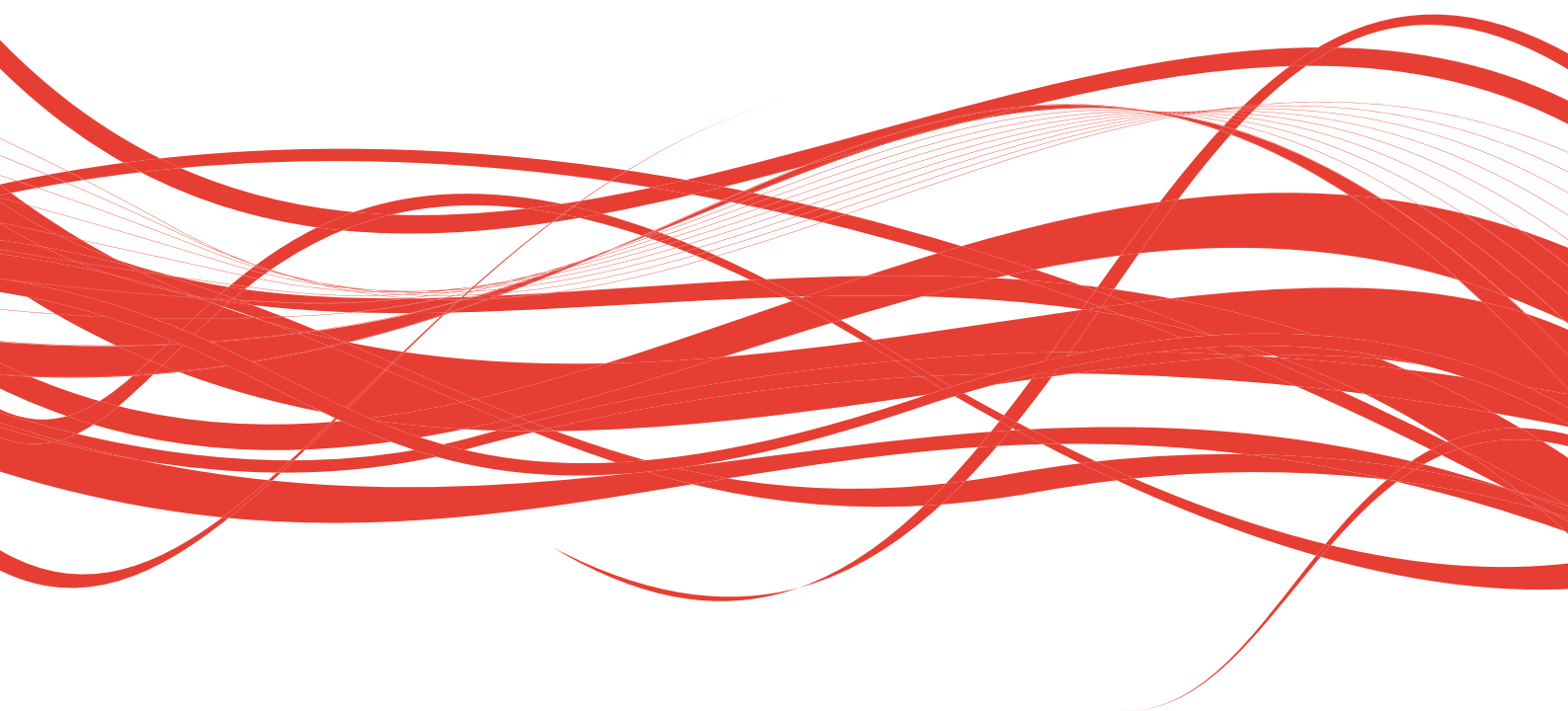




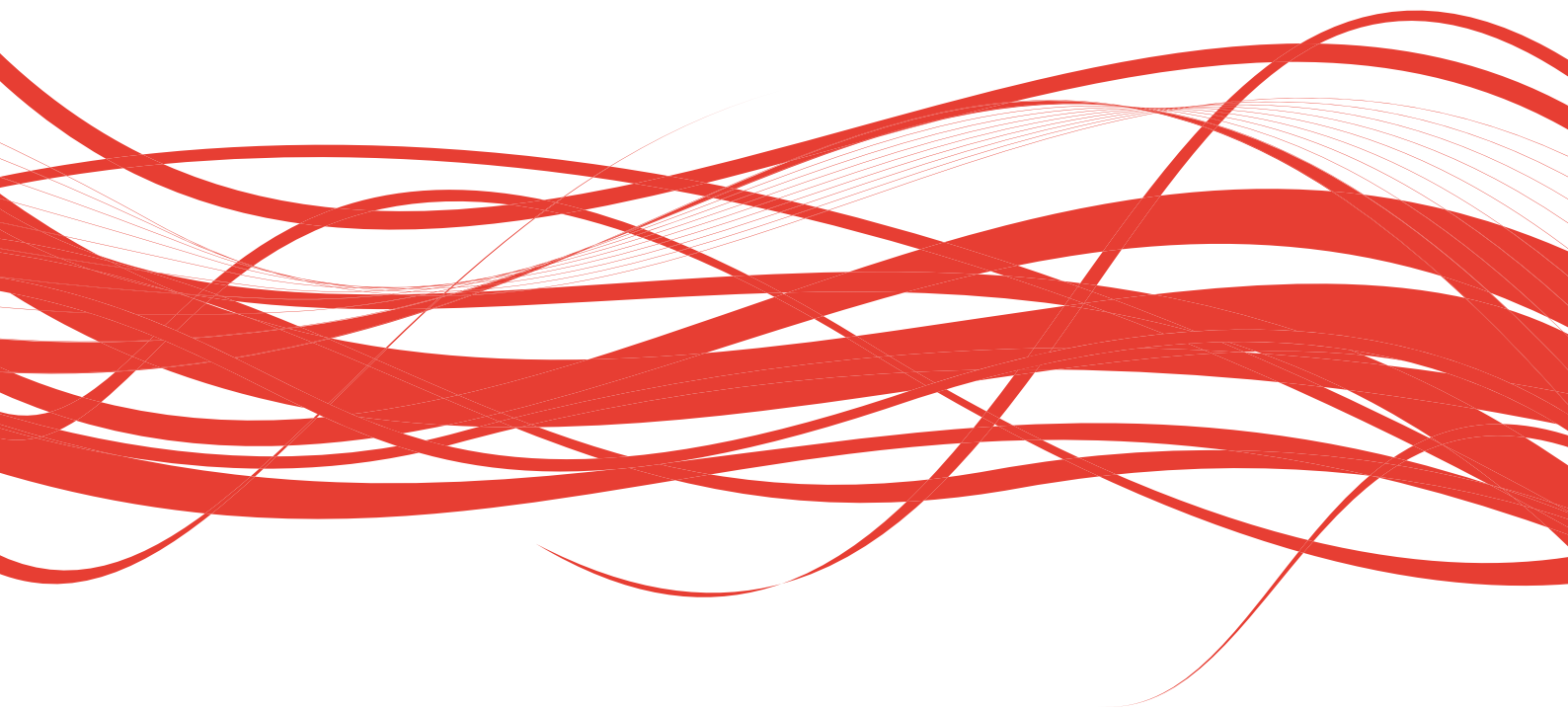
australian reproductive
health alliance

Prevention of Violence against Women and Girls - An Advocacy Toolkit

*On behalf of the Asia-Pacific Standing Committee
of Male Parliamentarians on Prevention
of Violence against Women and Girls*



