

**ASEAN Regional Plan of Action  
on the Elimination of Violence against Women  
(ASEAN RPA on EVAW)**



one vision  
one identity  
one community



**ASEAN Regional Plan of Action  
on the Elimination of Violence against Women  
(ASEAN RPA on EVAW)**

The ASEAN Secretariat  
Jakarta

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was established on 8 August 1967. The Member States of the Association are Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. The ASEAN Secretariat is based in Jakarta, Indonesia.

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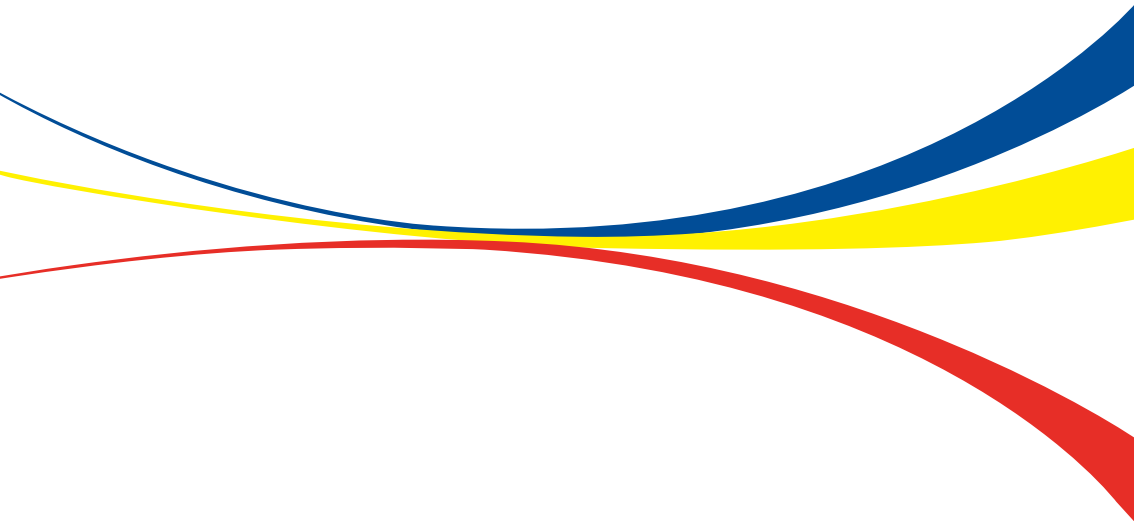
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THE DECLARATION  
ON THE ELIMINATION  
OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN  
AND ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE  
AGAINST CHILDREN IN ASEAN







## **THE DECLARATION ON THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN ASEAN**

**WE**, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereinafter referred to as “ASEAN”), namely Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, on the occasion of the 23<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit;

**UPHOLDING** the goals, purposes and principles of ASEAN as enshrined in the ASEAN Charter and Cha-am Hua Hin Declaration on the Roadmap for the ASEAN Community (2009-2015);

**REAFFIRMING** the goals and commitments of ASEAN to eliminating violence against women and monitor their progress as reflected in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women in the ASEAN Region adopted at the 37<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM) on 30 June 2004;

**FURTHER REAFFIRMING** the importance and general principles of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD) and the Phnom Penh Statement on the Adoption of the AHRD adopted at the 21<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit on 18 November 2012; and the commitments of ASEAN as reflected in the ASEAN Leaders’ Joint Statement in Enhancing Cooperation Against Trafficking in Persons in Southeast Asia adopted at the 18<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit on 8 May 2011; the Ha Noi Declaration on the Enhancement of Welfare and



Development of ASEAN Women and Children adopted at the 17<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit on 28 October 2010; the ASEAN Declaration Against Trafficking in Persons Particularly Women and Children adopted at the 10<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit on 29 November 2004; the Declaration on the Commitments for Children in ASEAN adopted at the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Social Welfare (AMRSW) on 2 August 2001; the Resolution on the ASEAN Plan of Action for Children adopted at the 3<sup>rd</sup> AMRSW Meeting on 2 December 1993; and the Declaration on the Advancement of Women in the ASEAN Region adopted at the 21<sup>st</sup> AMM on 5 July 1988;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the commitments of individual ASEAN Member States to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) that have been ratified by all ASEAN Member States; the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (Vienna Declaration); the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPFA), BPFA+5 Outcome Document; the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and Plan of Action for Child Survival, Protection and Development; A World Fit For Children Declaration; and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);

**RECALLING** resolutions relating to the elimination of violence against women and children of the United Nations General Assembly, the Human Rights Council and the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), and 1889 (2009) on Women, Peace and Security;

**WELCOMING** the adoption of the Terms of Reference and Work Plan (2012-2016) of the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and children in ASEAN taking into consideration the regional and national contexts bearing in mind the different historical, political, socio-cultural, religious, legal and economic backgrounds in the region;

**RECOGNISING** that ASEAN Member States shall take all appropriate measures to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedom and to modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women, with a view to achieving the elimination of prejudices and customary and all other practices which are based on the idea of inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes or on stereotyped roles for men and women;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the importance of intensifying efforts of ASEAN Member States to promote the rights of women and children, as well as to prevent and protect them from and respond to all forms of violence, abuse and exploitation of women and children particularly for those who are in vulnerable situations, including domestic violence, women and children who are sexually exploited, women and children with disabilities, women and children living with and affected by HIV and AIDS, women and children in conflict with laws, cyber pornography and cyber prostitution, trafficking in women and children, women and children in disasters, women and children in armed conflict, women and children in refugee camps, women and children on the move, stateless women and children, migrant women and children, women and children belonging to ethnic and/or indigenous groups, children in early marriage, physical abuse of children, bullying, discrimination against women and children in mass and social media, and others;

**RECOGNISING** that violence against women and violence against children occur irrespective of the stages of the life cycle, whether at home, in school, in the workplace, in public or private spaces (including cyber space) as a result of gender bias, discriminatory and harmful traditional practices and must be eliminated as they impair human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and children;

**EMPHASISING** that the rights of children to special protection and care are different than those of women, given that parents have the responsibilities in the upbringing and development of their children and to protect them from violence, abuse, maltreatment and

exploitation, and the obligations of state parties to assist parents in these efforts;

**DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT:**

ASEAN Member States, individually and/or collectively, express common resolve to eliminate violence against women and violence against children in the region through the following measures:

1. Strengthen and, where necessary, enact or amend national legislations for the elimination of violence against women and violence against children, and to enhance the protection, services, rehabilitation, education and training, recovery and reintegration of victims/survivors;
2. Integrate legislations, policies and measures to prevent and eliminate violence against women and violence against children and to protect and assist the victims/survivors in the national development plans and programmes with time- bound targets, adequate resources, and gender responsive planning and budgeting;
3. Strengthen a holistic, multi-disciplinary approach to promote the rights of women and children and adopt a gender responsive, child sensitive, and age-responsive approach to eliminate violence against women and violence against children in the region which includes effective laws, legislations, policies and measures to:
  - Investigate, prosecute, punish and, where appropriate, rehabilitate perpetrators;
  - Protect women and children victims/survivors and witnesses;
  - Provide victims/survivors with access to justice, legal assistance, protection, social welfare services, education, and health services, including counseling and peer-to-peer support mechanisms, rehabilitation, recovery, and reintegration into the community, and consider provision

of programme for families to properly give support to victims/ survivors;

- Instill awareness to prevent re-victimization of women and children from any form of violence and ensure it does not occur anywhere through various programmes, such as provision and promotion of vocational training and employment opportunities of women who are victims/survivors, access to reproductive health services, education and other basic social services;
  - Promote family support services, parenting education, education and public awareness on the rights of women and children and the nature and causes of violence against women and violence against children to encourage active public participation in the prevention and elimination of violence;
  - Create an enabling environment for the participation of women and children, including victims/survivors, in the prevention and elimination of violence against women and violence against children;
  - Develop effective strategies to eliminate harmful practices which perpetuate gender stereotyping, violence against women and violence against children;
4. Strengthen the existing national mechanisms, with the assistance, where necessary, of the ACWC and other related stakeholders, in implementing, monitoring and reporting the implementation of the Concluding Observations and Recommendations of CEDAW, CRC and other Treaty Bodies as well as the accepted recommendations under the Universal Periodic Review Process of the United Nations Human Rights Council related to the elimination of all forms of violence against women and violence against children;
5. Strengthen the capacity of law enforcement officers, policy makers, social workers, health personnel, and other

stakeholders to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate gender responsive and child friendly legislations, policies and measures for women and children victims of violence;

6. Encourage research and data collection and analysis in confidential concerning all forms of violence against women and violence against children to support the formulation and effective implementation of laws, policies and programmes to eliminate violence against women and violence against children for better protection of the victims/survivors in the region;
7. Strengthen the provision of support social welfare services to women and children victims/survivors of violence and their families in ASEAN through the establishment of an ACWC network of social services to facilitate the promotion of good practices, sharing of information, exchange of experts, social workers and service providers, including NGOs;
8. Strengthen partnerships with external parties at international, regional, national and local levels, including ASEAN Dialogue Partners, UN Agencies, civil society, community-based organisations, academia, philanthrops and private entities, in the work for the elimination of violence against women and violence against children in ASEAN and to mobilise resources to assist the victims/survivors;

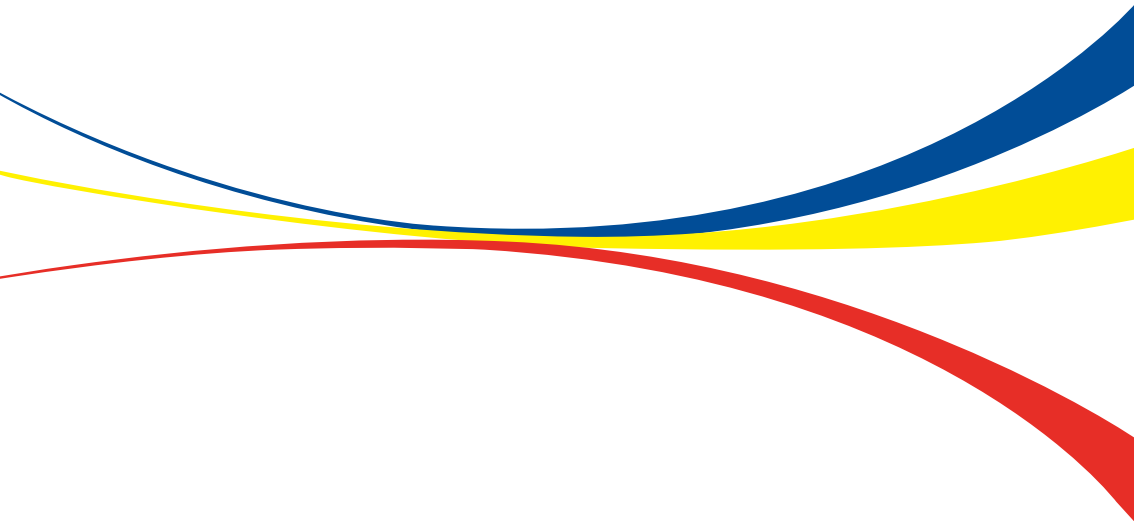
**WE TASK** the relevant ASEAN bodies, in particular the ACWC, to promote the implementation of this Declaration and review its progress through appropriate instruments and actions with the support of ASEAN Member States.

**ADOPTED** in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam this Ninth Day of October in the Year Two Thousand and Thirteen, in a single original copy, in the English Language

# Part I

*ASEAN RPA on EVAW*





## I. Background and Rationale

Violence against women (VAW) is a violation of human rights which is a form of discrimination against women. It is a manifestation of historically and structurally unequal power relations and inequalities between women and men, which prevail in all countries and which impacts all aspects of the victim's private and public life. VAW violates human rights and fundamental freedoms of women limits their access to control over and ownership of resources, and impedes the full development of their potential. As such, it is an obstacle to the social and economic development of communities and states as well as the achievement of internationally agreed-upon development goals.

