped enable local government programmes to offer such workers new opportunities to become empowered to claim their rights. The provincial government of Punjab, for example, allocated US\$741,980 for skills enhancement to economically empower women home-based workers. Similarly, the Women's Development Department (WDD) on behalf of the government of Pakistan-administered Kashmir provided funding for a micro-credit loan scheme to support vulnerable and marginalized women home-based workers trained by the Department to establish small businesses.

In Viet Nam, the Viet Nam Women's Entrepreneurs Council (VWEC) of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry adopted the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs), which will affect up to 10,000 female employees across 30 enterprises. A representative from a large garment company said: "Following WEPs will help reduce our production cost because women are the majority of employees in our enterprise, so if we have good and gender-sensitive policy for them, they will stay longer with the organization."

STRENGTHENING PROTECTION FOR WOMEN MIGRANT WORKERS

By far the largest category of women moving for employment in Asia are those who do so as domestic workers, the majority of whom are women. These workers are vulnerable to extreme labour exploitation, restrictions on mobility, abuse and violence, including trafficking. Inadequate or non-existent regulation of labour conditions for domestic workers, coupled with the phenomenon of undocumented migration, the under-valuing of women's labour and women's desperate economic needs for themselves and their families, are aspects of women's specific gendered vulnerabilities to which national and regional policies must respond.

Across Asia, UN Women works with migrant worker organizations to facilitate engagement with national governmental and private sector actors. Regionally,



ABOVE: Puspa Kumari Gurung, running a home stay in Lwang Gaon, serves dinner to the guests - a traditional Nepali dish that includes a chicken curry, spinach, lentils, potatoes, rice and chutney. Photo: UN Women/Vidura Jang Bahadur

agreement was reached between migrant-sending and receiving countries in the Gulf at the “Third Ministerial Consultative Meeting of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue” on a series of initiatives to improve employment conditions for millions of foreign workers, including women domestic workers. With UN Women’s technical support and advocacy, Asian countries of origin including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam called for the introduction of a standard employment contract for decent work to help protect women domestic workers from exploitation and abuse when migrating from Asia to the Gulf States.

The Ministry of Labour and Employment and UN Women worked together to ensure Nepal’s draft National Action Plan (NAP) on Foreign Employment incorporated measures to protect the rights of women migrant workers in line with the CEDAW Committee’s Concluding Observations. The draft acknowledges the role of women migrant workers in reducing poverty and includes a provision on a registration scheme for undocumented workers to grant them equal rights to rescue, insurance, compensation and other services. In Bangladesh, UN Women together with other development partners used popular street dramas to reach around 15,000 potential migrants with information on their rights as workers. A female viewer in Dhaka noted: “The street drama is so informative and educational. There are so many things that I did not know before exposure to the drama. People should not give the money to any middlemen or any dishonest person. They must go to the Union Information Centre for getting help for the right way to go abroad.” The Government of Viet Nam launched a pre-departure gender-sensitive training curriculum for migrant workers, developed by the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs and UN Women, that includes gender-sensitive life skills training, reproductive health advice and information on how to protect against sexual harassment or assault. Recruitment agencies are now required by law to provide pre-departure orientation that includes the new curriculum.

ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

Notwithstanding progress to eliminate direct and indirect forms of discrimination, women in the Asia-Pacific region are still confronted with many harmful and discriminatory practices. The widespread prevalence of violence against women remains a serious issue despite improved policies and programmes. UN Women worked extensively with Member States and partners in the region in 2014 to eliminate violence against women, including through strengthening legislation and advocacy efforts to challenge cultural values and practices that perpetuate patterns of violence against women and girls.

STRENGTHENING LEGAL FRAMEWORKS

The region continued to make progress in the area of policy and legal reform to eliminate violence against women, with several new laws promulgated in 2014. The Lao PDR National Assembly approved a new Law on Violence against Women and Children in 2014. UN Women provided technical and financial support and coordinated stakeholder consultations

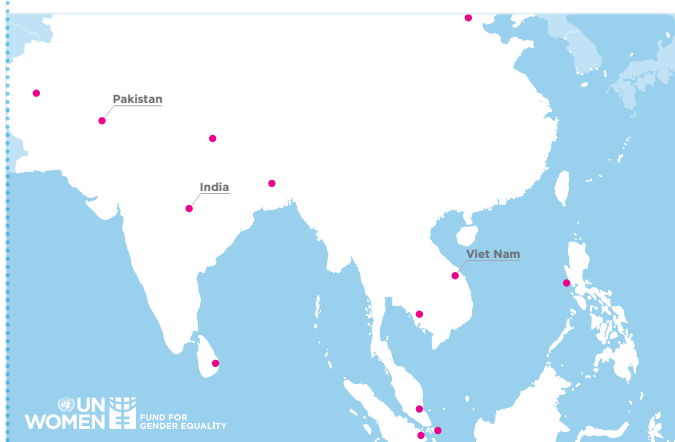
FGE OFFERS NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

The Fund for Gender Equality (FGE) is UN Women’s global grant-making mechanism and multi-donor fund dedicated to the economic and political empowerment of women. In 2014, 18 CSOs used FGE resources to implement 15 programmes across 16 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Notable results from 2014 include:

India — Two national CSOs teamed up to implement a leadership programme on capacity building and awareness raising for women at village levels, resulting in more than 40,000 women participating in local governance structures and more than 14,000 women taking action to access provisions that are rightfully theirs under the wage labour acts of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).