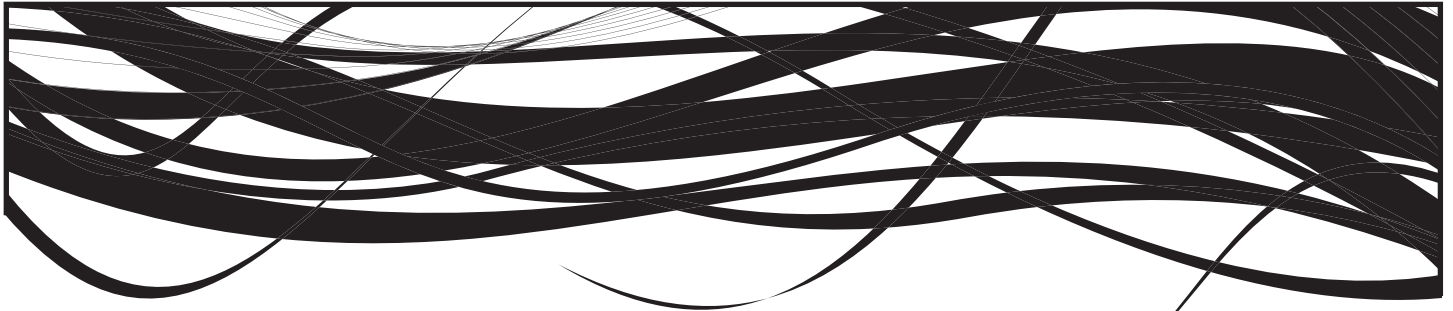
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Introduction

“Violence against women is perhaps the most shameful human rights violation, and it is perhaps the most pervasive. It knows no boundaries of geography, culture or wealth. As long as it continues, we cannot claim to be making real progress towards equality, development and peace.”

- Former United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan

The Asia-Pacific Standing Committee of Male Parliamentarians on Prevention of Violence against Women and Girls appreciates the vital role which male parliamentarians play in promoting policies that prevent and reduce violence against women and girls.¹

Male parliamentarians understand the high prevalence of violence against women in our region – and recognise that despite past efforts to eliminate violence against women, there is no indication that levels are decreasing.²

The Australian Reproductive Health Alliance received funding from United Nations Population Fund for production of this toolkit, which is designed to support the goals of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).

This toolkit aims to:

- Support male parliamentarians to make change in their countries by helping them to identify specific opportunities for action
- Assist male parliamentarians to learn together and take action in the region
- Provide information and resources which governments can adapt to their local contexts.

The content of this toolkit focuses on three main areas:

- Background: Understanding the issue
- What can be done about it? Interventions and responses
- Case studies: Promising global and regional initiatives.

You may reproduce the whole toolkit or extracts or summaries, provided the title and the Australian Reproductive Health Alliance (ARHA) are attributed, with a link to our website at <http://www.arha.org.au>. This toolkit is available to download in its entirety at: <http://www.arha.org.au/>.

¹ Report of the AFPPD-UNFPA Satellite Session on *Engaging Men and Boys in Prevention of Violence against Women and Girls: New Initiatives and New Alliances by Male Parliamentarians from Asia-Pacific*, 5th Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights, October 18 2009, Beijing, China.

² Partners for Prevention (2010) Summary of the *Gender-Based Violence and Masculinities Project: Building Evidence-based Responses for Prevention in the Asia-Pacific Region*. http://partners4prevention.org/files/documents/p4p_gbv_masc_research_project_leaflet.pdf

Background

Abbreviations, Acronyms and Definitions

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ARHA	Australian Reproductive Health Alliance
AusAID	The Australian Agency for International Development
CAT	Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (1984)
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979)
CROC	Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)
GBV	Gender based violence. Violence involving men and women, in which the woman is usually the victim, and which is derived from unequal power relationship between men and women.
Gender	The socially constructed roles, behaviours, activities, and attributes that a given society considers appropriate for men and women. Aspects of sex will not vary substantially between different human societies, whereas aspects of gender may vary greatly
Gender equality	Equal treatment of men and women in laws and policies, and equal access to resources and services within families, communities and society at large.
Gender inequality	results from unequal power relationships between women and men, based on socially constructed roles. It is one of the root causes of violence against women.
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
Human right	A basic, universal freedom or entitlement inherent to all human beings.
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)
ICESC	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966)
Intimate partner violence	Any behaviour by a man or woman within an intimate relationship that causes physical, sexual or psychological harm to those in the relationship. This is the most common form of violence against women.
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
Sex	The biological and physiological characteristics that define men and women
SRHR	Sexual and reproductive health and rights
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
VAW	Violence against Women
WHO	World Health Organisation

What is Violence against Women (VAW)?

Violence against women is defined as “Violence that is directed against a woman because she is a woman, or violence that affects women disproportionately. It includes acts that inflict physical, mental or sexual harm or suffering, threats of such acts, coercion and other deprivations of liberty.”

- General Recommendation 19, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979) Committee

The form and prevalence of violence against women varies across the Asia-Pacific region³

Violence against women and girls is one of the most common human rights violations. In our region, as it is globally, it is severe, pervasive and a major constraint on development. It affects women of all ages, races and cultures. Some women are at a higher risk. Lack of access to education and opportunity and low social status in communities are linked to high rates of violence against women.⁴

Types of violence against women⁵

Women are most at risk in their own homes with people they know. On average at least one in three women is beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused by an intimate partner in her lifetime.

Violence against women can take different forms:

- Physical violence, such as hitting, slapping, or use of weapons
- Sexual violence, including coerced sex or being forced into sexual activities which are degrading or humiliating
- Psychological and emotional abuse, such as systematic humiliation, controlling behaviour, threats and insults
- Economic abuse, such as restricting financial resources.

It occurs within the family, the community, in armed conflict, and can be condoned by the State.

It can include: domestic physical violence within an intimate relationship, sexual assault and harassment, rape as a weapon of war, early or forced marriage, dowry murder, trafficking, prostitution, female genital mutilation, institutionalised violence against women detainees, and discrimination in the workplace, slavery, honour killings, HIV/AIDS, sex selection and female infanticide.

The causes and contexts of violence against women

Violence against women occurs where there are:

- Structural relationships of inequality between men and women⁶
- Traditional cultural practices which subordinate women^{7 8}
- Doctrines of privacy in the home and within families, where violence is seen as a private, family

3 UN Secretary General (2006) Ending Violence against Women: from words to action, Executive Summary of the UN Secretary-General's In-depth Study on Violence against Women, United Nations, New York, <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/vaw/publications/English%20Study.pdf>

4 World Health Organization (WHO) (2009) Violence Against Women <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs239/en/index.html>

5 UNiTE (2006), Factsheet: How Widespread is Violence against Women?, United Nations, New York, <http://www.un.org/en/women/endviolence/pdf/VAW.pdf>

6 UN Secretary General (2006). Op cit. p. ii

7 UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) (2007) Violence against Women: harmful traditional and cultural practices in the Asia and Pacific region, United Nations, Bangkok, p. 12, http://www.unescap.org/ESID/GAD/Publication/Other/Publication_EGM-VAW.pdf

8 Greig, A., Basnyat, A. & Lang, J., 2008, Men and the Prevention of Gender-based Violence: A Conceptual Framework for Policy Change, Partners for Prevention, p. 26, http://www.partners4prevention.org/files/resources/policy_change.pdf

- matter in which outsiders should not intervene
- State inaction, political instability and conflict⁹
- Economic and social change due to globalisation¹⁰ e.g. women moving into the workforce, exposure to media content and new opportunities for women's economic advancement prompting backlash from men.