Even twenty years after the adoption of Beijing Declaration, there has been little improvement in the elimination of VAW, and the rate of violence against women. It is urgent for ASEAN Member States (AMS) to give priority to the elimination of VAW. Moreover, in adopting Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women and Elimination of Violence against Children in ASEAN, AMS are committed to take all appropriate measures to prevent and respond to all forms of VAW. This ASEAN Regional Action Plan (RPA) is a demonstration of the AMS's commitment to support the implementation of this Declaration and is consistent with the contents of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD) as well as with the Phnom Penh Statement on the adoption of the AHRD. It is a joint effort of the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) and the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW), in line with their respective Terms of Reference and work plans



## **ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC)**

ACWC is an ASEAN regional human rights mechanism, established in 2010. It is an intergovernmental commission and an integral part of the ASEAN organization. Each AMS has two representatives – one for women and one for children, meaning the Commission comprises 20 Representatives.

ACWC's function and mandate is to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and children in ASEAN, based principally on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), which all ten AMS have ratified. The elimination of violence against women (EVAW) and the elimination of violence against children (EVAC) are among the thematic priority areas in the 2012-2016 ACWC Work Plan adopted at the 5th ACWC Meeting held in July 2012 in Jakarta, Indonesia.

## **ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW)**

The ACW is an ASEAN sectoral body established in 1976. Its mandate is to implement, coordinate and monitor the implementation of ASEAN's key regional priorities and cooperation on women's issues. The 2011-2015 ACW Work Plan prioritizes VAW and sexual minorities. as one of the key challenges, noting that responses to address such violence has been "hampered by persistent resistances to and inadequacies in understanding how gender power relations and deeply rooted attitudes and perceptions of women and men operate to subordinate and discriminate women". It also highlights increasing incidents of discrimination and violence against, indigenous/ethnic minority women, women with disabilities and diverse groups of women as a particular concern.

## Implementation of ACWC and ACW on EVAW

In implementing its mandate and function, ACWC and ACW have undertaken various activities/projects pertaining to the elimination of violence against women. Under the ACWC Work Plan 2012-2016, ACWC (i) convened a Regional Workshop on Promoting the Right to a Nationality for Women and Children in the Implementation of CEDAW and CRC in ASEAN on 19 August 2013 in Da Nang, Viet Nam which was back-to-back with the Regional Workshop on Promoting the Rights of ASEAN Women and Children through Effective Implementation of the Common Issues in CEDAW and CRC Concluding Observations with Focus on Girl Child on 20-22 August 2013; (ii) published the ASEAN Good Practices in Eliminating Violence against Women and Eliminating Violence against Children in 2014 by Malaysia; (iii) conduct annually a public campaign to stop VAW based on diversified thematic message which is led by Thailand; (iv) conducted Workshop on the Promotion of Access to Justice for Women Victims of VAW Trafficking Case on 3-5 February 2014 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam;(v) conducted a workshop for frontline ASEAN social workers on 8-10 April 2014 in Singapore; (v) developed the Gender Sensitive Guideline for Handling Women Victims of Trafficking in Person led by Brunei Darussalam; and (vi) convened the ASEAN Regional Conference of Senior Officials on Strengthening the Protection and Empowerment of Women Migrant Workers in Manila on 13-14 November 2014. ACWC had also proposed the review of emerging legislations and legal enforcement concerning EVAW, including cyber VAW, and traditions and customs that condoned VAW. In addition, it had initiated the Regional Review of the Management and Treatment of Trafficked Women and Children.

Under the ACW Work Plan 2011-2015, ACW convened Regional Conference with Male, Youth, HIV & AIDS Networks towards the Prevention of Gender-Based Violence on 15-16 November 2012 in Manila, Philippines; organized Regional Workshop on Strengthening

National Capacities to collect VAW Statistics in the ASEAN Region on 6-9 August 2012 in Jakarta, Indonesia; delivered ASEAN Regional Conference of Senior Officials on Strengthening the Protection and Empowerment of Women Migrant Workers on 13-14 November 2014 in Manila, Philippines; and initiated Regional Meeting on engendering school curriculum with a view to eliminate stereotyping women and sexist languages.

## II. Definition and Forms of Violence against Women

### (a) Definition of violence against women

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) refers to violence against women as “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life.”

### (b) Forms of violence against women

VAW encompasses but is not limited to the following:

- a. Physical<sup>1</sup>, sexual<sup>2</sup>, psychological<sup>3</sup> and economic<sup>4</sup> violence occurring in the family such as denying a partner control over

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<sup>1</sup>**Physical violence** is the intentional use of physical force with the potential for causing death, disability, injury, or harm. Physical violence includes, but is not limited to, scratching; pushing; shoving; throwing; grabbing; biting; choking; shaking; slapping; punching; burning; use of a weapon; and use of restraints or one’s body, size, or strength against another person” (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 2015).

<sup>2</sup>**Sexual violence** is any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, or other act directed against a person’s sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting. It includes rape, defined as the physically forced or otherwise coerced penetration of the vulva or anus with a penis, other body part or object (WHO, 2002).

<sup>3</sup>**Psychological abuse** which includes behaviour that is intended to intimidate and persecute, and takes the form of threats of abandonment or abuse, confinement to the home, surveillance, threats to take away custody of the children, destruction of objects, isolation, verbal aggression and constant humiliation (UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre, 2000).

- basic resources, battering, sexual abuse of female children in the household, marital rape, dowry-related violence, femalegenital mutilation and other traditional practices harmful to women, non- spousal violence and violence related to exploitation;
- b. Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring within the general community, such as rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in educational institutions and elsewhere, trafficking in women and forced prostitution;
  - c. Physical, sexual and psychological violence perpetrated or condoned by the State and/or non-state entities, wherever it occurs (UNICEF, 2000 and Beijing Platform for Action, 1995).

Other forms of VAW exist. These include early and forced marriage and other forms of harmful practices that constitute or contribute to VAW and new and emerging forms of VAW, including VAW committed using information and communications technology (ICT) such as online harassment, abuse, bullying, stalking and distribution of denigrating images.

Diverse groups of women suffer from multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and inequalities, making them especially vulnerable to violence. They include women with disabilities; women living with and affected by HIV and AIDS; girls; older women; ethnic minority and/or indigenous women; women in conflict with the law; women living in disaster or conflict affected areas; refugee and displaced women; documented and undocumented migrant women; stateless women, women's human rights defenders/gender equality

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<sup>4</sup> The World Health Organization defines **economic violence** as being a form of collective violence, committed by larger groups towards individuals. **Economic abuse** includes acts such as the denial of funds, refusal to contribute financially, denial of food and basic needs, and controlling access to health care, employment etc. (UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre, 2000)

advocates, and women who are trafficked for forced labor or sexual exploitation among others.

### **III. Progress toward Addressing Violence against Women in ASEAN**

The ASEAN region has seen significant progress in addressing VAW in recent years through concerted policy action at both regional and national level. Most AMS have enacted dedicated national laws on VAW and/or domestic violence, while some have developed National Action Plans to support the implementation of laws and policies. Government and/or civil society actors have provided services for women and girls who have experienced violence, which include shelters, hotlines and One Stop Crisis Centers while dedicated women's and children's desks in police stations that are available in several countries. Many countries have also implemented awareness-raising campaigns to reduce acceptance for VAW. However, progress has been uneven, with some forms of VAW, such as marital rape and other forms of sexual violence, not always covered in current legislation. Areas that still require further attention include data gaps on the extent and impact of VAW; limited financial and human resources to support the enforcement of laws and the delivery of support services; and the pervasiveness of discriminatory gender norms and stereotypes that condone VAW.

Specifically, highlights of the relevant initiatives undertaken by ASEAN Member States are available on Part II of this ASEAN RPA.

### **IV. International and Regional Commitments on EVAW**

#### **(a) International commitments**

AMS have demonstrated their commitments to ending VAW through the ratification and adoption of a number of international human rights treaties. In particular, all AMS have ratified the

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Additionally, AMS have submitted periodic reports on VAW, participated in the periodic CEDAW reviews, and undertaken actions to comply with the concluding observations issued by the CEDAW Committee to all AMS, in particular on VAW.

In 1992, the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) adopted General Recommendation No. 19, which reaffirmed that VAW constituted a form of discrimination against women and which formed the basis for the elaboration of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women in 1993. The Declaration calls upon States to exercise due diligence to prevent and punish acts of VAW. In the same year, the Vienna Declaration and Program of Action, was adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, which unequivocally states that VAW cannot be condoned in any circumstance<sup>5</sup>. Also, the Beijing Platform for Action, adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, urges governments and all sectors to take integrated measures to prevent and eliminate VAW.

In recent years, AMS have continued to address VAW through active participation in and adoption of the Agreed Conclusion of the Fifty-seventh Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held in 2013. AMS are also committed to implementing international resolutions related to EVAW, including those of the General Assembly, the Human Rights Council, and the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325, 1820, 1888 and 1889 on Women, Peace and Security, the International Conference on Population and Development and other relevant human rights instruments and processes. Most recently, AMS participated in the Asia-Pacific Regional 20-year Review of the Beijing Declaration and

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<sup>5</sup> 1993 Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, Paragraph 18

Platform for Action and endorsed a Ministerial Declaration. The outcome document reaffirms the need for a stand-alone Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women Goal in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that include indicators and targets to end VAW. <sup>6</sup> The targets of the Sustainable Development Goal 5 of “achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls” are:

- i. End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere;
- ii. Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation;
- iii. Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation;
- iv. Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate;
- v. Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life;
- vi. Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences;
- vii. Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws;

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<sup>6</sup> Targets of the Sustainable Development Goals are available on the UN website: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

- viii. Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women; and
- ix. Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.

AMS have been actively engaged in the Commission on Status of Women (CSW) Meetings particularly the 57<sup>th</sup> Session of CSW in 2013 on violence against women.

### **(b) Regional commitments**

In 2004, AMS came together to produce the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women in ASEAN, which was followed in 2013 by the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women and the Elimination of Violence against Children in ASEAN. These Declarations reaffirm the commitment of ASEAN towards eliminating VAW and serve as a blueprint for collaboration among AMS. As in the section, implementation of ACWC and ACW on EVAW, strengthening regional efforts to address VAW is a priority in the work plans of both ACWC and ACW. Towards this end, at their first joint meeting in Yangon on 15 October 2014, ACWC and ACW agreed to jointly develop a regional plan of action to implement the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women and The Elimination of Violence against Children in ASEAN. This ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on Elimination of Violence against Women (ASEAN RPA on EVAW) carries this commitment further by translating the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women and the Elimination of Violence against Children in ASEAN into concrete actions to guide regional and national implementation of this Declaration.

Additionally, AMS have made a number of other commitments related to EVAW, women's empowerment and gender equality. They



include the ASEAN Declaration against Trafficking in Persons Particularly Women and Children (2004), the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Plan of Action (2004), and the ASEAN Declaration against Trafficking in Persons Particularly Women and Children (2013).

## **V. Guiding Principles for Development and Implementation of the ASEAN RPA on EVAW**

The impact of VAW cuts across all the three pillars of ASEAN economic, political-security and socio-cultural, and all three pillars are similarly committed to ending such violence. This ASEAN RPA aims to guide regional and national implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Elimination of Violence Against Children, adopted by the Leaders at the 23<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit in 2013, by translating those commitments into strategies and actions to be undertaken at regional and national levels by ASEAN Member States in accordance with national and regional contexts and circumstances.

The ASEAN RPA will help ASEAN Member States in progressing towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals , especially the goal on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. The ASEAN RPA also helps AMS in translating the commitments made by the leaders in the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the “Asian and Pacific Conference on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment: Beijing +20 Review” on 20 November 2014 in Bangkok, into reality towards elimination of discrimination and violence against women and girls in ASEAN region.

This ASEAN RPA is an expression of those joint commitments and is developed based on the following guiding principles:

### **(a) Human rights-based approach**

All people in ASEAN have the right to a life free of violence and discrimination. States are the primary duty bearers to ensure this right and the duty to eliminate violence against women. A human-rights based approach to eliminate VAW is one that empowers victims and survivors to access information and remedies and to claim their human rights, and holds duty bearers accountable for providing gender-sensitive and victim-centered services to all victims and survivors. These principles are also enshrined in CEDAW. The approach entails taking active steps to embed human rights standards in laws, policies and responses to violence against women and recognizing the interdependence and interrelated nature of human rights. It includes addressing underlying gender inequalities; unequal power relations and discriminatory gender norms and stereotypes as well as promoting gender equality and the realization of human rights, and ensuring the full and effective participation of women and girls in all prevention and response. VAW has often been justified by invoking socio-cultural and religious customs and values. Being so, it is important for States to “modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women with a view to achieving the elimination of prejudices and customary and all other practices which are based on the idea of the inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes or on stereotyped roles for men and women”<sup>7</sup>.