Pakistan — Awareness raising and capacity building of 22 women parliamentarians on gender-responsive budgeting led to the allocation of around US\$400,000 for women’s political development projects as part of the 2014–2015 Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provincial Annual Development Budget.

Viet Nam — More than 10,980 migrant workers learned about available health and social support services, including services to reduce gender-based violence and how to better access job opportunities, through a programme implemented in Ha Noi by a local women’s CSO.



that brought together the Government, UN agencies, CSOs and academics. In China, working with the UN system, UN Women brought together international experts from nine countries to advise the committee drafting a national domestic violence law.

In Myanmar, a highly consultative process with the Government and CSOs supported by the UN Gender Theme Group and the Gender Equality Network resulted in the submission of a draft law on violence against women. Nepal's legal framework on domestic violence was strengthened through the development of a monitoring framework for the Domestic Violence Act and Regulation by the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Development with assistance from UN Women. The provincial government of Balochistan in Pakistan passed a Domestic Violence Law enhancing women's security in the province. UN Women worked at national and provincial levels of government to support lobbying efforts and the drafting of the bill.

Four Pacific countries endorsed new legislation to address violence against women: Kiribati, one state from Federated States of Micronesia (Chuuk), Solomon Islands and Tuvalu. Support through contributions from the UN Women-administered UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women helped make these achievements possible.

India's Government took a significant step towards preventing trafficking of women with the Supreme Court acceptance of a new compendium of standard operating procedures (SOP) that lays out the role of relevant ministries. As part of broader efforts to improve the efficiency of courts and increase gender sensitivity in judicial services, Nepal's National Judicial Academy drew on UN Women support to revise the in-camera hearing guidelines and SOP for maintaining confidentiality of survivors of gender-based violence.

UN Women also collaborated with UNDP and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to conduct a multi-country study (India, Thailand and Viet Nam) on

the criminal justice sector response to reported cases of sexual violence in the region. The resulting report reveals that many of these cases do not proceed beyond the investigative stage and there are very low rates of prosecution and still fewer convictions. This is attributable to inadequate laws and significant societal, legal and institutional policies and practices that constrain women's ability to seek redress through the criminal justice system. The report will be used to shape intervention policies and programmes that encourage due diligence and state accountability.

IMPROVING SERVICES AND OUTREACH

In Thailand, the Royal Thai Police improved its training with an emphasis on women's human rights and the protection of female victims. The police also committed to develop special training modules on women's human rights protection and to pilot a gender desk in police stations in 2015.

Women's access to multi-sectoral services increased in the Pacific region, with governments and CSOs expanding their programming to improve the quality and accessibility of services for survivors in rural and hard-to-reach areas. Over 3,000 survivors in four countries (Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Tonga) accessed services through the UN Women's Pacific Regional Ending Violence against Women Facility Fund (Pacific Fund). Similarly in Afghanistan, government and civil society agencies expanded service coverage for survivors of violence. With UN Women's technical and financial support, 17 EVAW Commissions, 13 Women's Protection Centres and five Family Guidance Centres offered survivors protection and legal and health services.



ABOVE: Thai police cadets participate in the first-ever training on ending violence against women and girls to increase their knowledge on the nature, extent, and seriousness of crimes perpetrated against women. Photo: UN Women/Montira Narkvichien

In Cambodia, in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior, UN Women provided financial and technical assistance to the National Committee for Subnational Democratic Development (NCDD) to support dialogues with provincial, district and commune officials. These clarified the Government’s obligations under CEDAW and showed how the Convention’s concepts and principles could be applied in the implementation of the Second NAP for the Prevention of Violence against Women (NAPVAW2).

SHAPING SAFE SPACES

In Papua New Guinea, violence against women vendors in some markets has decreased significantly due to a host of gender-sensitive strategies including infrastructure refurbishment, the presence of female police officers, changes in payment systems, accountability and new leadership structures. With assistance from UN Women Papua New Guinea, women vendors established market vendors associations to counter police harassment, mismanagement of vendors’ fees, victimization by petty criminals and bureaucratic oppression. In sharp contrast to previous years, there were no recorded incidents of violence in the pilot market in 2014.

Mobile phone technologies were harnessed by UN Women Indonesia, which introduced the use of a smartphone application (Safetipin) to enable easier reporting by women and girls who encountered risks of violence in public

spaces. UN Women partnered with Digicel Fiji and Samoa to communicate messages on eliminating violence against women, including sending texts to all their subscribers on EVAW in local languages throughout the “16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence” campaign.

More than 1,200 people joined the Safe City campaign against urban violence towards women in Cambodia launched by the Young Women’s Leadership Network. With UN Women’s support, the campaign garnered extensive media coverage through Radio Free Asia and helped raise awareness on measures to reduce gendered violence in cities.