The social and economic costs and consequences

Violence against women impoverishes women, their families, communities and nations.¹¹ The social and economic costs of violence against women are extremely high. In Australia this year alone violence against women and children will cost the economy an estimated \$13.6 billion.¹²

Women suffer negative long-term impacts including:

- Human pain, suffering and isolation
- Detrimental physical, sexual, mental and reproductive health consequences (such as unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections and HIV)
- Social and inter-generational impacts: stigmatisation, loss of education, limited ability to care for themselves and their children, inability to work and the loss of wages

Communities carry the costs of increased health care expenditures and greater demands on courts, police and schools. They are diminished by the lack of educational achievement, employment and productivity of women.¹³

A major consequence of violence is that young people who are exposed to it today are likely adopt similar behaviours in future, and so violence is transmitted from one generation another.¹⁴

Addressing the causes of violence against women

Efforts to end violence against women are strengthened when a coordinated approach to gender equality and human rights is taken.

Effective strategies for prevention challenge the beliefs and values which promote men's power over women and which support violence as a legitimate way to resolve conflict. They also promote alternative ways of thinking about masculinity and women's roles which foster non-violence and gender equality.

The three main ways to address violence against women are¹⁵:

1. Increasing and funding programs which aim to lessen the likelihood of boys and men using violence against women in the first place (This is called primary prevention).
2. Increasing and funding programs to intervene for those women and communities at high risk and working to prevent the problem from occurring or progressing (This is called secondary prevention).
3. Increasing and funding services to respond after violence has occurred to minimise its impact, restore health and safety, and prevent further victimisation. These services include crisis care, counselling and advocacy (This is called tertiary prevention).

⁹ Ibid p. 14

¹⁰ Ibid p. 23

¹¹ UN ESCAP Op. cit. p. 13

¹² Commonwealth of Australia (2009) The Cost of Violence Against Women and Children, http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/women/pubs/violence/np_time_for_action/economic_costs/Documents/VAWC_Economic_Report.PDF

¹³ UNFPA (2005) State of the World Population, Gender Based Violence: A Price Too High, <http://www.unfpa.org/swp/2005/english/ch7/index.htm>

¹⁴ ESCAP Op cit. p.14

¹⁵ White Ribbon Foundation (2010) Factsheet 12: What is Primary Prevention? <http://www.whiteribbonday.org.au/media/documents/Fact%20Sheet%2012%20%20What%20is%20Primary%20Prevention%202009.pdf>

Taking action as a male parliamentarian

Type of violence against women I wish to address in my country (e.g. domestic violence)	Causes of this violence that need to be addressed	Initial steps can I take in the effort to reduce this type of violence in my country

A global problem

“Men must teach each other that real men do not violate or oppress women – and that a woman’s place is not just in the home or the field, but in schools and offices and boardrooms.”

- UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon

Violence against women is not the result of random, individual acts of misconduct but is deeply rooted in structural relationships of inequality between men and women.^{16 17 18}

As many as 1 in 3 women worldwide have experienced being beaten, abused, or coerced into sex¹⁹, whereas recent data from the Pacific shows 2 out of 3 women experience violence from a partner in their lifetime.²⁰ Women aged 15-44 years are more at risk from rape and domestic violence than from cancer, motor accidents, war and malaria.²¹

States have yet to tackle the issue of violence against women with the necessary political commitment, visibility and resources.

International declarations and conventions provide the framework for states to promote women’s equality and ensure that the human rights of women and girls are fulfilled. These include:²²

- 1992 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Violence against Women (CEDAW) Committee’s General Recommendations Nos. 12 & 19
- 1993 Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action
- 1993 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women
- 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, Programme of Action
- 1994 Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women of the Commission on Human Rights
- 1995 Beijing Platform of Action’s 12 Critical Areas of Concern
- 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court
- 2000 Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security

The situation in the Asia-Pacific

2 in 3 women in the Pacific experience violence from a partner in their lifetime.²³

The situation in the Asia-Pacific region reflects global trends – violence against women is common and costly. In addition:

There is no regional treaty on violence against women²⁴

No regional treaty specifically addresses violence against women in the Asia-Pacific region. Various human rights instruments have partial application, including:

- The 20 Pacific Island countries which have adopted the Revised Pacific Platform for Action on the

16 United Nations (2006) Secretary-General’s In-depth Study on All Forms of Violence against Women, UN, New York.

17 UN Secretary General (2006) Ending Violence against Women: from words to action, Factsheet: unmet needs, broken promises, United Nations, New York.

18 UNiTE (2009) End Violence Against Women Fact Sheet, <http://www.un.org/en/women/endviolence/factsheets.shtml>

19 UNFPA (2008) Gender Equality: Ending Widespread Violence Against Women, <http://www.unfpa.org/gender/violence.htm>

20 Brereton, H. and Groenen, R. (2011) Addressing Violence Against Women in the Pacific: UN Programmes and Action, www.pgpd.asn.au

21 UNiTE Op. cit. p.1

22 UN ESCAP Op. cit. p.10

23 Brereton, H. and Groenen, R. Op Cit. p. 4

24 South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (2011) Gender related issues, http://www.saarc-sec.org/areaofcooperation/detail.php?activity_id=10

Advancement of Women and Gender Equality 2005 – 2015

- South Asia has a Regional Convention on Combating the Crime and Trafficking of Women and Children for Prostitution. A Regional Task Force has been formed in all the Member States to monitor and assess the implementation of various provisions of the Convention.

There is an absence of reliable data on the incidence and prevalence of violence

There is an urgent need to understand more about the prevalence and incidence of violence against women in the region. While only three national representative studies have been conducted in the Pacific, at least eight more are currently underway. The three completed studies revealed²⁵:

- In Kiribati, 68% women experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner including severe forms of physical violence such as punching, kicking or use of a weapon. One out of three women in Kiribati reported rape.
- In Solomon Islands, 64% of women experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner, including severe forms of physical violence such as punching, kicking or use of a weapon. One in two women reported being raped by their partners.
- In Samoa, 46% of women experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner. One out of five women reported rape.

As is the case globally, most forms of violence against women in Asia-Pacific are under-documented, including sex selection and neglect of infant girls.²⁶

There is a lack of appropriate laws at a national level

A gap exists between international standards and legislation at a national level. For instance, in most Pacific Island countries perpetrators cannot be prosecuted for domestic violence, but have to be prosecuted under general assault laws. Because it is not a specific offence, police often fail to intervene, investigate or press charges when cases are reported. Where legislation exists, there are often inadequacies in its implementation.²⁷

Women's status is an obstacle to reducing violence against them²⁸

The low status of women is reinforced by customary practices and attitudes that put women at risk of violence. These practices alongside economic factors make it difficult for women to protect themselves.