### **(b) Multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary approach**

All sectors, organizations and individual persons in ASEAN are responsible for EVAW. As VAW is a complex problem with root causes at different levels, preventing and responding to violence requires the full involvement of every sector of the State, and multiple disciplines. This includes but not limited to education, health,

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<sup>7</sup> Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 1979

police, justice system, social services, and finance sector. All sectors and agencies at national and local levels need to work together as a coherent system. Additionally, the development and implementation of comprehensive and coordinated multi-sectoral policies, programmes, systems and processes, in line with international standards should bring together and strengthen the commitment of all relevant government agencies, NGOs, private sectors and other actors.

### **(c) Evidence-based approach**

All policies, programmes and strategies formulated and implemented to prevent and combat VAW should be grounded on empirical evidence and meaningful participation of women especially those from the marginalized groups and sectors. Evidence can be gathered through regular disaggregated data collection and other means on the extent and impact of VAW as well as ongoing monitoring and evaluation to assess the impact and effectiveness of the responses.

### **(d) Due diligence**

AMS act to eradicate VAW through due diligence. This means the States commit to take all reasonable measures to prevent, protect, prosecute and provide rehabilitation for victims/survivors.

### **(e) Partnerships and collaboration**

Implementation of this ASEAN RPA requires meaningful participation of and partnerships among all relevant ASEAN bodies, government and non-government agencies, civil society, communities and the private sector as well as national, regional and international organizations. These partnerships should include the voices of victims/survivors and marginalized/vulnerable groups of women. Building broad ownership of the Plan, harnessing the collective knowledge and expertise of all actors, and ensuring that all

stakeholders work together in a collaborative manner are essential components for ensuring effective prevention and response strategies.

## **VI. Time Frame**

This ASEAN RPA covers a 10-year period (2016 – 2025) in line with the ASEAN Community Blueprint (2016 – 2025).

## **VII. Policy Statement and Ultimate Goal**

ASEAN has a policy of zero tolerance for all forms of VAW. Recognizing VAW as a violation of human rights, ASEAN is determined to eliminate all forms of VAW as a matter of priority.

The ultimate goal of this Plan is therefore the elimination of all forms of VAW in ASEAN.

## **VIII. Objectives**

The objectives of this ASEAN RPA are:

1. For ASEAN to institutionalise ERAW policies and sustained support across pillars and sectors; and
2. For each AMS to have effective prevention and protection services supported by national ERAW legal framework and institutional mechanisms.

## IX. Key Strategies and Actions

Ending VAW in ASEAN requires a sustained and coordinated set of actions and investments that incorporate both prevention and response. It entails stopping VAW before it starts by addressing the complex set of root causes and drivers which can lead to violence. It requires ensuring that all victims/survivors are able to access a full range of quality support services that meet their immediate and long-term needs. It calls for the adoption and full implementation of legal frameworks to hold perpetrators to account and ensure the effective administration of justice. It means ensuring that all relevant institutions, organizations and individuals have the skills and knowledge to respond appropriately to cases of VAW, and all actors work together as a coherent system. Finally, an effective VAW framework requires sufficient data, research and monitoring to ensure that prevention and response strategies are based on evidence, and prevention and response mechanisms are systematically monitored and evaluated to assess their effectiveness. The prevention and response strategies have to be continuously adapted to respond to any changes in the situation on the ground.

The ASEAN RPA adopts the following strategies: devising effective; coordinated strategies to prevent violence; protecting victims/survivors of violence; developing and strengthening legal framework; strengthening capacity of individuals and institutions; collecting data and monitoring the efforts through periodic review.

Therefore, the ASEAN RPA on EVAW covers the following key actions at the regional and national levels, and will be implemented in accordance with regional and national contexts and circumstances:

## **ACTION 1: PREVENTION**

1. Develop a comprehensive national VAW framework that integrates prevention and response, including policies and programs that draw on international and national evidence of the most effective strategies (national level).
2. Develop and disseminate regional innovative tools, handbooks and guidelines that build on national and international good practices, to guide the development and implementation of the national framework on prevention of VAW (regional level).
3. Design, implement, and evaluate evidence-based and context-specific and cultural sensitive awareness-raising campaigns for changing social norms towards non-violence and respectful relationships, especially through making effective use of existing [people-oriented] media outlets and communication channels. The awareness raising campaign to address violence against women could include the root causes of gender inequality, discriminatory norms, and other contributing factors, as well as the types of punishment for violators (national and regional levels).
4. Develop and widely distribute information and advocacy materials, including in the local languages, on the prevalence and types of VAW, social and economic costs of VAW, related laws and policies, as well as information on how to report cases and access to justice and other services. These materials should aim to reduce the stigma of victims-survivors, eliminate acceptance of VAW, and communicate positive and empowering stories of women and men as agents of change (national and regional levels).

5. Work in partnership with educational institutions, civil society organizations, parents, communities, and private sectors;
  - i. to foster the value of non-violence, gender equality, and zero tolerance on VAW;
  - ii. to promote positive masculinity through the review and revision of formal and non-formal education curricula, development of sourcebooks and textbooks, teaching and learning methodologies and materials;
  - iii. to develop and improve codes of conduct for individuals or communities, and;
  - iv. to provide an enabling environment at all levels for gender equality and zero tolerance against VAW (national and regional levels).
6. Develop and ensure gender responsive regulatory mechanisms, codes of conduct and/or guidelines for the media, journalists, advertising, animation and gaming industries to eliminate the glamorization and normalization of VAW, harmful gender stereotypes, and the objectification of women and girls in popular culture in mainstream and social media (national level).
7. Prevent and eliminate VAW in the workplace through development and effective implementation of measures such as regulatory frameworks, policies and procedures for employers, unions and workers (national level).
8. Ensure the safety of women and girls in public transportation and public spaces through appropriate measures.
9. Ensure that the prevention of all forms of VAW, particularly sexual violence, is incorporated into disaster risk reduction and management protocols and programs as well as in all humanitarian response assistance (national level).

10. Engage social influencers/social change makers from all walks of life (e.g. community and religious leaders, artists, athletes, and youth leaders) to serve as champions for gender equality and empowerment of women and promote zero tolerance for VAW, as well as empower victims/survivors to become champions themselves (national and regional levels).
11. Engage men and boys as collaborative partners and allies for preventing VAW, including through the development and implementation of programs that challenge male sexual entitlement and dominance over women. Promote the concept of non-violence and positive masculinities (national and regional levels).
12. Develop and implement programs for couples, parents, in-laws and other family members, to promote respectful and equal relationships, and non-violent conflict resolution, based on human rights, dignity and gender equality (national level).
13. Develop guidelines and modules to address the inter-generational effects of VAW and promote non-violence in families, schools and communities (national and regional levels).
14. Develop codes of conduct and provide training for service providers and law enforcement officers to prevent VAW and abuse by authorities (national and regional levels).

## **ACTION 2: PROTECTION AND SUPPORT SERVICES FOR VICTIMS/SURVIVORS**

15. Provide multi-disciplinary and coordinated response services for victims/survivors through an integrated support system that includes but is not limited to medical and psychological



care, counseling services, legal aid, interpretation and translation services, 24/7 telephone and online hotlines, accommodation and financial support, as well as assistance to access the justice system, with effective referral pathways between the various parts of the system(national level).

16. Establish and monitor the implementation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for service provision including physical, psychological, health, reproductive health and legal services that ensure the safety and confidentiality of victim/survivors and their children. Referral system could also be accessible and available (national level).
17. Provide adequate, effective and efficient VAW support system with competent and gender-sensitive providers across geographical locations that are accessible and meet the diverse needs of all women, especially those experiencing multiple forms of discrimination (national level).
18. Incorporate the prevention of and response to all forms of VAW into the planning and delivery of disaster risk reduction programs and protocols as well as in all humanitarian responses following natural disasters, conflict situations, or other emergencies (national and regional levels).
19. Provide support services for the reintegration of victims/survivors, including but not limited to vocational training, income generating and employment assistance programmes to support women's empowerment, economic independence, and access to affordable housing. Support the leadership and empowerment of victims/survivors of violence to act as women's leaders, advocates and champions on EAW (national level).

20. Provide early identification screening tools and referral pathways for victims of violence during antenatal, maternal and child health checks, and encourage other service providers who conduct routine home visits in the community to use them (national level).
21. Establish and support community-based mechanisms to detect and protect cases of VAW and women at risk and provide support to victims/survivors (national level).
22. Institute comprehensive protection measures and programs for women's human rights defenders/gender equality advocates, professionals, and service providers whose work supports victims/survivors (national level).
23. Create or strengthen accessible, effective and gender-sensitive complaint mechanism with investigative and monitoring functions for workplace abuse and harassment in all workplace whether formal and informal sectors including domestic workers (national level).

### **ACTION 3: LEGAL FRAMEWORK, PROSECUTION AND JUSTICE SYSTEM**

24. Adopt gender-responsive implementation of national legislation to penalize all forms of VAW, in compliance with the obligations outlined in CEDAW and CRC and other applicable international human rights standards particularly through effective and coordinated multi-disciplinary measures for both prevention and response (national level).
25. Review and amend laws, regulations, policies, practices and customs that perpetuate VAW and any discriminatory practices which result in violence, including customary or religious laws, and any legislation which accepts the

“defence of honour” as a mitigating factor related to crimes against women and girls and female genital mutilation (FGM) and honour killings. Whether in customary or religious law and the formal justice system, cases should be resolved with respect for the human rights of victims/survivors and in accordance with relevant international obligations on gender equality and international human rights standards. All duty-bearers in the justice sector are to be held accountable for guaranteeing the safety, protection and dignity of victims/survivors (national level).

26. Investigate, prosecute, and punish all acts of VAW and end impunity for all perpetrators, including State actors, persons of authority, and persons with immunity using due processes (national level).
27. Review, monitor and evaluate the implementation of laws on VAW, in relation to the criminal justice system. This could include comprehensive investigations into how the criminal justice system responds to different forms of VAW, such as monitoring court decisions, judicial processes, investigations and quality and effectiveness of legal aid and other justice services to victims/survivors (national level).
28. Review and revise laws in recognition and consideration of new and emerging forms of VAW, such as sexual violence against women in cyber space (national level).
29. Develop jurisprudence to recognize “battered woman syndrome” and to eliminate gender stereotyping<sup>8</sup> in carrying out court decisions (national level).

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<sup>8</sup> A gender stereotype is a generalised view or preconception about attributes or characteristics that are or ought to be possessed by, or the roles that are or should be performed by women and men. A gender stereotype is harmful when it limits women’s and men’s capacity to develop their personal abilities, pursue their professional

30. Establish mechanisms for women's access to justice through:
  - i. creating enabling environment;
  - ii. removing barriers they face;
  - iii. providing effective and affordable/free legal assistance for impoverished victims/survivors;
  - iv. providing access to just and effective redress and remedies, and;
  - v. providing reparation from the harm that they have suffered (national level).
  
31. Strengthen victim-centered and gender-sensitive administration of justice, such as, inter alia, for instance through the creation and provision of one-stop centers and specialized court systems or proceedings that guarantee prompt and efficient handling of cases of VAW, for example, the use of screens in the courtroom, video record statement, use of communication aid and limit public gallery etc.(national level).
  
32. Strengthen the capacity of the judicial system to provide gender-sensitive responses to VAW. Prohibit compulsory and forced alternative dispute resolution processes, including forced mediation and conciliation, in relation to all forms of VAW (national level).
  