Prevention of and ending tolerance for violence against women can only be realized if everyone takes responsibility for eliminating harmful gender norms and stereotypes in their own lives. This is the message of a video produced by UN Women Viet Nam that shares practical actions individuals can take to help end violence against women. The video is used by government and non-government agencies for community level training programmes. Regionally, in recognition of the importance of young people’s leadership, a youth-friendly toolkit for peer educators on ending violence against women and girls was launched and regional curriculum and teachers’ guidance for addressing school-related gender-based violence were also developed in partnership with other UN agencies.



ABOVE: Female vendors participate on a Markets for Change (M4C) leadership training in Fiji. Photo: UN Women/Olivia Owen

ONE POLICEWOMAN MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN TIMOR-LESTE

Sergeant Amelia de Jesus Amaral is an influential advocate working with the Vulnerable Person's Unit (VPU) of the National Police in Timor-Leste. In a country where women make up less than 20 per cent of the

police force, Amelia is one of the longest-serving members of the VPU. The Unit has the challenging mandate of dealing with crimes of domestic violence that are often culturally accepted, leaving survivors to face formidable barriers to access justice.



Amelia's commitment to ending violence and empowering women is clear as she tells members of the communities where she works: "If you are being hurt, call me, I will come and pick you up and take you to a safe place. I will help you report the police who don't take your calls to a higher authority. It is our job to take your case seriously and to help you get to the Prosecutor's Office."

Despite facing risks and threats daily, Amelia's voice in the community is influential and her message to women is strong: "Through education, there can be good changes; without an education it is difficult to increase the quality of the nation...I encourage my fellow women so that they do not lose out, if there is a difficulty, they can find a solution, they can resolve problems as a group."

— PREVENTION OF AND **ENDING TOLERANCE** FOR VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN CAN ONLY BE REALIZED IF **EVERYONE** TAKES **RESPONSIBILITY** FOR ELIMINATING HARMFUL GENDER NORMS AND STEREOTYPES IN THEIR OWN LIVES.



ABOVE: Students of Chu Van An High School in Hanoi, Viet Nam during the speech of UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka about the role of youth in preventing violence against women and girls. Photo: UN Women/Chau Doan

GENDER-RESPONSIVE RECOVERY FROM CONFLICT IN NEPAL

Rama is a young girl from Nepal. As her parents' eldest daughter, she volunteered to join the Maoist insurgents in the Kavre District to protect her father from forced service. She left the party after her service in light of the hardships she faced as a combatant. Rama did not qualify for the compensation package as a member of the Maoist army because she left before the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), and the package was offered only to those who were serving at the time the Agreement was signed. Still affected, Rama shudders when she recalls her graphic memories of the conflict. She was disappointed that the party failed to recognize her sacrifices to contribute to the fight against inequality and discrimination.

Through the UN Women-supported Gender Responsive Recovery for Sustainable Peace (GRRSP) project, Rama was able to access counselling. She told her counsellors that her past experiences made her restless and agitated. She was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder and learned relaxation techniques. She told her counsellor: "I feel relieved after expressing my pain of not being recognized for my contributions to the party." Rama also participated in trainings on entrepreneurship development through the project and became involved in income-generating activities. She is now respected in her village and has become a symbol and role model for other young women who suffered during the conflict.



LEFT: Equipped with leadership skills and an understanding of their roles and responsibilities, more Nepali women are supporting their communities in peacebuilding and conflict resolution.
Photo: UNDP

HUMANITARIAN ACTION, PEACE AND SECURITY

Asia has some of the world's longest-running armed struggles, often lasting multiple generations. From 1992 to 2012, subnational conflicts affected 50 per cent of the countries in South and Southeast Asia and constituted 60 per cent of the world's such conflicts. Yet, women have remained sidelined in formal peace talks and reconstruction processes globally and regionally. Their perspectives, interests and needs are marginalized in many contexts. Recognition is growing that women's exclusion from peace processes undermines the construction of inclusive governance and peace and is a violation of their right to equal treatment and opportunity. In 2014, UN Women focused nationally and regionally on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (SCR) 1325 on women, peace and security (WPS) and associated resolutions on WPS and on mainstreaming gender in disaster and climate change initiatives.

TAKING FORWARD THE WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY (WPS) AGENDA

Timor-Leste demonstrated unprecedented national commitment to the WPS Agenda in 2014, allocating government funds for WPS in the annual budget of the Secretary of State for Security and the Secretary of State for the Promotion of Equality for the first time. UN Women's partnership facilitated capacity building and advocacy, including the establishment of a community of practice called "WPS-Yes!" to advocate and share information as part of the process of developing a National Action Plan (NAP) on Women, Peace and Security.

The Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction in Nepal reformed and reactivated a Gender Unit to oversee gender mainstreaming in operations. The 82 District Coordination Committee members who attended UN Women training developed new plans to implement the NAP in 11 districts. A further 15 village level Conflict Affected Women's Groups were formed and/or strengthened in 2014, empowering women affected by conflict to become engaged in village development and governance. In addition, 100 women from vulnerable groups participated in six women's safety audits, which led to immediate improvements in community safety. Moreover, to uphold the message of peace by acknowledging the violence and atrocities committed in the past, peace memorials were established with the engagement of community members as part of UN Women's peace-building initiative at the local level in six districts.