Low rates of women's education and literacy, and barriers of language and mobility, mean many women do not know about their rights or the laws, where they do exist, which are designed to protect them.²⁹

Tension between traditional cultural practices and international human rights standards still exists

Cultural and religious traditions, or their interpretations, have ensured that a number of disempowering and discriminatory practices against women endure today. Examples include early and forced marriage, polygamy, the requirement for widows to marry a male relative of their deceased husband, and marital rape.

25 Brereton, H. and Groenen, R. Op Cit. p. 4

26 Ibid, p.14

27 Greig, A., Basnyat, A. & Lang, J Op. cit. p. 11

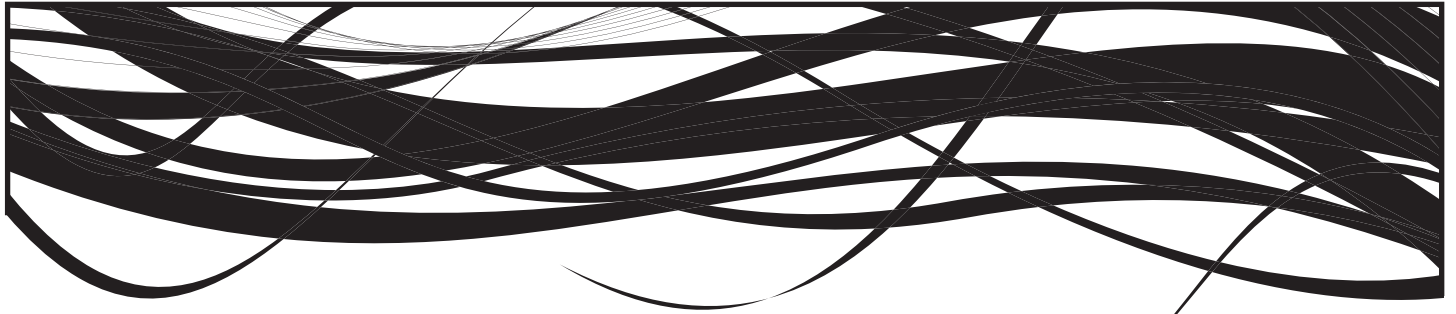
28 Australian Government (2011) AusAID Violence against Women in Melanesia and East Timor, http://www.ode.usaid.gov.au/publications/pdf/VAW_review.pdf

29 AusAID (2008) Violence Against Women in Melanesia and East Timor, Building on global and regional promising approaches http://www.usaid.gov.au/publications/pdf/vaw_cs_full_report.pdf

“As we come from a diverse set of countries from across the region, with different challenges to address the issue of violence against women and children, we have made individual pledges to take action in our home countries and within our communities.”

- Collective statement of commitment, Standing Committee of Male Parliamentarians on the Prevention of Violence against Women and Girls, 18 December 2010

Taking action as a male parliamentarian		
Gaps and needs within my country and/or the wider region that need to be addressed (e.g. lack of implementation of certain laws, inadequate funding, low levels of awareness)	What is already being done in my country and/or in the region to address these gaps and needs?	Actions I can take to address these gaps and to build upon existing efforts



What can be done? Responses and interventions

Principles of reducing Violence against Women

Efforts to reduce violence against women must be long-term and focused on prevention of violence, addressing structural inequalities together with providing support to survivors and access to justice. International experience and research points the way to more effective responses to violence against women ³⁰:

Emphasising prevention efforts. For instance, school-based programmes which aim to educate adolescents about gender equality has been effective in reducing violence within dating relationships.

Challenging the social, economic and cultural norms that support violence. Legislation and community education programs can emphasise the importance of equality under the law and respectful behaviours in reducing violence against women.

Committing for the long term. A reduction in the incidence of violence against women occurs through a series of incremental gains

Developing high-level commitments among decision makers, including parliamentarians and public servants, to tackle violence against women.

Developing multi-sectoral, collaborative responses. Work together across government departments and with the non-government sector and community groups to develop appropriate interventions which range from legislation to support services for victims of violence.

Collect and analyse data on VAW to understand violence against women and track responses to it. There is a need to understand the patterns of violence against women in each country. As interventions are made to reduce the level of violence, it is also important that their effectiveness is monitored so improvements can be demonstrated.

³⁰ AusAID (2007) 'Violence against Women in Melanesia and East Timor: A review of international lessons', http://www.ode.usaid.gov.au/publications/pdf/VAW_review.pdf

Using regional and international human rights frameworks³¹

Obligations of states on violence against women under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women³²

States must promote and respect the human rights of women and exercise due diligence:

- (a) To prevent, investigate and punish acts of all forms of violence against women, whether in the home, the workplace, the community or society, in custody or in situations of armed conflict.
- (b) To take all measures to empower women and strengthen their economic independence and to protect and promote the full enjoyment of all rights and fundamental freedoms.
- (c) To condemn violence against women and not invoke custom, tradition or practices in the name of religion or culture to avoid their obligations to eliminate such violence.
- (d) To intensify efforts to develop and/or utilize legislative, educational, social and other measures aimed at the prevention of violence, including the dissemination of information, legal literacy campaigns and the training of legal, judicial and health personnel.

Each country has obligations to promote and respect the human rights of women. Comparing the current practices in your country with its obligations according to the regional and international human rights frameworks which it has signed can help to identify specific areas for national progress.

- Identify what human rights treaties your country has ratified or declarations agreed to and understand the obligations which each one brings. The main tools are:
 - The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Violence against Women (CEDAW) and its Optional Protocol
 - The UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women
 - Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.
- Apply pressure to ratify the treaties which your country has not yet signed. If your country has attached 'reservations' (which limit the application of these treaties within your country) apply pressure for your country to remove its reservations.
- Push for the development of a regional treaty specifically to address violence against women. Unlike Inter-America, the Asia-Pacific does not have a regional treaty that aims to address violence against women. The most relevant legal instrument within the region is the South Asian Convention on Combating the Crime and Trafficking of Women and Children for Prostitution 2002.^{33 34}
- Educate your State's legal professionals about international law and how it applies within your country. Implement training and awareness-raising programs to familiarise judges, prosecutors and other members of the legal profession with women's human rights.

31 Greig, A., Basnyat, A., & Lang, J. Op. cit. p.9

32 Amnesty International, <http://www.amnesty.org/en/campaigns/stop-violence-against-women/issues/state-perpetrators>

33 UN ESCAP Op. cit. p. 11.

34 Amnesty International Op. cit. pg. 8

ADVOCACY IN CONTEXT

How does your country's national legislation measure up to international law or international agreements?³⁵

1. Has your country ratified any international human rights treaties or signed international agreements to combat violence against women?

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.....

2. If so, has your country attached any reservations to limit the application of these treaties?

.....

.....

3. Are there any domestic laws which contradict how these international treaties apply? How can these be rectified?

.....

.....

4. If not, what can you do to persuade your government to ratify the main human rights treaties?

.....

.....