33. Create and/or strengthen law enforcement and prosecutor units, court systems and/or legal processes to respond to VAW and provide adequate funding for:
  - i. Employment of more staff, particularly women, in the frontline of law enforcement in order to accommodate vulnerable victim-survivors;

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careers and make choices about their lives and life plans (OHCHR, <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Women/WRGS/Pages/GenderStereotypes.aspx> )

- ii. Provision of adequate specialized training on VAW;
  - iii. Conduct of reviews of judicial processes, law enforcement practices and performance;
  - iv. Establishment/improvement of minimum standards, in adherence to the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, and CEDAW, for law enforcers to strengthen the response to incidents of VAW (national level).
34. Provide effective and urgent protection orders to all victims/survivors as well as women human rights defenders/gender equality advocates, and service providers against all forms of VAW. The violation of protection orders should be criminalized and their implementation closely monitored (national level).
35. ASEAN to recognise and work towards enforcement of cross-border protection orders across jurisdictions, and ensure/enhance that immigration laws and administrative procedures do not prevent women from leaving or addressing violent situations due to fear of deportation, loss of legal status or revoked custody over the children (regional level).
36. Ensure the accountability of duty-bearers on VAW incidents that occur during or after situations of conflict, disasters and situations of unrest through legal and judicial process and transitional justice mechanisms and with the full and effective participation of women in such processes as well as ensuring that victims/survivors are able to access redress, reparations and other remedies (national level).
37. Establish/improve legislation to ensure safe environments for the long-term well-being of victim/survivors and family

members and where appropriate the perpetrators should be removed from home (national level).

#### **ACTION 4: CAPACITY BUILDING**

38. Develop training programs and manuals for multi-disciplinary teams and other relevant professionals/service providers, such as health and social workers, police, prosecutors, judges and mediators, for the provision of well-coordinated, gender-sensitive, culture-sensitive and survivor-centered services (national level).
39. Develop programmes to build women's capacities to resist oppression and violence, to exercise their autonomy and negotiate the terms of their existence in the public and private sphere (national level).
40. Develop training programmes for abusers and perpetrators through reviewing promising models and distilling good practices related to attitudinal changes and behaviour modification. The approaches developed should address root causes of violence, including drivers of violence, and should take into consideration possible integration with other remedial programs such as on alcohol and drug addiction (national level).
41. Strengthen the capacity of relevant agencies to collect data in relation to VAW at national and sub-national levels (national level).
42. Develop and implement protocols, manuals and training activities for relevant stakeholders to increase capacity to collect, interpret and use data on VAW for policy and programs to monitor change (national level).

43. Promote the regional sharing of good practices and experiences, including feasible, practical and successful policy and program interventions, as well as manuals/handbooks for gender-sensitive handling of VAW cases. Promote the application of these successful interventions and experiences in other settings through social media and capacity building activities (regional level).

## **ACTION 5: RESEARCH AND DATA COLLECTION**

44. Establish regional guidelines on the collection and analysis of data related to VAW, aligned with existing global ethical guidelines (regional level).
45. Develop/improve national data systems to collect disaggregated data on VAW, The national data system should include:
  - i. prevalence data in line with indicators<sup>9</sup>;
  - ii. risk and protective factors associated with VAW;
  - iii. cost and impact of all forms of VAW;
  - iv. accessibility to services for victims/survivors;
  - v. quality of services and client satisfaction; and
  - vi. VAW in disaster and conflict situations (national level).
46. Strengthen the collection of national administrative data for effective policy development and implementation by taking into account harmonization of data collection and its appropriate use from related agencies and civil society, confidentiality, ethics and safety (national level).

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<sup>9</sup> Core indicators for measuring violence against women as identified by Friends of the Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission on indicators on violence against women

47. Review research gaps and conduct qualitative and quantitative research concerning all forms of VAW and their underlying causes (national level).
48. Evaluate the impact of policies and programs so as to contribute towards development of evidence-based policies, programs, plans of actions, and laws (national level).

## **ACTION 6: MANAGEMENT, COORDINATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

### **6.1. Management and Coordination**

49. Develop and effectively implement time-bound multi-sectoral National Action Plans on ERAW with the involvement of all relevant authorities, civil society organisations and other key stakeholders. Provision of adequate financial and human resources at all levels and clearly defined indicators and targets are essential for effective implementation of the National Action Plans on ERAW (national level).
50. Establish and/or strengthen relevant government bodies and structures to ensure effective implementation and follow-up of National Action Plans on ERAW; ensure that the National Action Plans incorporate and respond to the specific needs of different groups of women, including marginalized women, in their planning, delivery and monitoring; and make progress reports accessible to the general public and all relevant stakeholders.(national level)
51. Make available adequate financial, technical, and human resources in all sectors for key interventions to eliminate VAW. Clearly define the roles and responsibilities, and identify funding sources (national level).



52. Strengthen existing national mechanisms, including through the allocation of additional resources for national women's machineries from the governments with the assistance of related stakeholders, in implementing, monitoring and reporting of recommendations from CEDAW, CRC, the Universal Periodic Review Process of the United Nations Human Rights Council and other relevant Treaty Bodies which relate to the elimination of all forms of VAW (national level).
53. Develop national coordination mechanisms for EVAW, including mechanisms to prevent and respond to disasters and conflict situations (national level).

## **6.2 Monitoring and Evaluation**

54. Review and revise other areas of national policy to ensure a consistent multi-sectoral coordination among government bodies to promote gender equality and the elimination of VAW (national level).
55. Establish or improve monitoring system for the implementation of National Action Plan on EVAW through the development of indicators and periodic evaluation of the Plan with the meaningful participation of women's organisations and victims/survivors (national level).

## **ACTION 7: PARTNERSHIP AND COLLABORATION**

56. Implement the ASEAN RPA on EVAW in partnership with civil society organisations, the private sector and international organizations (national level).

57. Encourage greater involvement of the private sector in developing internal policies and programs that address VAW within organizational settings (national level).
58. Recognize the achievements of individuals, groups, civil society organisations and the private sectors who have made outstanding achievement on the elimination of VAW (national level).
59. Establish and/or strengthen coordination strategies between the three ASEAN pillars to end VAW, and support the effective delivery of a multi-sectoral prevention and response to VAW across all sectors (national and regional levels).
60. Enhance bilateral, sub-regional and regional cooperation to assist victims/survivors, through collecting and sharing data on case management and regional research in collaboration with civil society organisations. There should be cross-country exchanges and sharing of good practices in effective VAW prevention and response (national and regional levels).
61. Enhance an active role of national entities in coordinating and collaborating with other regional/international entities on ERAW (regional level).

## **ACTION 8: REVIEW AND COMMUNICATIONS**

### **8.1 Review of Implementation**

62. ACWC Representatives to report annually to ACWC on the progress of the implementation of the ASEAN RPA on ERAW as well as National Action Plans on ERAW and other actions at the national levels. ACWC and ACW to share and disseminate annual reports on the progress of the implementation of the ASEAN RPA on ERAW. (national and regional level).

63. ACWC and ACW to jointly review the ASEAN RPA on EVAW after five years to accommodate changes in circumstances using participatory approach. Present the findings of the review at the ASEAN Ministerial meetings (regional level).
64. Establish an accountability framework to track progress towards time-bound targets related to the situation of VAW in ASEAN (regional level).

## 8.2 Communication on the Implementation and Progress

65. ACWC and ACW to develop a website to share information on activities, good practices and challenges on the implementation of the ASEAN RPA on EVAW (regional level).
66. Report on the implementation and progress of the ASEAN RPA on EVAW and make these reports available to all stakeholders, including civil society organisations and the general public (national and regional levels).

## X. Priority Areas for the First Five Years

### (a) Regional Level

Within the first five years of this ASEAN RPA, at regional level, AMS through ACWC and ACW will:

1. Establish regional guidelines for the collection and analysis of data on VAW

**Indicators:** Establishment and adoption of guidelines based on the identification of international standards jointly agreed by ACWC and ACW.

2. Develop and enhance regional campaigns on ERAW including through the use of video spots and social media platforms and channels.

**Indicators:**

- (1) Number of countries that have disseminated ERAW campaign materials
  - (2) Number of views/visitors/viewers to social media platform with information on ERAW
3. Develop guidelines for SOPs on performance standards for service providers on gender-sensitive handling of VAW cases, including guidelines for support services for victims/survivors and the administration of justice.

**Indicators:** Guidelines for SOPs developed and adopted.

**(b) National Level**

At national level, AMS will:

4. Develop and/or strengthen National Action Plans on ERAW through multi-sectoral and inter-agency mechanism to coordinate development, implementation and monitoring of these plans

**Indicators:**

- (1) Number of countries with a National Action Plan on ERAW
- (2) Number of countries with national multi-sectoral and inter-agency coordination
- (3) Number of countries with sub-national mechanisms with adequate resources

5. Collect VAW prevalence data in line with international standard<sup>10</sup>

**Indicator:** Number of countries that collect VAW prevalence data in line with the identification of international standards jointly agreed by ACWC and ACW.

6. Develop and adopt gender responsive legal frameworks to penalize all forms of VAW in full compliance with CEDAW.

**Indicator:** Number of new/strengthened laws/regulations on EVAW

7. Develop and implement preventive interventions that address the root causes of VAW, including gender stereotypes, harmful traditional and religious practices. The interventions should promote positive, respectful and non-violent masculinities.

**Indicator:**

- (1) Number of AMS that implement preventive measures
- (2) Number of measures implemented

8. Develop national guidelines for SOPs on performance standards for service providers on gender-sensitive handling of VAW cases, including guidelines for support services for victims/survivors and the administration of justice.

**Indicator:** SOP guidelines developed.

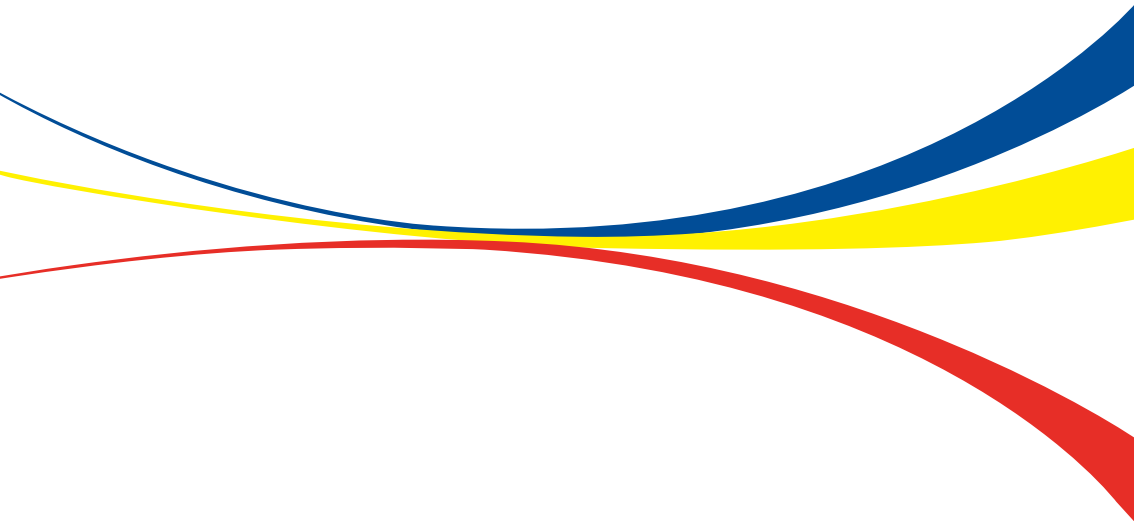
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<sup>10</sup> Core indicators identified by the Friends of the Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission on violence against women, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Statistic Division (2014). Guideline for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women-Statistical Surveys. United Nation Publication.

# Part II

*ADDITIONAL INFORMATION*





## I. Highlights of Country Initiatives (as submitted by ASEAN Member States)

### Brunei Darussalam

#### Initiatives

1. Establishment of the National Plan of Action on Family Institution and Women
  - Strategic objectives on ensuring women legal rights as well as their empowerment, including in situations pertaining to violence against women, are incorporated into the National Plan of Action on Family Institution and Women. The implementation of this National Plan of Action is monitored and coordinated by the Special Committee on Family Institution and Women which reports to the ministerial-level National Council on Social Issues. The Plan of Action has identified key performance indicators to measure its implementation progress as well as its effectiveness.
2. Amendments to legislation to include new provisions on domestic violence
  - Violence against women are enforced through various legislations including the Islamic Family Law Act (Cap 217), Married Women Act (Cap 190), the Women and Girls Protections Act (Cap 120) and the Penal Code (Cap 22). Both the Islamic Family Law Act (Cap 217) and the Married Women Act were recently amended to include provisions on domestic violence. In addition, the Penal Code (Cap 22) also contains provisions which can be invoked in cases of violence against women.
  - With effect from 26 June 2010, new provisions on '*dharar syar'ie*' or domestic violence were added to the **Married Women Act (Cap. 190)** as well as into the **Islamic Family**



**Law Order 2000.** Pursuant to the amendments, both acts provide better protection for victims of domestic violence. The new provisions explicitly define the meaning of domestic violence and provide an extensive protection for abused victims including the issuance of protection orders and expedited orders by the court, the award of compensation to the abused victims and the grant of power of arrest to the police officers.