India is one of the largest contributors of troops to Peacekeeping Missions and so the efforts of its National Military and Police Peacekeeping training institutions, working with UN Women, to integrate a curriculum on sexual violence in armed conflict in the pre-deployment training curriculum for United Nations Military Observers and UN Police is expected to have widespread impact. The Central Reserve Police Force and the Rapid Action Force also participated in the training. In Sri Lanka, 60 military/peacekeepers completed the first-ever training module on sexual violence in armed conflict conducted by the Army Training Centre with UN Women support. In Myanmar, ethnic Mon women developed a women's peace agenda in 2014 (see box).

MON WOMEN 2014 PEACE AGENDA PRIORITIES

Mon State, together with other parts of Myanmar, saw long years of conflict until a bilateral ceasefire agreement was signed in 2012. Peace is still fragile, however, and women have largely been excluded from the peace process, so Mon women have developed their own priorities for peace. These include:

- Include Mon women and their priorities in all aspects of the peace process
- Introduce legislation that addresses violence against women and girls and end impunity for all forms of sexual and gender-based violence, including in conflict
- Promote women's leadership and participation in all levels of government
- Promote decent employment for women.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Afghanistan led the development of the SCR 1325 NAP with assistance from UN Women. The first draft was produced through a consultative process involving the Government, civil society and the international community. UN Women also developed a training manual for CEDAW and SCR 1325 in the Dari and Pashto languages to improve the consistency and availability of training materials, taking into account the country's contextual realities; the manual was employed in training programmes that reached over 600 people in 2014.

Indonesia marked its highest level of commitment towards ensuring women's rights in post conflict and peace building with the endorsement of the NAP on Women, Peace and Security. From the southernmost provinces of Thailand, 130 Muslim and Buddhist women leaders developed their capacity to advocate for women's human rights drawing on CEDAW and SCR 1325.

Through its Pacific Fund, UN Women Fiji MCO supported the Kafe Urban Settlers Women's Association in Papua New Guinea to provide assistance and training to displaced women, increasing the participation of women in conflict resolution at decision-making levels. Another grantee, Ma'a Fafine mo e Famili Inc., ran public advocacy through local radio to promote SCR 1325 in Tonga, addressing the culture of domestic violence and women's security in the home. The Bougainville House of Representatives passed the Bougainville Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, implementing SCR 1325, with development support provided by UN Women Papua New Guinea. The Plan will help recognize, strengthen and expand women's role in peace-building processes and support the Government in implementing its commitments towards WPS.

MAINSTREAMING GENDER IN DISASTER AND CLIMATE CHANGE RESPONSES

Extreme weather led to floods and loss of life and livelihoods in Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. To support the relief and recovery response, UN Women worked with the authorities in Solomon Islands and Tonga to conduct gender-sensitive protection assessments of the impact of the disaster. Tonga's Safety and Protection Cluster identified and responded to the issues affecting women and girls after a tropical cyclone, including risks of declining livelihoods, vulnerability to gender-based violence and barriers for female heads of household to access transitional shelters.

Approximately 1,500 poor women in areas of Bangladesh significantly affected by climate change improved their economic position and increased their small business production in 2014. Working in partnership with BRAC, UN Women provided resource support to 800 women's groups in poor communities negatively impacted by climate change in coastal areas and flood-prone districts. The poorest members of each local group were prioritized to receive skills and livelihood inputs, and approximately one half of these 3,200 women succeeded in generating enough profits to expand their business and increase production.

UN Women worked on several fronts in 2014 to aid gender mainstreaming in work on climate change. The Pacific Gender and Climate Change Toolkit, developed in partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), was finalized in 2014. The toolkit is designed to assist practitioners to integrate gender meaningfully into policies, institutional arrangements and financing.

In Bangladesh, key government officials, environmental and women's rights NGOs, academics and other UN agencies participated in a 'Master Class' on the rights-based approach to gender and climate change. The 'Master Class' and ongoing partnership with UN Women further enabled the Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies, a leading national think tank on climate change, to improve its capacity for gender-sensitive research, a shift that will increase the overall knowledge base on the gendered impacts of climate change and contribute to gender-responsive policies and programmes for years to come. In addition, the background study on Climate Change and Disaster Management for the Government's five-year development plan called for the integration of gender issues in all relevant activities.

— UN WOMEN WORKED ON SEVERAL FRONTS
IN 2014 TO AID GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN
WORK ON CLIMATE CHANGE.

GOVERNANCE AND NATIONAL PLANNING

UN Women collaborated with governments and civil society to ensure adequate resource allocation for gender equality.

ENSURING BUDGET ALLOCATIONS FOR GENDER EQUALITY

Timor-Leste's Prime Minister's Office and Ministry of Finance demonstrated political will for adequate investments by requiring line ministries to include gender equality in annual planning and budgeting. The Secretary of State for the Promotion of Equality produced a "Guidebook for 2015 Gender Sensitive Planning and Budgeting", utilizing UN Women's technical guidance to government agencies to integrate gender perspective into their 2015 annual action plans.

Following a UN Women-supported pilot project on gender budgeting, the Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security in Thailand conducted gender-responsive budget (GRB) training for gender focal points in 122 ministerial departments. In Nepal, key government stakeholders worked with UN Women to apply GRB principles at the local level in 11 districts to pioneer the localization of the NAP on SCRs 1325 and 1820.