5. What steps can you take to advocate for a regional or sub-regional treaty that specifically addresses violence against women? What advantages would it bring?

.....

.....

Influencing national legislation

National legislation outlawing discrimination and violence against women is a positive step towards ensuring that perpetrators of violence are held to account and that women have access to justice.

Women's access to justice relies on:

- Policies which discourage violence
- Laws which impose consequences on offenders
- Providing women with ways to protect themselves and their children from violence
- Ensuring women have access to the information necessary to access their rights

35 Amnesty International (2004) Op. cit. pg. 6

- Ensuring women are treated humanely and fairly by justice-system personnel.

There are a number of ways to influence national legislation in order to advance gender equality and promote women’s rights:

- Identify gaps and inadequacies in your country’s laws
- Reform laws in a participatory way, by engaging with community groups and women’s organisations
- Reform laws so that they are in line with international human rights standards
- Monitor any reforms to assess how well they work in practice
- Provide gender-sensitivity training, monitoring and accountability mechanisms for police and judiciary.

ADVOCACY IN CONTEXT
Analysing your country’s national legislation³⁶

1. Do any laws in your country allow gender discrimination or violence to take place?

.....

.....

2. Do any customary or traditional laws discriminate against women?

.....

.....

3. Does your country have laws which make it a crime to commit violence against women? For example, is rape in marriage a crime?

.....

.....

4. Do police, military and justice officials receive training on family violence, including how to respond to sexual assaults? If so, are there ways this training can be improved?

.....

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5. Are complaints against police, military and justice officials independently monitored?

.....

.....

³⁶ Amnesty International Op. cit. p. 6

Influencing national policy

Approaches which get government, non-government organisations and community groups working together have proven to be effective. By consulting with key groups of stakeholders in the policy-making process, parliamentarians can improve the likelihood of achieving efficient and effective responses. Consider:

- Adopting multi-sectoral national plans of action that lessen the likelihood of boys and men using violence against women in the first place.³⁷ This includes collaborating with women's organisations³⁸, men's networks, trade unions, civil society organisations, faith-based organisations, and any other existing initiatives which aim to reduce violence against women
- Developing policy by engaging with key stakeholders including civil society organisations and women's rights groups. This helps to develop a mutual understanding, provide a platform for sharing experiences and bringing a range of perspectives to the issue, and minimising potential frictions³⁹
- Establishing clear accountabilities, timelines and bench-marks for national plans of action
- Aiming to secure adequate resourcing for the implementation of plans.

³⁷ UN Secretary General Op. cit.p. v.

³⁸ Men Engage Op. cit. p. 6.

³⁹ UNIFEM Virtual Knowledge Centre to End Violence against Women and Girls (2010) Men and Boys: Guiding Principles: Ensuring Transparency and Accountability by Partnering with Women's Groups, <http://www.endvawnow.org/en/articles/199-ensure-transparency-and-accountability-by-partnering-with-womens-groups-.html>

ADVOCACY IN CONTEXT

What national policy changes are needed in your country?⁴⁰

1. Does your country's constitution guarantee equality between women and men?

.....

.....

2. Does your country have a national plan of action to reduce violence against women?
If so, how comprehensive is the plan?

.....

.....

3. If your country has a national plan of action to reduce violence against women, was it developed in consultation with community groups such as national women's organisations?

.....

.....

4. How is the plan being implemented? Who is responsible for its strategy?

.....

.....

5. How is progress against the plan of action monitored?

.....

.....

⁴⁰ Amnesty International Op. cit. p. 12

Improving evidence-based research

Understanding patterns of violence against women in each country is the first step to being able to reduce and eliminate it. This can be done by supporting:

- More targeted data collection and analysis through population-based surveys⁴¹
- Universities, research institutions and non-government organisations to increase their contribution to the knowledge base on the issue⁴²

ADVOCACY IN CONTEXT

Does your country have reliable data on violence against women?⁴³

1. Do you know what data about violence against women is collected in your country?

.....

.....

2. Do you know how frequently this data is collected and how?

.....

.....

3. What extra information, if any, is needed to assess the situation in your country?
And to develop strategies to reduce violence against women in your country?

.....

.....

41 UN Secretary General (2006) 'Unmet Needs Broken Promises' factsheet in Ending Violence against Women: From Words to Action, United Nations, New York.

42 Ibid pg. i

43 Amnesty International (2004) Making Rights a Reality: Campaigning to Stop Violence against Women, Amnesty International Publications, London, <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/ACT77/052/2004/en>

Engaging men and boys in prevention

Why work with men and boys?⁴⁴

Men are the primary perpetrators of violence against women. Their understanding of masculinity plays a large role in shaping violence against women. Emerging evidence shows that prevention approaches which engage men and boys work.

Gender equality is a men's issue too

Most men and boys are not violent and do not assault women but physical and sexual violence is overwhelmingly perpetrated by men. Violence against women is a men's issue because:

- It makes all men seem like a potential threat
- Men have to deal with the impact of other men's violence on the women and children they love
- It hurts their families, communities and countries
- Violence against women by men diminishes the standing and role of men who are not violent.

There are benefits for both men and women

Working with men and boys to eliminate violence against women can⁴⁵:

- Improve intimate relationships between men and women
- Increase social support for women through shifts in community norms
- Support girls to reach their full potential by accessing education and work opportunities which may otherwise be denied
- Increase the ability for families to choose the number and spacing of children by increasing the use of contraceptives.

44 UNIFEM Virtual Knowledge Centre to End Violence against Women and Girls (2010) Men and Boys: Introduction and Key Points, <http://qwww.endvawnow.org/uploads/modules/pdf/1304106469.pdf>

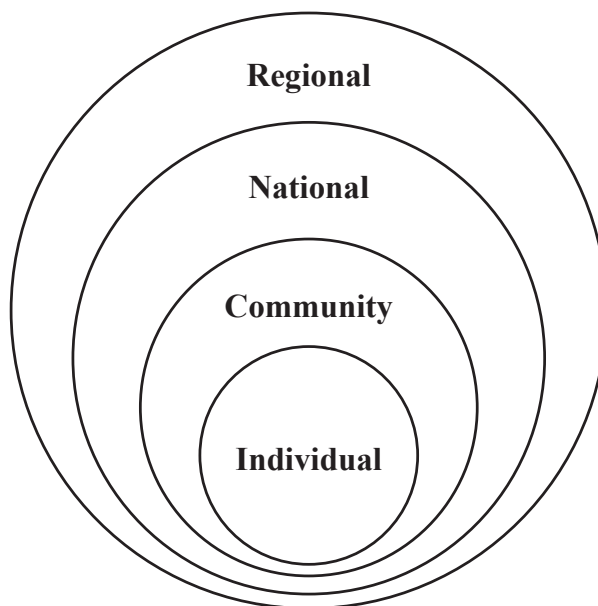
45 WHO Op cit.