### **Gaps and challenges**

1. The need for more sex-disaggregated data and the need for technical support in engendering statistical system;
2. The need to further enhance capacity building in gender mainstreaming, such as gender responsive budget, gender responsive policy analysis and advocacy; and
3. To further educate women on their rights with regard to domestic violence, especially on accessibility to counseling and other forms of assistance and to enhance public awareness and unacceptability of such act.

## **Cambodia**

### **Initiatives**

1. The Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA) has launched the Cambodia Gender Assessment and its *Neary Rattanak strategic plan IV (2014-2018)*, in which one of the six strategic areas include legal protection for women and girls whose objective is to reduce all forms of violence against women and girls.
2. MoWA has launched the second National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women (NAPPVAW) (2014-2018) which has five strategic areas namely: Primary Prevention,

Legal Protection and Multi-Sectoral Services, Formulating and Implementing Policies and Laws, Capacity Building, and Review, Monitoring and Evaluation.

3. A Technical Working Group on Gender Based Violence (under the Technical Working Group on Gender), with participation of relevant ministries, development partners and NGOs, was set up not only to develop but also to implement and monitor the second NAPPVAW.
4. MoWA is in the process of the development of two main documents: 1) the Minimum Standards on Basic Counseling for Vulnerable Women of Gender Based Violence and 2) the Guidelines for Women and Girls Survivors of Gender-Based Violence.
5. Legal Protection Guideline for Women's and Children's Right in Cambodia has been developed and used.
6. Trainings on the related laws was provided to the Judicial Police Agents of MoWA and service providers at national and sub-national level.
7. MoWA has coordinated the Good men campaign to raise awareness on positive masculinity in order to reduce VAW.
8. MoWA has launched National Research on Violence against Children and Core Commitment from related line ministries. MoWA has also started to coordinate lines ministries to further develop an Action Plan on Violence against Children.

### **Gaps and challenges**

1. The laws enforcement is still need to be improved.
2. The system of data collection and monitoring on GBV is needed.

## Indonesia

### Initiatives

There are standard minimum services for e-VAW and e-VAC, the existing service provider of P2TP2A (Pusat Pelayanan Terpadu Pemberdayaan Perempuan dan Anak/Centre for Integrated Services for Women and Children's Empowerment) in all provinces, the existence of national commission on anti-violence against women (Komnas Perempuan) and network forum of services provider for victim of VAW coordinated by Komnas Perempuan, the Development of National Action Plan (RAN) P3APK (Perlindungan dan Pemberdayaan Perempuan dan Anak dalam Penanganan Konflik/Protection and Empowerment of Women and Children in conflict situation).

Furthermore, the following initiatives were undertaken:

1. The Law no. 23/2004 on Elimination of Domestic Violence
2. Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Decree on Manual for Male Involvement in Elimination of Domestic Violence
3. Establishment of the National Task Force on Anti-Trafficking in Persons in 2008 consisting of all government agencies, community organisations and academia.
4. The Law in Anti-Trafficking in 2007
5. The National Plan of Actions on Anti-Trafficking in Persons for 2015-2019.

### Gaps and challenges

1. Gender bias in the interpretation of religious/belief values and cultural practices that discriminatory to women and cause VAW and VAC
2. Lack of law enforcement in relation to VAW perpetrators
3. Institutionalizing the protection of women and children rights is not yet optimal.

## Lao PDR

### Initiatives

#### **Legislations**

1. The law on the prevention and elimination of VAW and VAC was adopted by the National Assembly in 2015.
2. The long-term strategy for Advancement of Women and strategy for Mothers and Children 2016-2025 and vision 2030 was adopted by the government in 2015.
3. The National Plan of Action to prevent and eliminate VAW and VAC 2014-2020 was adopted by the government in 2014.
4. The Lao Women's Union has developed the Women's Development Action Plan 2016-2020, the strategy for Women's Development for 2025 and vision 2030.

#### **Advocacy**

5. The movement against violence focused on increasing public awareness on laws and regulations related to VAW and capacity building to related government officials, civil society organization on the Constitution and national laws as well as the obligations of Lao PDR to the international conventions related to the legitimate rights and interests of women and children, especially the Convention of Human Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the ASEAN Declaration on the Elimination of VAW and VAC.
6. Commemorating and advocate yearly message of the Prime Minister of Lao PDR on the International Day for the

Elimination of Violence against Women and Children, 25 November and the International Children's Day 1 June throughout the country.

7. Promoting, implementing, monitoring and reporting on the national campaign on patriotism and development to promote families, villages and districts in development that are practice gender equality and non-domestic violence, particularly women and children.

*Protection and Assistance*

8. Temporary shelters for victims of violence and human trafficking have been established by Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare.
9. The Counseling and Protection Centre for Women and Children of the Lao Women's Union has been established in Vientiane Capital and Counseling office in 11 provinces, 57 districts to provide services to victims of VAW around the country.
10. The hotline services number 1362 has been operated 24 hours in Vientiane Capital.
11. Pheuan Mit Center for children neglected by parents (children living on the street) and SOS shelters for orphan children have been established.
12. Child protection networks have been established at village level to support children in need of protection (children at risk or victims of abuse, neglect and abandonment, exploitation, discrimination and violence and children whom relating to the law process).
13. The child protection networks now cover 400 villages in 25 districts of 5 provinces.

14. The shelter for helping women and children who are victims of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation has been established.

#### *Research and studies*

15. Some studies and analyses on VAW have been conducted by the Gender Resource and Information for Development centre (GRID centre), part of the Lao Women's Union; the Counseling and Protection Centre for Women and Children of the Lao Women's Union; the Gender Development Association (GDA); the National Statistics Bureau, Ministry of Planning and Investment.
16. The National Baseline Survey on VAW was conducted in 2013 by the National Commission on Advancement of Women and the National Statistic Bureau. The National Baseline Survey on VAC was conducted in 2014 by the National Commission on Mothers and Children and the National Statistic Bureau. The results will be available in 2016.

#### **Gaps and challenges**

1. Limited comprehensive and accurate data, including disaggregated data, on the situation of VAW and VAC due to the absence of in-depth and systematic research on violence.
2. Limited advocacy and raise awareness on the issue for participation from wider society.
3. Limited of uniformity in coordination, monitoring and evaluation, leading to reports that are not consistent across the country and appear in different formats for reporting.

4. Limited expertise and finance in some key areas.
5. Limited Capacity buildings on VAW and VAC.

## **Malaysia**

### **Initiatives**

1. The Malaysian achievements in EAW can be seen through success of various programmes and initiatives. Some of the programmes are:
2. Amendments were made in regulations to favor women's rights against violence, i.e Domestic Violence 1994, Anti-Trafficking In Persons and Anti-Smuggling of Migrants Act 2007 and Employment Act 1955);
3. Successful programmes such as One Stop Crisis Centre to enable survivors of violence to access comprehensive treatment and services at one centralised location
4. Talian Kasih 15999 to handle queries and complaints as early intervention for victims of domestic violence, child abuse, neglect and natural disasters; and
5. Safe House Programme for victims of domestic violence. The Welfare Department has 42 safe houses all over Malaysia to give temporary shelter to these women.

### **Gaps and Challenges**

1. The need to further strengthen legal framework in addressing violence against women including efforts to establish a single act addressing sexual harassment besides amendment to existing law by increasing punishment as well as expanding the types of violence.

2. Further efforts are needed to ensure concrete and greater participation and partnership across sectors between governments, NGOs and corporate sectors in addressing Violence Against Women.
3. Addressing efforts to end violence against women should encompass treatment for the person who had committed the violence, to ensure no repetitive actions in the future.

## **Myanmar**

### **Initiatives**

1. A comprehensive law on the Prevention and Protection of Violence against Women (PPVAW) was drafted since 2013. It was initiated by the Government with the cooperation of INGOs, UNFPA and local NGOs. This draft law is in the process to have an approval from the Parliament. The law is expected to be enacted in 2015. The PPVAW law is robust and in compliance with CEDAW.
2. A series of consultation and orientation workshops on VAW has been conducted throughout the country to raise awareness of all stakeholders including parliamentarians, lawmakers and the media.
3. Women Friendly Centers which provide services on VAW, counseling and referral system are at the hotspot areas of States and Regions.
4. Complaint Letters Committees on VAW which use referral mechanism are established in Myanmar National Committee on Women's Affairs which is national institution; Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation; Women and Children Sub-committee; and Myanmar National Human Rights Commission.



5. Plan of Action on Prevention and Elimination of VAW is included in the National Strategic Plan for Advancement of Women (2013-2022).

### **Gaps and challenges**

1. No gender based budgeting is allocated.
2. Since Myanmar is diverse in national races (more than hundred ethnics), there are many cultural and traditional norms which are issues for EVAW.

## **The Philippines**

### **Initiatives**

1. **Passage of the Magna Carta of Women (MCW) or RA 9710 of 2009:** the national adoption of the UN CEDAW provides for the incremental increase in the recruitment and training of women in the police force, forensics and medico-legal, legal services and social work services availed of by women who are victims of gender-related offenses.
2. **National, regional, and local mechanisms on VAW are being established.**
  - a) The Magna Carta of Women also mandates the creation of *Barangay* (village) VAW Desks to addresses VAW cases at the village level. As of May 2015, 79.5% of 42,028 *barangays* (villages) have established VAW Desks.
  - b) Inter-agency Council on Violence against Women (IACVAWC), Regional Inter-Agency Committees on Anti-Trafficking-Violence against Women and Their Children (RIACAT-VAWC), and local committees on anti-trafficking and VAWC were created to ensure integrated response and multi-sectoral coordination among service providers.

- c) Women Friendly Spaces are being established in evacuation centers during crisis situations brought about by natural calamities and human-induced hazards. Services provided include safe and confidential multi-sectoral services (medical, psychosocial, security, legal) for gender-based violence survivors through referral mechanism in line with survivor-centered approach.

### **Gaps and challenges**

1. Need to assess the functionality of all VAW mechanisms, especially the Barangay VAW Desks.
2. Need to strengthen and institutionalize the National VAW Documentation System (NVAWDOCs) to harmonize recording and monitoring of VAW cases.
3. Need to implement and strengthen the VAW referral system at the local government units and national level to achieve harmonized interventions for VAW victims-survivors.
4. At the policy level, there is a need to prioritize pending bills such as the Anti-Prostitution Bill and expansion of the Sexual Harassment Law and of the Anti-VAWC law to cover electronic VAW.
5. Need for continuing education and training for service providers, massive information dissemination and awareness-raising on the VAW laws.
6. Need to strengthen and expand existing men's groups against VAW such as the Men Opposed to Violence against women Everywhere (MOVE)<sup>1</sup>, and encourage the formation of similar groups across the country.

## Singapore

### Initiatives

1. Passing of the Protection from Harassment Act in 2014

The Act provides a range of self-help measures, civil remedies and criminal sanctions to better protect women from harassment and related anti-social behaviour.

The Act covers a wide range of anti-social behaviour - such as cyber bullying, stalking and sexual harassment. The offences in the Act will apply wherever the harassing conduct occurs, including at the workplace.

2. Establishing Family Violence Specialist Centers

Since 2013, the government has provided dedicated funding for three Family Violence Specialist Centers (FVSCs) to provide a one-stop service for family violence, including intervention work for victims, perpetrators and their families. Such intervention includes meeting the protection, therapeutic and rehabilitative needs of clients and their families. The FVSCs also provide specialized services such as applications for a Personal Protection Order through video-conferencing and multi-disciplinary team consultations, e.g. Adult Protection Team.