In India, where UN Women has been working with the Government on GRB since 2000, steps were taken to institutionalize this at the state level. The Ministry of Finance produced the first Gender Budget Statement in the state of Gujarat, and the Special Chief Secretary to the government of Andhra Pradesh issued a Directive to hasten the process of GRB in the 2014–15 fiscal year. In the state of Madhya Pradesh, the Inter-ministerial Monitoring Committee devised a roadmap to strengthen its efforts on GRB by setting up Gender Budget Cells in departments that report in the Gender Budget Statement.



ABOVE: Haribai learns how to open and operate a bank account after a literacy training. Photo: UN Women/Gaganjit Singh Chandok

Bhutan's Department of National Budget issued detailed guidelines to ensure that budgetary proposals submitted by sectoral agencies were gender sensitive. Furthermore, the Gross National Happiness Commission (GNHC) committed to including gender-sensitive indicators in its planning and monitoring system as well as to conducting the mid-term appraisal of the 11th Five Year Plan from a gender perspective. Results were enabled by support provided by UN Women through a regional project on GRB funded by the Asian Development Bank. Under the same project, delegates from five ministries in Bangladesh came together and proposed an agenda for action on GRB that effectively built on a national GRB Assessment conducted by UN Women.

BUILDING GENDER EQUALITY WITH NATIONAL PLANS

Governments in the region committed to mainstreaming gender equality perspectives in national planning in 2014, allocating increased resources to develop action plans focused on women's empowerment. In Timor-Leste, more than two thirds of state institutions included gender equality provisions in their 2015 Action Plans. India's Ministry of Rural Development took steps to engender four national economic empowerment schemes targeting vulnerable groups. UN Women's advocacy and technical assistance helped facilitate increased budgets for gender-responsive implementation, development of gender audit guidelines and gender-responsive monitoring of the schemes.

Cambodia's Ministry of Women's Affairs developed the second NAP on Violence against Women in 2014, calling on UN Women to provide financial and technical support to ensure that the drafting process met international standards. The result was an inclusive policy-making process that led to the buy-in of diverse stakeholders. UN Women Cambodia was instrumental in widening the space for discussion to include a broad range of stakeholders and advocates, including marginalized women and women who have experienced violence.

In the design of its five-year development plan, the Government of Bangladesh ensured for the first time that the technical papers in all fields include a section on gender equality in addition to a separate paper on gender equality and women's empowerment. This achievement was influenced by UN Women's long-term engagement with the Planning Commission to strengthen gender mainstreaming.

National partners worked collaboratively with UN Women in Papua New Guinea to develop a NAP on Addressing Sorcery Related Violence. The 2014 Plan addresses legal loopholes left by the absence of the repealed 1971 Sorcery Act that adversely affected women accused of sorcery and witchcraft, a widespread issue in the country that accounts for hundreds of deaths annually. The Government of Lao PDR approved the first NAP on the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women and Children 2014–2020. UN Women provided support through a study to assess the cost of a basic minimum service package for survivors of gender violence as well as a national prevalence study.

— **GOVERNMENTS** IN THE REGION COMMITTED TO MAINSTREAMING **GENDER EQUALITY** PERSPECTIVES IN NATIONAL PLANNING IN 2014, ALLOCATING INCREASED **RESOURCES** TO DEVELOP ACTION PLANS FOCUSED ON **WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT**.



ABOVE: *The delegation from Bangladesh attends a regional workshop on gender-responsive budgeting. Photo: UN Women*

Coordination for Accountability

COLLABORATING FOR STRONGER RESULTS

— UN WOMEN-LED THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS (TWGS) DEMONSTRATED THEIR EFFECTIVENESS AS VEHICLES FOR INCREASING GENDER SENSITIVITY IN NATIONAL-LEVEL UN PLANNING AND ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISMS

UN Women is mandated to lead, coordinate and promote the UN system's accountability and enhance its collective support to the advancement of internationally, regionally and nationally agreed norms and standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

In the Asia-Pacific region, UN Women works within established regional and national coordination mechanisms to provide technical advice; promote the allocation of financial as well as human resources; deliver gender-specific research for policy-making and programming; and coordinate the UN system's collective work on gender through UN Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) on Gender.

As a result of UN Women's work, TWGs at country level played an increasingly strong role in enabling UN Country Teams (UNCTs) to meet core gender equality commitments. With technical support from UN Women, the UNCT in Myanmar re-established its TWG with a membership of 16 UN agencies, garnering nearly US\$300,000 in funding across agencies to conduct strategic work. UN Women Nepal led efforts to revitalize the TWG as a vehicle to reaffirm commitments to joint gender equality programming and other collaborative measures to foster gender equality. In the Pacific, UN Women worked with the TWG to establish new joint programmes on EAW in Kiribati, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, bringing six UN agencies together under one programme.

UN Women-led TWGs demonstrated their effectiveness as vehicles for increasing gender sensitivity in national-level UN planning and accountability mechanisms. UN Women Cambodia, for example, worked to ensure the new United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) (2016–2018) addresses CEDAW concluding observations and incorporates gender-sensitive indicators. Through the TWG, UN Women ensured that the Pacific UNDAF annual reviews conducted in 2014 for Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu contained a comprehensive analysis of gender equality-related achievements, challenges and lessons learned. The TWG in Myanmar worked with government counterparts to produce a Gender Situation Analysis, providing valuable gender-sensitive data for policy development. UN Women used its role as convener of the Gender Joint Programming Group in Viet Nam to mobilize UN agencies to provide inputs to the Government's National Review Report for Beijing+20.