Taking action as a male parliamentarian

Key challenges of working with boys and men in my country (e.g. resistance from women's groups)	What is already being done in my country to address these challenges?	Actions I can take to promote the engagement of men and boys and to build upon existing efforts

Making change as a male parliamentarian

Male parliamentarians are role models within their own families and communities and have a positive role to play as partners with women in preventing violence and working toward gender equality. Male parliamentarians hold influential positions and can be powerful advocates for change at all levels of society.^{46 47} The following diagram shows how male parliamentarians can operate within various levels and contexts to support and encourage change:



Taking action as a male parliamentarian		
	My approach to addressing violence against women	
Regional level (e.g. my approach to advocating for a regional legal framework and raising concerns at inter-governmental events)		
National level (e.g. my approach to enhancing laws, policies, resource base and data collection)		
Community level (e.g. my approach to changing prevalent attitudes allowing for gender violence)		
Individual level (e.g. my approach to changing perceptions, attitudes and behaviours of men and women)		

⁴⁶ Ibid, p. 7

⁴⁷ Partners for Prevention (2008) Op. cit. p.p. 6 and 15

Strengthening the provision of services

Strengthening the delivery of services to support survivors of violence will help families and communities to minimise the social and economic impacts and restore the victim to health and safety.

Parliamentarians have the opportunity to direct governments to provide:

- A safe environment for women and girls to confidentially report violence
- Access to justice services such as free legal aid
- Shelters and relief services to help women and girls to escape from the threat of violence
- Medical services and counselling for survivors
- Rehabilitation services for the perpetrators of violence, to stop the cycle of violence

Where there is a lack of capacity, governments can support the work of non-government organisations to provide these services.

ADVOCACY IN CONTEXT

What services are available for survivors in your country?⁴⁸

1. Are there services available and accessible for women escaping from violence, such as safe housing, health care and legal support?

.....

.....

2. Are there other services which could be provided to support women who are escaping violence?

.....

.....

48 Amnesty International Op. cit. p. 9.

Promoting awareness-raising and social mobilisation

Government supported awareness-raising campaigns draw public attention to the risk factors and impacts of violence against women. To support community involvement in changing the underlying attitudes which will ultimately address the issue, parliamentarians can:

- Identify ongoing national and local prevention campaigns and work to support their aims
- Identify key opportunities for awareness-raising. For instance, youth development provides a valuable entry point for engaging with men and boys. The formal education system and alternate forms of education are important places to challenge gender stereotypes and promote gender equality.⁴⁹ Promising practices in this area include: eliminating gender-based stereotypes in educational curricula; providing gender-sensitivity training for teachers, creating a school environment that rejects violence; include teaching components on human rights and women's rights.
- Enhance media involvement and positive coverage. Some examples of effective campaign communication strategies for engaging men include:⁵⁰
 - Using messages that invite men to take action to help prevent violence – many men who are not violent 'tune out' when campaign portray men only as violent perpetrators
 - Sustaining campaign messages over a long period of time. Gender norms are learned over a lifetime and will not be transformed with a short term campaign
 - Ensuring the 'messenger' portrayed in mass media campaigns is respected and from the same culture as the target audience
 - Engaging local men and boys in constructing messages
 - Choosing empowering images that respect survivors' dignity and show women as active and strong. Develop partnerships with key media to obtain regular slots on the radio and newspaper coverage of your actions.

49 Greig, A., Basnyat, A. & Lang, J Op. cit. p. 34.

50 See: UN ESCAP Op cit. p. 27; Parliamentary Group on Population and Development (2009) Engaging Men and Boys in Prevention of Violence against Women and Girls: New Initiatives and New Alliances by Male Parliamentarians from Asia-Pacific, <http://www.pgpd.asn.au/speeches/2009/Report%20of%20SS%20at%20APCRSHR%20v2.pdf>; Guedes, G. (2010) Men & Boys, <http://www.endvavnow.org/en/modules/view/9-men-boys.html#45>

ADVOCACY IN CONTEXT

Communicating the issue in your country⁵¹

1. Has your government undertaken any public awareness campaigns? In what ways can such campaigns be implemented or improved?

.....

.....

2. Do these campaigns include a strategy to engage men and boys as well as informing women and girls of their rights?

.....

.....

3. How can these campaigns build on or create new partnerships to spread the message?

.....

.....

4. Which groups are critical partners who should be engaged to ensure the campaigns are as effective as possible?

.....

.....

⁵¹ Amnesty International Op. cit. p. 20

Taking action as a male parliamentarian

Strategies for advocating on issues relating to violence against women	Gaps or inadequacies that I believe should be the target of these strategies (e.g. irregular data collection, inadequate gender-sensitivity training for police, inappropriate targeting of public campaigns)	Key stakeholder groups with which I should engage for the purpose of developing a relevant and participatory advocacy strategy (e.g. women's rights groups, local men and boys, government ministries of health and education)
Evidence-based research		
National legislation and its implementation		
Regional and international human rights frameworks		
Policy and its implementation		
Implementation of service provision		
Awareness-raising and social mobilisation		

Mobilising funding and resources

Many countries currently suffer from severe funding short-falls. There is the opportunity to advocate for greater investment of resources.⁵² Major sources of funding for initiatives addressing violence against women include⁵³:

- United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women (UN)
- The Communication Initiative Network
- The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- Sexual Violence Research Initiative
- SIYANDA – Mainstreaming Gender Equality
- Association for Women’s Rights in Development
- Global Fund for Women
- Ms. Foundation for Women⁵⁴

Developed states also play an important role in providing aid to multilateral and regional initiatives, as well as bilaterally, to neighbours within the region. For example:

- **Japan** - In March 2005, the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) established the Gender and Development Initiative, which articulates the basic policies, approaches and special initiatives for ensuring incorporation of the gender perspective in all stages of Japan’s ODA.⁵⁵
- **Australia** - Australia has zero tolerance to violence against women, in Australia and internationally. Australia provides significant support through the aid program to promote gender equality and empower women. The Independent Review of Aid Effectiveness (2011) recommended that this work continue and be further strengthened. As part of the 2011-12 Budget, the Australian Government announced that it will invest \$96.4 million over four years for initiatives to eliminate violence against women and to support women affected by violence in developing countries. This funding delivers on the commitments made in AusAID’s 2008 Stop Violence report, and will expand AusAID’s work to end violence against women in the Pacific, Asia, and countries such as Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- **New Zealand** - In the NZAID Pacific Strategy 2007-2015, the New Zealand Government’s international aid and development programme, NZAID, identifies the elimination of violence against women and girls as a cross-cutting issue and one of the agencies’ priority areas for assistance.⁵⁶

52 UN Secretary General Op cit. p. i

53 http://www.unifem.org/attachments/gender_issues/violence_against_women/UNTrustFund_AdditionalSourcesOfFundingForApplicants_en.pdf

54 http://ms.foundation.org/our_work/broad-change-areas/ending-violence/Efforts-to-Address-Gender-Based-Violence-A-Look-at-Foundation-Funding

55 Japan International Cooperation Agency (2009) Trends and Approaches on Gender and Development (GAD).

56 New Zealand Aid and Development Agency (2007) Pacific Strategy 2007-2015, NZAID, Wellington. Available online: <http://www.aid.govt.nz/programmes/wln-pacific-regional-strategy-2007-2015-full-june08.pdf>

ADVOCACY IN CONTEXT

Funding and resources available in your country

1. Is there funding available to ensure the government is able to respond to the needs of women living with violence?

.....
.....

2. Is the funding adequate? Are there funding gaps and, if so, how can these be filled?

.....
.....