### Gaps and challenges

1. Need for greater protection for women with physical or mental infirmities, who are victims of family violence.
2. Women who are victims of family violence, who have physical and/or mental infirmities that render them more susceptible to family violence, may face additional barriers and difficulties in applying for a Personal Protection Order or receiving assistance under the Women's Charter.

3. A new law the Vulnerable Adults Act, will be introduced to enhance the protection of adults with physical and/or mental infirmities who may not be able to care for themselves and who are at risk of family abuse. The law would provide additional powers to the state in cases of serious harm, neglect or self-neglect.

## Thailand

### Initiatives

1. **The Protection of Victims of Domestic Violence Act B.E. 2550 (2007)** aims to provide protection for persons from all forms of domestic violence on the basis of human rights. The Act also provides protection for victims and requires the involvement of government multidisciplinary team, the public and the media in enforcing the law and providing protection for victims at every stage of the legal proceedings from filing a complaint to conducting court proceedings and victim-sensitive media reporting. The Act also requires any person who witnesses an act of domestic violence to notify the authority. This helps create awareness that domestic violence is a public issue.
2. **One-Stop Crisis Center (OSCC)** is a multidisciplinary unit that provides comprehensive services for survivors of violence with interdisciplinary team. In 2013, One Stop Crisis Center (OSCC) was expanded to be a social assistance center providing assistance with multi-sectoral approaches for children, women, elderly, and persons with disabilities, who urgently needs social care and services. The OSCC integrates all relevant agencies' services to solve and remedy the social problem. Currently, 21,794 OSCCs are ready to provide protection and assistance nationwide.

### **Gaps and Challenges**

Attitude towards women, rooted from patriarchy, condones violence against women. The change in attitude and perception towards women and on gender equality is a long process and takes time to change.

### **Viet Nam**

#### **Initiatives:**

1. In 2006: introduced Gender Equality Law, followed by the Law on Domestic Violence Prevention and Control in 2007 which marked significant advances in the establishment of a legal framework to address violence against women in Viet Nam. Additionally, the Law on Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking came into effect on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2012 and established guidelines for the receipt, reintegration and support of trafficked persons and detailed agencies responsible for implementation. The Labor Code was amended in 2012 to particularly address sexual harassment in the workplace.
2. In 2009: the National Study on Domestic Violence against women was conducted. The findings of this study were released in 2010.
3. In 2010: approved the National Strategy on Gender Equality in the period 2011-2020 which set out specific targets in Objective No. 6: *To ensure gender equality in family life, gradually eliminate gender-based violence* with indicators of trafficked victims and domestic violence victims by 2015 and 2020.

4. In 2011: the National Program on Gender Equality 2011-2015 was approved which contained model of prevention and response to gender-based violence in grassroots
5. In 2014: the National Action Plan on Prevention and Response to Domestic Violence to 2020 was approved.
6. Increase women and men's opportunity to make complaints and accusation when their legitimate rights and interests are violated, especially when violations are based on gender discrimination;
7. Intervention programs and models have been developed and implemented.

**Gap and Challenges:**

1. Lack of awareness on gender equality and women's rights and gender stereotypes still exist quite popular among the several groups of people, including those at judicial bodies (courts, procuracy) while handling with cases on violence against women;
2. Funding: Low allowance for providing social services for victims.

## II. UN International Human Rights Instruments

1. International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD)
2. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
3. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
4. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
5. Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)
6. Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
7. International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICMW)
8. International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CPED)
9. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

### III. Situation on VAW

**Mapping Study: Legislation, National Action Plan and Prevalence Study on Violence against Women in Asia Pacific Region (UN Women, Office for Asia and the Pacific as of 13/02/2015)**

#### A. Country Information

ASEAN Member States (AMS):

- *Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam.*

#### B. Dedicated/Comprehensive legislations on VAW

**8 countries** adopted legislations addressing VAW which has been officially approved by each national government, with **4 countries** criminalizing marital rape in 2014.



**Table1.** List of AMS with dedicated/comprehensive Domestic Violence Legislation

No.	Countries	DV Legislation		Title of Legislation	Marital Rape
1	Brunei Darussalam	No	-	-	No
2	Cambodia	Yes	2005	Law on the Prevention of Violence and the Protection of Victims	No
3	Indonesia	Yes	2004	Law No. 23/2004 on the Elimination of Domestic Violence	Yes
4	Lao	Yes	2014	Law on the prevention of Violence Against Women and Children	Law not yet translated to English
5	Malaysia	Yes	1994	Domestic Violence Act	No
6	Myanmar	No	-	-	No
7	Philippines	Yes	2004/2010	Anti-Violence against Women and Their Children Act (RA 9262) Magna Carta of Women (Republic Act 9710)	Yes

8	Singapore	Yes	1961 (amended 2009)	Women's Charter and the Penal Code	Partial
9	Thailand	Yes	2007	Protection of Domestic Violence Victims Act B.E. 2550	Yes
10	Viet Nam	Yes	2007	Law on Prevention of and Control over Domestic Violence	Yes
TTL		8/10			4/10

### Link to Soft-Copy Document (Legislation)

#### 1. Cambodia

Law on the Prevention of Violence and the Protection of Victims  
[https://www.wcwonline.org/pdf/lawcompilation/Cambodia\\_dv\\_victims2005.pdf](https://www.wcwonline.org/pdf/lawcompilation/Cambodia_dv_victims2005.pdf)

Law on Suppression of Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation  
[http://www.no-trafficking.org/content/Laws\\_Agreement/cambodia%20new%20law%20on%20trafficking%20&%20sexual%20exploitation%20-%20english.pdf](http://www.no-trafficking.org/content/Laws_Agreement/cambodia%20new%20law%20on%20trafficking%20&%20sexual%20exploitation%20-%20english.pdf)

Acid Attack Law

[http://www.cambodianacidurvivorscharity.org/docs/Punishment\\_fitting\\_the\\_crime\\_January\\_2012\\_ENG.pdf](http://www.cambodianacidurvivorscharity.org/docs/Punishment_fitting_the_crime_January_2012_ENG.pdf)

#### 2. Malaysia

Domestic Violence Act

<http://www.agc.gov.my/Akta/Vol.%2011/Act%20521.pdf>

Anti Trafficking in Persons Act

<http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/population/trafficking/malaysia.traf.07.pdf>

### **3. Philippines**

Anti-Violence against Women and Their Children Act (RA 9262)

[http://www.pcw.gov.ph/sites/default/files/documents/resources/ra\\_9262\\_and\\_irr.pdf](http://www.pcw.gov.ph/sites/default/files/documents/resources/ra_9262_and_irr.pdf)

Magna Carta for Women

[http://www.dotc.gov.ph/images/front/GAD/issuances/republic\\_act\\_9710.pdf](http://www.dotc.gov.ph/images/front/GAD/issuances/republic_act_9710.pdf)

Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003 (RA 9208)

<http://www.pcw.gov.ph/sites/default/files/documents/resources/ra-9208-trafficking-irr.pdf>

Anti-Rape Law (RA8353)

<http://www.pcw.gov.ph/law/republic-act-8353>

### **4. Singapore**

Women's Charter

<http://statutes.agc.gov.sg/aol/search/display/view.w3p?page=0;query=DocId%3A%22f0897dd7-1f3a-45a9-b1e7-ba30fef2dbba%22%20Status%3Ainforce%20Depth%3A0;rec=0>

### **5. Thailand**

Protection of Domestic Violence Victims Act B.E. 2550

[http://thailaws.com/law/t\\_laws/tlaw0403.pdf](http://thailaws.com/law/t_laws/tlaw0403.pdf)

The Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act B.E. 2551

[http://www.no-trafficking.org/content/Laws\\_Agreement/laws\\_agreement\\_pdf/trafficking\\_in\\_persons\\_act\\_b.e%202551%20\(eng.\).pdf](http://www.no-trafficking.org/content/Laws_Agreement/laws_agreement_pdf/trafficking_in_persons_act_b.e%202551%20(eng.).pdf)

Labour Protection Act of 1998

<http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/WEBTEXT/49727/65119/E98THA01.htm>

## 6. Viet Nam

Law on Domestic Violence Prevention and Control

[http://www.moj.gov.vn/vbpq/en/Lists/Vn%20bn%20php%20lut/Vie w\\_Detail.aspx?ItemID=3030](http://www.moj.gov.vn/vbpq/en/Lists/Vn%20bn%20php%20lut/Vie w_Detail.aspx?ItemID=3030)

Law on Gender Equality

[http://www.moj.gov.vn/vbpq/en/Lists/Vn%20bn%20php%20lut/Vie w\\_Detail.aspx?ItemID=3786](http://www.moj.gov.vn/vbpq/en/Lists/Vn%20bn%20php%20lut/Vie w_Detail.aspx?ItemID=3786)

## C. Dedicated/Comprehensive National Action Plan on Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence

Note that only specific National Action Plan on EVAW are counted in the list excluding general National Action Plan including promotion of gender equality, women's rights etc. **3 countries** have National Action Plans on Domestic Violence and Violence against Women.

Country	Passed date	Title	Period
<i>Cambodia</i>	<i>Dec. 2014</i>	<i>National Action Plan to prevent violence against women</i>	<i>2014-2018</i>
<i>Lao</i>	<i>May. 2014</i>	<i>National Plan of Action on the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women and Violence against Children</i>	<i>2014-2020</i>
<i>Vietnam</i>	<i>Feb. 2014</i>	<i>National Plan of Action on Domestic Violence</i>	<i>2014-2020</i>

**Table2.** List of AMS with comprehensive National Action Plan on Domestic Violence/Violence against Women

No.	Countries	NAP		Title of NAP	Related Institution
1	Brunei Darussalam	No	-	-	-
2	Cambodia	Yes	2014-2018	<i>New:</i> National Action Plan to prevent violence against women	Ministry of Women's Affairs Cambodia Council for Women
3	Indonesia	No	-	-	-
4	Lao PDR	Yes	2014-2020	<i>New:</i> National Plan of Action on the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women and Violence against Children	Lao Statistics Bureau and the National Commission for Mothers and Children
5	Malaysia	No	-	-	-
6	Myanmar	No	-	-	-
7	Philippines	Yes	2014-2016	Inter-agency Council on Violence against Women and Children (IACVAWC) Strategic Plan 2014-2016	Agencies of IACVAWC
8	Singapore	No	-	-	-

9	Thailand	No	-	-	-
10	Viet Nam	Yes	2014-2020	<i>New:</i> National Plan of Action on Domestic Violence	
<b>TTL</b>		<b>4/10</b>			

### Link to Soft-Copy Document National Action Plan

#### 1. Cambodia

National Action Plan to prevent violence against women

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/issyul2do45rhas/AAD8K12RjeEagQrHxnz0kxu7a?dl=0>

#### 2. Lao PDR

National Plan of Action on the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women and Violence against Children

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/issyul2do45rhas/AAD8K12RjeEagQrHxnz0kxu7a?dl=0>

#### 3. Vietnam

National Action Plan on Domestic Violence

[http://chinhphu.vn/portal/page/portal/chinhphu/noidungchuongtrinhquocgiakhac?\\_piref135\\_18254\\_135\\_18253\\_18253.strutsAction=ViewDetailAction.do&\\_piref135\\_18254\\_135\\_18253\\_18253.docid=2635&\\_piref135\\_18254\\_135\\_18253\\_18253.substract=](http://chinhphu.vn/portal/page/portal/chinhphu/noidungchuongtrinhquocgiakhac?_piref135_18254_135_18253_18253.strutsAction=ViewDetailAction.do&_piref135_18254_135_18253_18253.docid=2635&_piref135_18254_135_18253_18253.substract=)

(Document not available in English)

## D. Prevalence Studies on Violence Against Women

**5 countries** have prevalence studies on domestic violence and/or violence against women.

**Table3.** List of AMS with comprehensive Prevalence study on Domestic Violence/Violence Against Women

No .	Countries	Prevalence	Name of Survey	Coverage	Type	Year of publication	Link
1	Brunei Darussalam	No	-	-	-	-	-
2	Cambodia	Yes	Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey 2005	National	DHS	2005	<a href="http://dhsprogram.com/publications/publication-FR185-DHS-Final-Reports.cfm">http://dhsprogram.com/publications/publication-FR185-DHS-Final-Reports.cfm</a>
3	Indonesia	No	-	-	-	-	3
4	Lao PDR	Yes	Perceptions and Attitudes of Young People on Issues Related to Violence Against Women and Girls in Lao PDR	National	Government	2015	<a href="http://unwomen-eseasia.org/docs/sitecore">http://unwomen-eseasia.org/docs/sitecore</a>
5	Malaysia	No	-	-	-	-	-
6	Myanmar	No	-	-	-	-	-