At regional level, UN Women's collaboration with the UN Economic and Social Commission (ESCAP), under the Regional Coordination Mechanism TWG on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women, led to coordinated advocacy, technical support and joint investments for the Regional Beijing+20 review process.



LEFT: Stephanie Tarileo is only the second woman in Vanuatu to become a qualified commercial pilot. She wants to prove to women in Vanuatu and around the world that if you want something enough – no matter what gender you are or what country you live in – there is no stopping you. This was the winner in the UN Women Pacific Photo Competition, Amateur category. Photo: UN Women/Jennifer Watson

CHANGING CULTURE

Women's demands for equal voice, safety and choice are influencing government action, social movements and cultural change. UN Women is determined to expand this solidarity for women's empowerment for a just and equitable world by forging alliances with institutions whose functioning impacts gender and social norms, including the media, academia, the private sector, trade unions, faith-based institutions and community-based organizations. Cultural and sports icons also came forward in 2014 to give their time as advocates for gender equality.

Exciting examples of mainstreaming of gender equality advocacy are evident across the region. In Timor-Leste, for the first time, the Ministry of Transport co-facilitated with UN Women an orientation for taxi drivers on sexual harassment. In Cambodia, with the Australia Broadcasting Corporation (ABC), UN Women supported the production of radio programmes focused on ending violence against women while the BBC Media Action hosted a forum on young people's attitudes to sexual relationships and gender equality. In Thailand, UN Women collaborated with Thai PBS on a television programme about ending violence against women that was shown during the 16 Days of Activism. Innovative use of street theatre by UN Women Bangladesh to provide information on safe migration for women and men was followed by a popular radio and television docudrama that incorporated similar messages.

RIGHT: Volunteers for the Youth Market in Honiara, Solomon Islands – part of the 16 Days of Activism campaign – take a look at the Pidgin version of the 16 Ways to End Violence against Women and Girls brochure. Photo: UN Women/Marni Gilbert

UN Women Pacific launched a photo competition to promote creative visualization of the concepts of gender equality and women's empowerment in everyday life in the Pacific, garnering over 120 photo entries from across seven countries and territories. The Fiji multi-country office helped develop and produce a radio drama series to raise awareness and promote women's political participation in Solomon Islands. Broadcast in Pidgin in Solomon Islands and rural areas via national radio and online as a podcast in English, the series garnered enthusiastic interest and support nationally and internationally.



MEN AND BOYS

Across all of the institutions with which it collaborates, and with its partners, UN Women insists on the engagement of men and boys not in a supportive role but rather as active participants in the rejection of patriarchal values and institutions.

Focusing on reaching men in Thailand, UN Women partnered with the Muaythai Federation and a series of outreach events were held. A public service announcement called “Bro That’s Not OK” was also produced that targeted young men with the message that gender-based violence is never acceptable. Young men were trained to advocate for positive masculinities in Cambodian high schools. The volunteers went on to share their message through other media events including the radio programme “Youth Voice”, where they discussed the role of men and youth in eliminating violence against women.

In Indonesia, UN Women worked with the New Men’s Alliance (Alliansi Laki-Laki Baru) to promote men’s and boys’ active engagement in ending violence against women. Similarly, a men’s champions’ network was formed in Papua New Guinea, including ex-combatants in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, to advocate for preventing gender-based violence. In Pakistan, UN Women supported the Men Engage Alliance to prepare a “National Plan for Global Symposium” by building on grassroots work with men and boys throughout the country, involving local CSOs and human rights groups. As noted by a member of the Ministry of Justice in Timor-Leste: “Men should also be at the front of the campaign to end violence against women. Women must work with them in partnership, but men should be showing an example for other men, and leading each other to peaceful reconciliations without violence.”



CAMPAIGNS

Innovative outreach and partnership opportunities with men were facilitated by UN Women’s global “HeForShe” campaign as well as by the UN Secretary-General’s UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign, which has been ongoing since 2008. Across the region, government and UN leaders as well as cultural icons championed women’s right to a life free of violence.

LEFT: Video #BROThatsNotOK spreads message on social media to spark support for the EAW campaign until now.



ABOVE: A male vendor at Gerehu Market, Papua New Guinea, shows his support for the HeForShe campaign. Photo: UN Women/Kim Eaton

RIGHT: UN Women Lao PDR collaborates with the Government and youth groups to promote the HeForShe and UNiTE messages in innovative ways, including through an interactive art piece, a flash mob and hip-hop dance performance, a cycling race and a song by a local pop star. Photo: UN Women/ Daniel Hodgson



RIGHT: Young women and men in Da Nang, Viet Nam participate in an "orange march" to raise awareness about violence against women. Photo: UN Women/Thao Hoang



— UN WOMEN INSISTS ON THE **ENGAGEMENT** OF MEN AND BOYS NOT IN A SUPPORTIVE ROLE BUT RATHER AS ACTIVE **PARTICIPANTS** IN THE **REJECTION** OF PATRIARCHAL VALUES AND INSTITUTIONS

WHAT DO A TENNIS PLAYER FROM INDIA AND A MOVIE STAR FROM THAILAND HAVE IN COMMON?