3. Which major multilateral and bilateral donors contribute to your country's current budget?

.....
.....

4. Who could be potential donors in future? How can additional funds from these donors be sourced?

.....
.....

5. Does your country provide aid to its poorer neighbours within the region? If so, who are the major recipients of this funding and to what initiatives is it allocated? Is the amount of funding given in aid sufficient to meet the needs of the recipient country?

.....
.....

Case studies from around the region⁵⁷

“Good practices are those that lead to ‘actual change, contributed to a policy environment more conducive to gender equality and/ or have broken new ground in non-traditional areas for women’.”

- Former Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women

Good practices reduce violence, are able to be repeated, are sustainable, relevant and responsive. They usually involve⁵⁸:

- Clear policies and laws that make violence illegal
- A strong enforcement mechanism
- The provision of well-trained personnel
- Involvement of multiple sectors
- Close collaboration with women’s groups and civil society organisations
- Clear demonstration of political commitment at all levels

While the evidence of effective initiatives to overcome gender-based violence in the Asia-Pacific region is still emerging, there are some initiatives which appear to be making a positive impact. Learning from each other is essential:

- **Pacific Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT) creates legislative change in 6 Pacific Island Countries ‘Changing Laws, Protecting Women: Lobbying for Legislative Change in Violence Against Women’⁵⁹** A lobbying campaign with the goal of improving legislation for violence against women (VAW) and accelerating family law reform in six Pacific Island Countries: Samoa, Tuvalu, Tonga, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, and Cook Islands. At the same time, the RRRT aims to build the skills within the various countries to ensure that the laws are effectively implemented and monitored. Training has been provided to VAW regional stakeholders including lawyers, members of parliament, the Pacific Islands Law Officers’ Network, and the Pacific Parliamentarians on Population and Development. Training included a presentation of model legislation on VAW in comparison to the current status of legislation in the participating countries. While the project is not yet complete, it serves as an example of regional approach to legal advocacy work on violence against women.
- **Nepal’s national Rapporteur oversees and monitors anti-trafficking activities. Nepal also has a comprehensive range of trafficking policies.**
- **Cambodia’s Ministry of Women’s Affairs aims to empower women and promote gender equality.** Traditional roles and perceptions in Cambodia maintain men in positions of superiority. Such beliefs have largely kept women from higher education and high-level employment and contribute to women’s vulnerability to experiencing discrimination and violence. The Government of Cambodia has taken measures towards ending gender discrimination and harmful traditional and cultural practices. The Government recognises women as equal partners in development and employs gender mainstreaming as a national strategy. Legislation to protect women from violence and discrimination has been enacted, including laws on domestic violence and the suppression of human trafficking and prostitution. A strategic goal of the Ministry of Women’s Affairs of Cambodia is to address these attitudes towards women and give women equal value: “When a son is as valuable as pure gold, a daughter must be also as valuable as a diamond or precious gem.”

57 UN Secretary General Op. cit. p.p 101- 129

58 UN ESCAP Op. cit. p. 31

59 Stop Violence against Women (2010) http://stopvaw.org/leadership_and_organization.html

- **Rozan, an NGO in Pakistan, works with police in Pakistan to promote community cooperation regarding violence against women.** Rozan developed a unique program to promote community and police collaboration and cooperation regarding violence against women. The police approached Rozan for a programme to promote attitudinal change and interpersonal skills training of police trainees. Police officers often ignore domestic violence and honour killings because violence in the home is still considered a private issue to be dealt with by families and communities, instead of the police or legal system. Workshops for the police force were organised to focus on gender-based violence, power relations, tolerance, developing communication, stress and anger management skills, as well as self-awareness- raising activities. Police and community collaboration sessions were organised in order to develop a partnership and trust, and to provide a forum for participants to explore issues and feelings in a safe environment. The workshops allowed the men to feel safe to express their fears and feelings, analyse their own social conditioning, feel empowered to change, and become allies with women and communities to help eliminate violence against women.
- **Republic of Korea's National Police Agency educates police on the laws on domestic violence and steps to protect victims.** It also conducts a nationwide test of police officials on both these subjects.
- **India's 'Men's Action for Stopping Violence against Women' group coordinated a male-led campaign in 41 districts across Uttar Pradesh, providing rights-based education to urban and rural communities.** Likewise, the women's NGO Sakshi has trained members of the judiciary on gender issues using interactive dialogue, small group problem-solving, visits to shelters and meetings with NGOs to give judges a better understanding of women's experiences.
- **Singapore's 'Many Helping Hands' program aids victims of family violence through a partnership of government agencies, communities and families.** Using this approach, Singapore has developed the Family Violence Dialogue Group, comprised of the Family Court, Prisons Service, Ministries of Health and Education, Nation Council of Social Service and social service agencies. It provides a platform for jointly setting strategic policy frameworks, enhancing public services and collaborating on public education efforts. The National Family Violence Networking System links police, hospitals, social service agencies, the Family Court and the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports into six geographical regions to facilitate coordination and networking and provide multiple access points for victims to receive assistance. Singapore's emphasis on networking mechanisms has improved public education collaboration between police officers and social workers. Police referrals of family violence victims to social service agencies rose from 171 to 862 between 2001 and 2005.
- **Kiribati endorses a milestone 'Ending Sexual and Gender Based Violence Policy and 10 Year National Action Plan.'** This is the first policy to be endorsed by Cabinet since the autonomous Women Division at the Ministry of Internal and Social Affairs was established.
- **Papua New Guinea (PNG) amends the criminal code to reflect its international obligations⁶⁰.** The risk of violence is a constant presence in the lives of many women in PNG. Gang rape, payback rape, rape in connection with tribal fighting, and the torture and murder of women suspected of sorcery are distinctive features of violence against women in PNG, with the additional risk of contracting HIV in the context of a generalised epidemic.

In PNG women's lack of land rights, patterns of out-marriage, and little independent access to cash

60 AusAID (2008) Violence Against Women in Melanesia and East Timor, Papua New Guinea Country Supplement, http://www.ausaid.gov.au/publications/pdf/vaw_cs_png.pdf

income trap women, making them dependent on men for economic survival. This reinforces male dominance founded on the practices of bride-price and polygamy.

The Constitution of Papua New Guinea guarantees individual rights and freedoms regardless of sex, ensures equal access for all citizens to legal processes and all services and allows for laws that provide special benefits and protection to women as well as youth. It expresses limitations on the power of customs, stating “A custom which is inconsistent with the Constitution or a statute, or is repugnant to the general principles of humanity...shall not be applied or enforced.” PNG has ratified CEDAW and the CoRC, and further endorsed the Pacific Platform for Action. A major breakthrough has been new legislation on sexual offences, including marital rape and offences against children. This came into force in 2003 and has the potential to improve both reporting levels and prosecution outcomes for sexual offences. Domestic violence legislation has been proposed but has not yet reached Parliament.

In 2000, the Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee (FSVAC) was created to play a coordination and advocacy role across non-government and faith-based groups. Despite having only a small staff, the FSVAC has made numerous valuable contributions, including: assisting with the reform of sexual offences and child welfare legislation; promoting the Family Protection Bill; distributing legal literacy materials; developing training and advocacy materials; running national awareness campaigns, especially during the global 16 Days of Activism for Eliminating Violence Against Women; collecting data from service providers; successfully lobbying for the establishment of hospital-based centres; and commissioning research. Provincial-level committees have also been set up in several provinces, to coordinate local activities.