7	Philippines	Yes	Philippines Demographic and Health Survey 2013  (Published in Aug. 2014)	National	DHS	2013	<a href="http://www.dhsprgram.com/Publications/Publication-Search.cfm?ctry_id=34&amp;c=Philippines&amp;Country=Philippines&amp;cn=Philippines">http://www.dhsprgram.com/Publications/Publication-Search.cfm?ctry_id=34&amp;c=Philippines&amp;Country=Philippines&amp;cn=Philippines</a>
8	Singapore	No	-	-	-	-	-
9	Thailand	Yes	WHO Multi-country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence against Women.	Province	WHO	2005	<a href="http://www.measuredhs.com/pubs/pdf/FR235/FR235.pdf">http://www.measuredhs.com/pubs/pdf/FR235/FR235.pdf</a>
				City			
10	Viet Nam	Yes	'Keeping silent is dying' Results from the National Study on Domestic Violence against Women	National	WHO	2010	<a href="http://www.gso.gov.vn/Modules/Doc_Download.aspx?DocID=12579">http://www.gso.gov.vn/Modules/Doc_Download.aspx?DocID=12579</a>
TTL		5/10					



## Summary

### AMS on Domestic Violence/Violence Against Women legislation, National Action Plan and prevalence study

No.	Countries	DV Legislation	Marital Rape	NAP	Prevalence Study
1	Brunei Darussalam				
2	Cambodia	X		X	X
3	Indonesia	X	X		
4	Lao PDR	X		X	X
5	Malaysia	X			
6	Myanmar				
7	Philippines	X	X	X	X
8	Singapore	X			
9	Thailand	X	X		X
10	Viet Nam	X	X	X	X
<b>TTL</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>

## IV. Indicators on EVAW

**Core indicators for measuring violence against women identified by Friends of the Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission on indicators on violence against women**

**Indicator I: Total and age-specific rate of women subjected to physical violence in the past 12 months by severity of violence, relationship to the perpetrator and frequency**

- I-1. Women reporting physical violence in the past 12 months by age and relationship to perpetrator
- I-2. Women reporting physical violence by non-partner perpetrators in the past 12 months by age and detailed relationship to perpetrator
- I-3. Women reporting physical violence by partner or non-partner in the past 12 months by age and by severity of violence
- I-4. Women reporting physical violence by partner or non-partner in the past 12 months by age and by frequency

**Indicator II: Total and age-specific rate of women subjected to physical violence during their lifetime by severity of violence, relationship to the perpetrator and frequency**

- II-1. Women reporting physical violence during their lifetime by age and relationship to perpetrator
- II-2. Women reporting physical violence by non-partner perpetrators during their lifetime by age and detailed relationship to perpetrator

II-3. Women reporting physical violence by partner or non-partner during their lifetime by age and by severity of violence

II-4. Women reporting physical violence by partner or non-partner during their lifetime by age and by frequency

**Indicator III: Total and age-specific rate of women subjected to sexual violence in the past 12 months by severity of violence, relationship to the perpetrator and frequency**

III-1. Women reporting sexual violence in the past 12 months by age and relationship to perpetrator

III-2. Women reporting sexual violence by non-partner perpetrators in the past 12 months by age and detailed relationship to perpetrator

III-3. Women reporting sexual violence by partner or non-partner in the past 12 months by age and by severity of violence

III-4. Women reporting sexual violence by partner or non-partner in the past 12 months by age and by frequency

**Indicator IV: Total and age-specific rate of women subjected to sexual violence during their lifetime by severity of violence, relationship to the perpetrator and frequency**

IV-1. Women reporting sexual violence during their lifetime by age and relationship to perpetrator

IV-2. Women reporting sexual violence by non-partner perpetrators during their lifetime by age and detailed relationship to perpetrator

IV-3. Women reporting sexual violence by partner or non-partner during their lifetime by age and by severity of violence

IV-4. Women reporting sexual violence by partner or non-partner during their lifetime by age and by frequency

**Indicator V: Total and age-specific rate of ever-partnered women subjected to sexual and/or physical violence by a current or former intimate partner in the past 12 months by frequency**

For these indicators, total women refers only to those women who have ever had a partner.

V-1. Women reporting physical, sexual, physical or sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner in past 12 months by age

V-2. Women reporting physical violence by a current or former intimate partner in the past 12 months by age and frequency

V-3. Women reporting sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner in the past 12 months by age and frequency

V-4. Women reporting sexual and/or physical violence by a current or former intimate partner in the past 12 months by age and frequency

**Indicator VI: Total and age-specific rate of ever-partnered women subjected to sexual and/or physical violence by a current or former intimate partner during their lifetime by frequency**

VI-1. Women reporting physical, sexual, physical or sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner during their lifetime by age

VI-2. Women reporting physical violence by a current or former intimate partner during their lifetime by age and frequency

VI-3. Women reporting sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner during their lifetime by age and frequency

VI-4. Women reporting sexual and/or physical violence by a current or former intimate partner during their lifetime by age and frequency

**Indicator VII: Total and age-specific rate of ever-partnered women subjected to psychological violence in the past 12 months by an intimate partner**

**Indicator VIII: Total and age-specific rate of ever-partnered women subjected to economic violence in the past 12 months by an intimate partner**

Women reporting economic violence by a current or former intimate partner in the past 12 months by age

**Indicator IX: Total and age-specific rate of women subjected to female genital mutilation**

Source: Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women – Statistical Surveys (Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Statistics Division 2014) [http://unstats.un.org/unsd/gender/docs/Guidelines\\_Statistics\\_VAW.pdf](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/gender/docs/Guidelines_Statistics_VAW.pdf)

## V. Suggested Topics for Research

1. Research on the nature, prevalence and impact of VAW, including violence against groups of marginalized women and new and emerging forms of VAW;
2. Causes and consequences of VAW, including its health and economic costs to individuals, households, and society at large;
3. Harmful practices, disaggregated by sex, age, geographical location, socio-economic status, education levels, and other key factors;
4. Number of recorded complaints, prosecutions, convictions and sentences in relation to VAW, including rape and domestic violence;
5. Accessibility and quality of survivor services;
6. Gaps and challenges to combat VAW;
7. Research on risk factors related to men's perpetration of violence.
8. Regional review of the following:
  - National plans and/or policies to address violence against women
  - Institutional conditions to provide “enabling environments” for the implementation of plans or policies: recommendations for action identify political opportunities
  - Major progress and critical issues: a look across the implementation of national plans and/or policies to address violence against women/ the formulation of national plans and/or policies

## VI. Suggested Data Relevant to VAW

### 1. Physical violence

The list of acts of physical violence provided below comprises the most common acts of physical violence against women and is a recommended minimum list for use by countries. This list is not exhaustive or closed-ended for any country and may be expanded as appropriate in each context.

A minimum list of acts of physical violence consists of the following:

- Kicking, biting or dragging her
- Beating her
- Choking or burning her
- Threatening her with a knife, gun or other weapon
- Using a knife, gun or other weapon against her
- Other (leave open for the respondent to specify).

Other acts of physical violence that are known to be carried out or attempted against women in a specific country should be added to the list developed for that country. For example in certain countries it might be appropriate to add such violent acts as stoning or throwing acid.

### 2. Sexual violence

Sexual violence is any sort of harmful or unwanted sexual behaviour that is imposed on someone. It includes acts of abusive sexual contact, forced engagement in sexual acts, attempted or completed sexual acts with a woman without her consent, sexual harassment, verbal abuse, threats, exposure, unwanted touching, incest, etc. A minimum list of acts of sexual violence, which should be expanded depending on the specific country context, consists of the following:

(a) *Rape*: Refers to engaging in the non-consensual vaginal, anal or oral penetration of a sexual nature of the body of another person with any bodily part or object, including through the use of physical violence and by putting the victim in a situation where she cannot say no or complies because of fear;

(b) *Attempted rape*: Refers to attempting to have non-consensual sexual intercourse through the use of force or threats;

(c) *Other sexual acts*: Refers to:

- Intimate touching without consent
- Sexual acts other than intercourse forced by money
- Sexual acts other than intercourse obtained through threats of physical violence
- Sexual acts other than intercourse obtained through threats to the well-being of family members
- Use of force or coercion to obtain unwanted sexual acts or any sexual activity that the female partner finds degrading or humiliating
- Other acts of sexual violence.

### **3. Psychological violence**

Psychological violence includes a range of behaviours that encompass acts of emotional abuse and controlling behaviour. These often coexist with acts of physical and sexual violence by intimate partners and are acts of violence in themselves. Studies have shown that the use of multiple types of psychological violence is associated with an increased risk of physical and sexual violence against female partners and can have serious impacts on such women, regardless of whether or not other types of violence occurred.

Examples of behaviours that fall within the definition of psychological violence include the following:



(a) Emotional abuse:

- Insulting her or making her feel bad about herself
- Belittling or humiliating her in front of other people
- Deliberately scaring or intimidating her
- Threatening to hurt her or others she cares about.

(b) Controlling behaviour:

- Isolating her by preventing her from seeing family or friends
- Monitoring her whereabouts and social interactions
- Ignoring her or treating her indifferently
- Getting angry if she speaks with other men
- Making unwarranted accusations of infidelity
- Controlling her access to health care
- Controlling her access to education or the labour market.

Owing to concerns about the reliability of reports of psychological violence over the duration of a relationship, it is recommended that information collected on this form of violence should be limited to the past 12 months. It is further recommended that experience of psychological violence should be limited to psychological violence perpetrated by current and former intimate partners.

#### **4. Economic violence**

Economic violence is said to occur when an individual denies his intimate partner access to financial resources, typically as a form of abuse or control or in order to isolate her or to impose other adverse consequences to her well-being. Economic violence involves the following:

- Denying her access to financial resources
- Denying her access to property and durable goods

- Deliberately not complying with economic responsibilities, such as alimony or financial support for the family, thereby exposing her to poverty and hardship
- Denying her access to the labour market and education
- Denying her participation in decision-making relevant to economic status. The above examples should be considered illustrative only. Psychological and economic violence, in particular, can vary significantly according to cultural context and country circumstances and should be developed with this in mind. As with data on psychological violence, the collection of data on economic violence should be limited to the past 12 months in order to avoid problems related to the ability to accurately recall events.

Economic violence takes many forms. As a core topic it is limited to economic violence committed by intimate partners. A further restriction is that economic violence is not relevant in the case of dating partners or boyfriends who do not reside with the woman. In such relationships, the man is not likely to be in a position to exert control over the woman's financial situation or to limit her access to her own financial resources.

### **5. Female genital mutilation**

Although female genital mutilation is the subject of one of the core indicators identified by the Friends of the Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission on indicators on violence against women, it is not a widespread phenomenon in many countries. Consequently, it is listed as an optional topic in these Guidelines and will be discussed on briefly. Furthermore, it may be more appropriate to collect information and calculate indicators on this practice through specialized health surveys such as the Demographic and Health Surveys or the World Health Survey. That being said, female genital mutilation is an extreme form of physical, sexual and psychological violence and should not be ignored.

## **6. Attitude towards violence against women**

An important aspect of understanding the risks associated with experiencing violence is the extent to which this violence is tolerated in the wider community. The attitudes or beliefs of respondents can be used as a proxy indicator of the level of tolerance for the use of violence against women in intimate relationships, although in certain cases surveys may not be measuring attitudes or tolerance but rather a reflection of personal experience and thus normalization. One way to measure attitudes supportive of violence against women is to ask respondents if they think a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances, for example if she goes out without telling him, neglects the children, argues with him, refuses sex with him or burns the food. If an analysis of these variables and the core topics demonstrates that women who adhere to these beliefs experience higher rates of intimate partner violence, efforts to reduce violence against women will have to address women's attitudes and beliefs through public education campaigns. Caution should be used when interpreting quantitative attitudes data, however. Indeed, as norms and attitudes are often more effectively researched through qualitative methods.