A number of high-profile celebrities lent their voices to support UN Women's efforts in 2014 to build gender equality in the Asia-Pacific region. Sania Mirza and Farhan Akhtar from India were appointed UN Women Goodwill Ambassadors for South Asia. Farhan, an actor-filmmaker-singer, was the first man to be chosen as a Goodwill Ambassador in the organization's history, while Sania, a professional tennis player, was the first South Asian woman to be appointed.

Two leading television movie stars, Natthawut Skidjai and Wanchana Sawasdee, joined UN Women's work in Thailand to advocate for gender equality and ending violence against women, showing their support for men's role in ending violence against women in public speeches at local events, including a mini-marathon.



ABOVE: Tennis superstar and youth icon, Sania Mirza is appointed as a UN Women's Goodwill Ambassador for South Asia. Photo: UN Women



ABOVE: Lt. Col. Wanchana Sawasdee, renowned Thai actor advocates for gender equality. Photo: UN Women/Kamthorn Unsab

— ACROSS THE REGION, **GOVERNMENT** AND UN LEADERS AS WELL AS CULTURAL ICONS CHAMPIONED WOMEN’S RIGHT TO A LIFE FREE OF VIOLENCE.



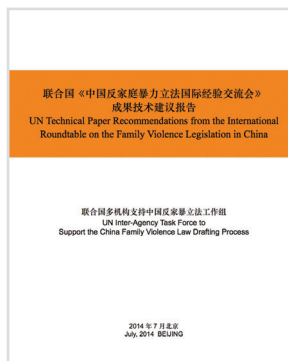
ABOVE: Actor-singer-filmmaker Farhan Akhtar is appointed as a UN Women’s Goodwill Ambassador for South Asia, becoming the first man to take on the role in the organization’s history. Photo: UN Women/Gaganjit Singh

Annex I

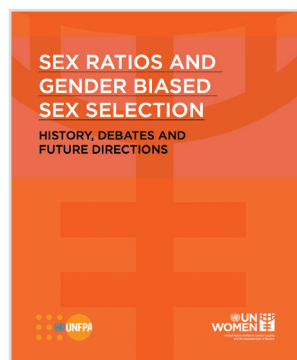
SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND VIDEOS



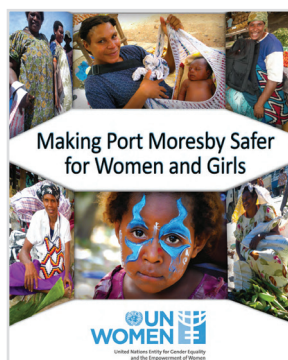
Report of the Asian and Pacific Conference on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Beijing+20 Review



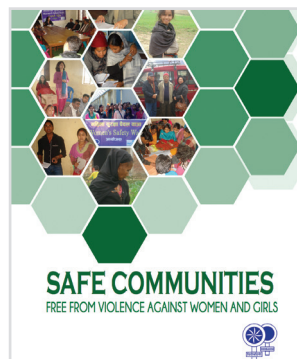
UN Technical Paper Recommendations from the International Roundtable on the Family Violence Legislation in China



Sex Ratios and Gender Biased Sex Selection Study



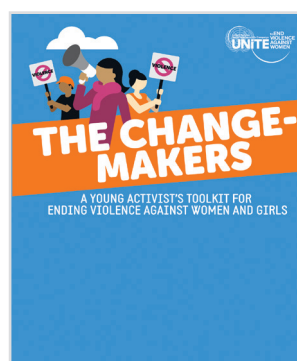
Making Port Moresby Safer for Women and Girls: A scoping study



Safe Communities - Free From Violence Against Women and Girls



Mapping of the Work of National Women's Machineries in Nepal



The Change-Makers | A young activist's toolkit for Ending Violence against Women and Girls



Gender Analysis of the Constitution and Manifestos of Political Parties



16 Things You Can Do to Help End Violence against Women and Girls



VDO - Aung San Suu Kyi: Advocate for the rights of women and girls



VDO - CEDAW Quick & Concise: The principle of substantive equality



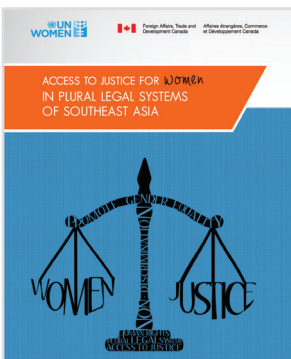
Women's Right to Equality: The Promise of CEDAW



VDO - Jacob Thoppil, Director of International Cooperation (DFATD) Southeast Asia



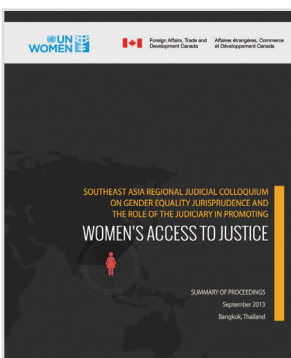
VDO - Climate Induced Migration: Can this be an opportunity for women's empowerment?



Access to Justice for Women in Plural Legal Systems in South East Asia



VDO - Hearts & Minds: Women of India speak



Southeast Asia Regional Judicial Colloquium on Gender Equality Jurisprudence and the Role of the Judiciary in Promoting Women's Access to Justice

Annex II

CIVIL SOCIETY ADVISORY GROUP (CSAG) MEMBERS IN 2014



NAME	(NOMINATING) ORGANIZATION	COUNTRY
SOUTH ASIA		
Aroma Dutta	PRIP Trust	Bangladesh
Ayesha Khanam	Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP)	Bangladesh
Mashuda Khatun Shefali	Nari Uddag Kendra (NUK)	Bangladesh
Ranjan Karmakar	Steps Towards Development	Bangladesh
Rokeya Kabir	Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha (BNPS)	Bangladesh
Rokeya Rafique	Karmojibi Nari	Bangladesh
Salma Ali	Bangladesh National Women Lawyer's Association (BNWLA)	Bangladesh
Shakirul Islam	Ovibashi Karmi Unnayan Program (OKUP)	Bangladesh
Sheepa Hafiz	BRAC Bangladesh	Bangladesh
Selima Ahmad	Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BWCCI)	Bangladesh
Sumaiya Islam	Bangladeshi Ovhibashi Mohila Sramik Association (BOMSA)	Bangladesh
Zakia Hassan	DIPTO-A Foundation for Gender and Development	Bangladesh
Lily Wangchhuk	Druk Chirwang Tshogpa (Bhutan Social Democratic Society)	Bhutan
Namgay Zam	Journalists' Association of Bhutan	Bhutan
Abhijit Das	Centre for Health and Social Justice	India
Anuradha Kapoor	Swayam India	India
Asha Kowtal	All India Dalit Mahila Adhikar Manch (AIDMAM)	India
Jahnvi Andharia	Anandi	India
Mariyam Shakeela	International Medical and Diagnostic Centre (IMDC)	India
Meenakshi Gopinath	Women in Security, Conflict Management and Peace	India
Nandita Shah	AKSHARA India	India
Hameedah Bano - Nayeem	University of Kashmir	India
Ritikaa Khunnah	Pravah	India
Rosemary Dzuvichu	Nagaland University- Kohima Campus	India
Sumathi	Musician and Human Rights Activist	India
Suneeta Dhar	Jagori	India
Vrinda Grover	Supreme Court of India	India
Mariyam Shakeela	Institute of Counselling and Psychotherapy (ICP)	Maldives
Humaida Abdulghafoor	Independent Social Research	Maldives
Ms. Romi Giri	Center for Research on Environment Health & Population Activities (CREHPA)	Nepal
Meena Acharya	SAHAVAGI Nepal	Nepal
Chandni Joshi	Former Regional Programme Director UN Women South Asia Regional Office	Nepal
Durga Sob	Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO)	Nepal
Ganesh Gurung	Former member of National Planning Commission	Nepal
Lily Thapa	Women for Human Rights, Single Women Group	Nepal
Prativa Subedi	Women Awareness Center Nepal	Nepal
Rama Dhakal	Nepal Disabled Women Association (NDWA)	Nepal
Shobha Gautam	Institute of Human Rights Communication Nepal (IHRICON)	Nepal
Usha Jha	Samjhauta Nepal	Nepal
Visaka Dharmadasa	Associated of War Affected Women	Sri Lanka
Selvy Thiruchandran	Women's Education and Research Centre	Sri Lanka
Kumudini Samuel	Women and Media Collective	Sri Lanka

NAME	(NOMINATING) ORGANIZATION	COUNTRY
EAST/SOUTHEAST ASIA		
Kamlala Chandrakirana	A women's human rights expert	Indonesia
Kazuko Ito	Human Rights Now	Japan
Mary Shanthi Dairiam	International Women's Rights Action Watch	Malaysia
Cai Yiping	Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN)	Philippines/China
Noelene Frances Nabulivou	Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN)	Development Philippines/Fiji
Kate Lappin	Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD)	Thailand
Siriporn Skrobanek	Foundation For Women (FFW)	Thailand
THE PACIFIC		
Paulini Turagabeci	The Young Feminist Fund (FRIDA)	Fiji
Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop	AUT University, Auckland	New Zealand
Rae Julian	National Council of Women of New Zealand (NCWNZ)	New Zealand
Susan Jane Kedgley	Oxfam New Zealand	New Zealand
Anne Waiko,	University of Papua New Guinea	Papua New Guinea
Betty Lovai	University of Papua New Guinea	Papua New Guinea
Isi Oru	Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee (FSVAC)	Papua New Guinea
Leitana Nehan	Women's Development Agency	Papua New Guinea
Lorna Maso	World Vision	Papua New Guinea
(Representative)	Friends Frangipani	Papua New Guinea
Lilly Be'Soer Kolts	Voice for Change	Papua New Guinea
(Representative)	Youth Alliance on HIV & Aids (YAHA)	Papua New Guinea
(Representative)	Papua New Guinea Women in Maritime (PNGWim)	Papua New Guinea
(Representative)	Fortunate Women Humanitarian Foundation Incorporation (FWHFI)	Papua New Guinea



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