## **7. Reporting to authorities/seeking help**

An important topic that may be included in a survey on violence against women concerns the avenues that women take to obtain assistance or gain protection when they encounter violence. It is recommended that the act of reporting physical and sexual violence to the criminal justice or legal authorities, seeking assistance from health agencies and telling others in the family and the local community should be included so that they can be analysed together with the core topics. Indeed, estimating unreported physical and sexual violence is an important aspect of estimating the overall prevalence of violence.

**Source:** UN, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Statistic Division ( 2014). Guideline for Producing Statistic on Violence against Women – Statistical Surveys.

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## VIII. Drafting Process of ASEAN RPA on EVAW

The drafting process of ASEAN RPA on EVAW is financially and technically supported by the Royal Thai Government through Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security and UN Women Office for Asia and the Pacific. The Thailand's Sub-committee Working Group on Drafting RPA on EVAW (TWG) held 18 internal meetings and 2 consultative meetings with the Joint ACWC – ACW Working Group on Drafting RPA on EVAW (AAWG).

The drafting process is detailed below.

- **Step 1** Establishment of Thailand's Sub-committee Working Group on Drafting RPA on EVAW (TWG) by the appointment of the Vice-Chair of National Commission on Policy and Strategy for the Development of the Status of Women, the Royal Thai Government.
- **Step 2** Establishment of the Joint ACWC – ACW Working Group on Drafting RPA on EVAW (AAWG), consisting of ACWC and ACW representatives of Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam.
- **Step 3** Collection of all relevant documents/materials on EVAW from UN agencies, ASEAN region, and other regions as well as NGOs and INGOs etc (total 28 documents).
- **Step 4** Review of the documents/materials, compilation and classification of aspects of violence against women developing the working paper (539 items) by TWG.
- **Step 5** Consolidation, analysis and editing of the working paper based on ASEAN situations and needs (143 items)
- **Step 6** Drafting the zero draft of RPA on EVAW by TWG
- **Step 7** Presentation of the process and framework at the 10<sup>th</sup> ACWC meeting. In this meeting, a request was made

to ACWC members to be prepared to organize national consultation immediately after the First AAWG – TWG meeting on 1-3 April, 2015

- **Step 8** Organization of three consultative meetings to produce the First Draft of RPA on EVAW on 1 – 3 April 2015 in Bangkok. These consultative meetings included:
  - a. The consultative meeting with Thai governmental and non-governmental organizations on 1 April 2015 (61 persons);
  - b. The consultative meeting with international organizations, international non- governmental organizations, and international community on 2 April 2015 (52 persons); and
  - c. The First AAWG - TWG meeting to consider the recommendations from a) and b) and to formulate the first draft of RPA on EVAW.
- **Step 9** Submission of the First Draft to ACWC members, ACW focal points, AICHR, and INGOS for comments and recommendations on 17 April 2015.
- **Step 10** Comments and recommendations received from:
  - (1) Brunei Darussalam (27 July 2015)
  - (2) Cambodia (12 July 2015)
  - (3) Indonesia (18 June 2015)
  - (4) Malaysia (27 April 2015)
  - (5) Myanmar (25 June 2015)
  - (6) Philippines (19 June 2015)
  - (7) Singapore (4 July 2015)
  - (8) Thailand (20 June 2015)
  - (9) Vietnam (8 July 2015)
  - (10) AICHR (8 July 2015)
  - (11) Women’s Caucus (22 June 2015)
  - (12) CARE (24 June 2015)
  - (13) UN Women Vietnam Office (7 July 2015)
- **Step 11** Integration of comments and recommendations, as appropriate, by TWG for AAWG to consider.

- **Step 12** Organization of the Second AAWG - TWG meeting on 27 – 28 July 2015 in Bangkok to revise the Final Draft to be the Final Draft (from the AAWG) of RPA on EAW.
- **Step 13** Presentation of the Final Draft (from the AAWG) at the Joint ACWC-ACW Meeting on 26 August 2015 in Jakarta, Indonesia.

## **IX. Thailand’s Sub-Committee Working Group (TWG)**

### **Ad Hoc Sub-Committee on Drafting ASEAN Plan of Action on Elimination of Violence Against Women:**

1. Mr. Somchai Charoenumuaisuke  
Advisor  
Director-General,  
Department of Women’s Affairs and Family Development  
Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS)
2. Ms. Anna – Karin Jatfors  
Advisor  
Campaign Manager, Asia Pacific, UN Women
3. Mrs. Deepa Bharathi  
Advisor  
Regional Program Manager CEDAW SEAP, UN Women
4. Mrs. Saisuree Chutikul  
Chair of TWG  
ACWC Representative of Thailand for Children’s Rights

5. Ms. Wanpen Suwanvisith  
Vice-chair  
Deputy Director-General  
Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development,  
MSDHS
6. Mrs. Kanda Vajrabhaya  
Sub-committee member  
ACWC Representative of Thailand for women's rights
7. Mrs. Maytinee Bhongswej  
Sub-committee member  
Expert on the Protection of the Rights of Women,  
National Committee on Policy and Strategy for the  
Advancement of Women
8. Ms. Usa Lertsrisantad  
Sub-committee member  
Director, Foundation for Women
9. Mrs. Ryratana Rangsitpol  
Sub-committee member  
Country Program Coordinator, UN Women
10. Mrs. Patcharee Arayakul  
Sub-committee member  
Director of Bureau of Gender Equality Promotion  
Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development,  
MSDHS
11. Ms. Ratchada Jayagupta  
Sub-committee member  
National Program Officer for Governance CEDAW  
Southeast Asia Program, UN Women

12. Mrs. Napaphen Phumnikom  
Sub-committee member  
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13. Mrs. Duangsuda Mueangwong  
Sub-committee member  
Head of Provincial Office of Social Development and Human  
Security,  
Nong Bua Lamphu Province
14. Ms. Perada Phumessawatdi  
Secretariat Social Development Officer  
Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development,  
MSDHS
15. Ms. Ornwipa Rugkhla  
Secretariat  
Campaign Coordinator, Violence against Women, UN Women

## **X. ACWC – ACW Working Group (AAWG)**

### **Representatives on the First AAWG Meeting on 1 – 3 April 2015**

1. Dr. Saisuree Chutikul  
Chair of AAWG  
Thailand's representative to ACWC (child's rights)

## **Malaysia**

2. Ms. Zalinah Mohd Yusof  
Deputy Undersecretary, Policy Division,  
Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development  
Representative of Dato' Sabariah Hassan, Secretary General  
Ministry of Women Family and Community Development/  
ACWC Representative of Malaysia for women's rights /ACW
3. Prof. Datuk Dr. Chiam Heng Keng  
ACWC Representative of Malaysia for children's rights

## **The Philippines**

4. Prof. Aurora Javate De Dios  
Executive Director, Women and Gender Institute  
ACWC Representative of the Philippines for women's rights
5. Ms. Emmeline L. Verzosa  
Executive Director, Philippine Commission on Women/ ACW

## **Thailand**

6. Mrs. Kanda Vajrabhaya  
ACWC Representative of Thailand for women's rights
7. Mr. Somchai Charoenumuaisuke  
Director-General  
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## **Viet Nam**

8. Ms. Cao Thi Thanh Thuy  
Deputy Director General, International Cooperation  
Department,  
Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs  
ACWC Representative of Viet Nam for women's rights
9. Ms. Nguyen Thi Van Anh  
Official of Department of Gender Equality  
Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs  
Representative of Ms. Ha Minh Duc, Deputy Director General  
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12. Ms. Khine Ngwe Hnin Zaw  
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The ASEAN Secretariat

## **Representatives on the First AAWG Meeting on 27 – 28 July 2015**

13. H.E. Intan MD Kassim  
Chair of ACWC  
ACWC Representative of Brunei Darussalam for children's  
rights



14. Dr. Saisuree Chutikul  
Chair of AAWG  
ACWC Representative of Thailand for children's rights

### **Malaysia**

15. Ms. Affriza Othman Ariff  
Representative of Dato' Sabariah Hassan  
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Ministry of Women Family and Community Development/  
ACWC representative of Malaysia for women's rights /ACW
16. Prof. Datuk Dr. Chiam Heng Keng  
ACWC Representative of Malaysia for child's rights

### **The Philippines**

17. Prof. Aurora Javate De Dios  
ACWC Representative of the Philippines for women's rights
18. Ms. Emmeline L. Verzosa  
Executive Director, Philippine Commission on Women,  
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### **Thailand**

19. Mrs. Kanda Vajrabhaya  
ACWC Representative of Thailand for women's rights
20. Mr. Somchai Charoenumuaisuke  
Director-General of Department of Women's Affairs and  
Family  
Development/ ACW

## **Viet Nam**

21. Ms. Cao Thi Thanh Thuy  
Deputy Director General, International Cooperation  
Department  
Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs  
ACWC Representative of Viet Nam for women's rights
  
22. Ms. Nguyen Thi Nga  
Official of Department of Gender Equality  
Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs  
Representative of Ms. Ha Minh Duc, Deputy Director General  
Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs / ACW

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24. Ms. Ornwipa Rugkhla  
UN Women, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
  
25. Ms. Ajeng Purnama  
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The ASEAN Secretariat
  
26. Ms. Chhy Ratha  
Attachment Officer, Social Welfare, Women, Labour and  
Migrant Workers Division,  
The ASEAN Secretariat

## XI. ACWC Representatives and ACW Focal Points

### ACWC Representatives

Country	Representative on Women's Rights	Representative on Children's Rights
<b>Brunei Darussalam</b>	Dayang Hajah Mordiah bte Haji Jackia	Datin Paduka Hajah Intan bte Haji Mohd Kassim (Chair)
<b>Cambodia</b>	Mrs. Long Sophally (Vice Chair)	Mrs. Khiev Bory
<b>Indonesia</b>	Ms. Lily Purba	Mr. Ahmad Taufan Damanik
<b>Lao PDR</b>	Ms. Soukphaphone Phanit	Ms. Chongchith Chantharanonh
<b>Malaysia</b>	Dato' Sabariah Hassan	Prof. Datuk Dr. Chiam Heng Keng
<b>Myanmar</b>	Dr Khin Mar Tun	Ms. Rupal Mya
<b>Philippines</b>	Prof. Aurora Javate-De Dios	Mr. Alberto T. Muyot <i>(Waiting for appointment from the Government)</i>
<b>Singapore</b>	Mrs. Laura Hwang Cheng Lin	Mr. Koh Choon Hui
<b>Thailand</b>	Mdm. Kanda Vajrabhaya	Dr. Saisuree Chutikul
<b>Viet Nam</b>	Ms. Cao Thi Thanh Thuy	Mr. Dang Hoa Nam

## **ACW Focal Points**

### **BRUNEI DARUSSALAM**

**Ms. Hajah Misnah HajiBolhassan**

Director

Department of Community Development

Ministry of Culture, Youth & Sports

### **CAMBODIA**

**H.E. Kheng Samvada**

Secretary of State

Ministry of Women's Affairs

### **INDONESIA**

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Senior Advisor to the Minister

Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection

### **LAO PDR (ACW VICE-CHAIR)**

**Ms. Bundith Prathoumvanh**

Vice President

Lao Women's Union

### **MALAYSIA (ACW CHAIR)**

**Dato' Sabariah Hassan**

Secretary General

Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development

### **MYANMAR**

**Ms. Thin ThinNwe**

Director

Department of Social Welfare

Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement

## **PHILIPPINES**

### **Ms. Remedios I. Rikken**

Chairperson

Philippine Commission on Women (PCW)

### **Ms. Emmeline L. Verzosa**

Executive Director

Philippine Commission on Women (PCW)

## **SINGAPORE**

### **Mrs. Tan HweeSeh**

Senior Director

Office for Women's Development

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## **THAILAND**

### **Mr. Somchai Charoenamnuaisuke**

Director General

Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development

Ministry of Social Development and Human Security

## **VIETNAM**

### **Ms. Le Kim Dung**

Director General

International Cooperation Department

Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA)

### **Ms. Ha Thi Minh Duc**

Deputy Director General

International Cooperation Department

Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA)

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