PNG’s progress in addressing violence against women over the past 20 years has gone through peaks and troughs, but appears now to be on an upswing. This is due to a number of factors including the energetic work of the FSVAC and numerous other NGOs in raising public awareness of the issues; the recognition that gender inequality and violence against women are key causes of the HIV epidemic; the role of the media in highlighting cases of extreme violence against women; and the increasing support from donors for addressing gender issues in their programming.

- **Thailand is expanding its One Stop Crisis Centres in all public hospitals to handle cases of violence against women.** These centres are staffed with medical, law enforcement and social welfare professionals to provide comprehensive support to victims. The Government is also engaged in efforts to improve its system of compiling and tracking information on cases of gender-based violence.
- **Fiji Women’s Crisis Center: Men’s Program against Violence against Women.** The Fiji Women’s Crisis Centre (FWCC) was established in 1984 to counter the culture of silence surrounding violence against women. It provides crisis counselling and legal, medical, and other practical support services for women and children who experience violence. The FWCC also provides technical support for other organisations working in the Pacific region, such as the Vanuatu Women’s Centre.
- **The Vanuatu Women’s Centre (WVC) has set up a network of community-level Committees against Violence against Women in all six provinces of Vanuatu.** These committees are staffed by volunteers who receive basic training in legal literacy and counselling to provide support to women who are suffering domestic abuse or sexual assault. They coordinate closely with local authorities, such as police, health providers, and chiefs. Importantly, the committees have been instrumental in extending the reach of services to rural women – a key challenge for the region as a whole.

- **In East Timor⁶¹ a local NGO, Association of Men Against Violence (Asosiasaun Mane Kontra Violensia, AMKV), is undertaking critical attitudinal and behaviour change interventions targeting men.** In Timor Leste customary law favours men – they have the capacity to own property, inherit it and make the primary decisions about the family and household. Men are too often neglected as partners in efforts to prevent violence against women. Violence inflicted on women and girls during the Indonesian occupation and subsequent military conflicts was what first propelled violence against women to the national and international arena. Since then, it has been increasingly recognised that women experience a great deal of violence in normal life, particularly in the family.

East Timor's experience of peacemaking and reconstruction in the period since 1999 has led to a high level of engagement in gender equality and human rights. This is due to a coordinated effort by the United Nations (UN) agencies operating in East Timor, as well as to the strong Indigenous women's movement that arose during the years of resistance to Indonesian control. Strengthening civil society has also been a major thrust of international support, both before and since Independence.

In 2001, a unit specifically for the advancement of gender equality was included in the new Government. Initially called the Office for the Promotion of Equality (OPE), it is now known as SEPI—the Office of the Secretary of State for the Promotion of Equality. SEPI's achievements include:

- legal changes and training of female candidates to increase women's participation in decision-making bodies, including those that hear offences against women, at both national and community levels.
- draft legislation on domestic violence to be submitted to parliament
- a new law giving local authorities duties to reduce domestic violence in their communities
- development of a network of basic services for survivors
- increased public awareness through extensive civic education and other campaigns
- advocacy with the department of education to include in school curricula the right of women to live free from violence

SEPI and women's NGOs have done a great deal of awareness-raising around the country, particularly on domestic violence.

East Timor has strongly promoted the political empowerment of women as a means of preventing violence against women. Remarkable progress has been made in increasing women's participation in public decision-making and leadership. During the 2001 national elections, for example, affirmative action measures resulted in a national Parliament with 26 per cent female membership. This proportion has been maintained in subsequent elections.

The association of men against violence (AMKV) is an East Timorese men's NGO that has maintained a high level of volunteer activism despite only sporadic, project-specific funding. It is a stellar example of 'south-to-south' capacity-building, having been formed following the trainings conducted in Dili in 2002 by the well-known Nicaraguan organisation, Fundación Puntos de Encuentro. It has 15 focal points in seven districts (with six in Dili) and a fluctuating number of other volunteers. Likewise, Fokupers (Communication Forum for East Timor Women) provides legal aid services for women survivors and raises public awareness of women's legal rights. Women are often victims of violence in their own homes and victims of decision both in the

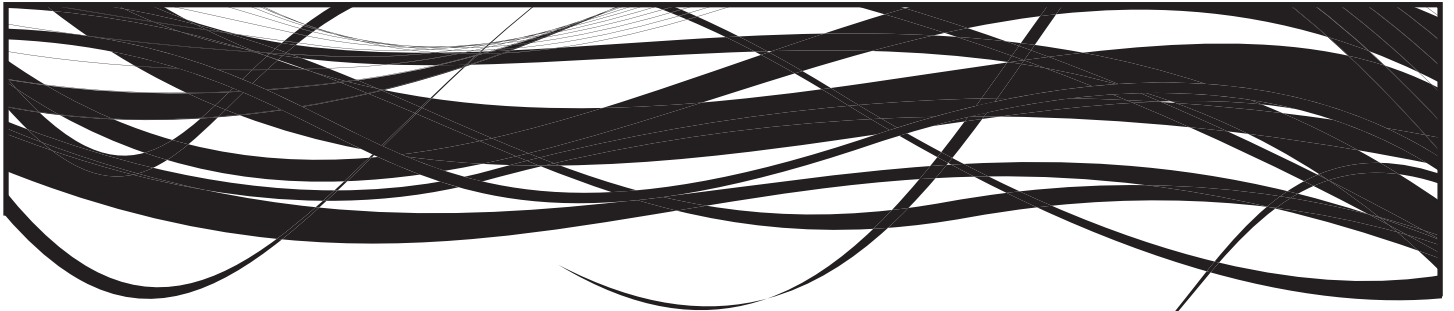
61 AusAID (2008) Violence Against Women in Melanesia and East Timor, Timor Leste Country Supplement, http://www.aid.gov.au/publications/pdf/vaw_cs_east_timor.pdf

home and by the State. Fokupers works with service providers, religious institutions, government agencies and lawmakers to address the root causes of this inequality.

Both the Government and civil society have grasped the opportunities offered by post-conflict reconstruction and nation-building to tackle violence against women. UN missions and donor agencies have also played influential roles, supporting the Government’s capacity to address gender equality issues, including violence, through the OPE/SEPI. This strategy has paid off. East Timor’s Government has taken a strong lead on violence against women.

Taking action as a male parliamentarian

Promising case studies from my country that I can share with representatives from other countries within the region	Promising case studies that representatives from other countries have shared which may be applicable to my country’s context



Resources

Further information

The following sources provide reliable information about how to reduce and eliminate violence against women:

- **UNiTE to End Violence Against Women (UN Global)**
www.un.org/en/women/endviolence/
- **Partners for Prevention (UN Asia-Pacific)**
www.partners4prevention.com
 - A major research project being currently being carried out by Partners for Prevention is ‘Gender-based Violence and Masculinities Project: Building Evidence-based Responses for Prevention in the Asia-Pacific Region’, to be published in early 2012. Based on the recommendations that stem from this research, a series of regional and country level initiatives will be launched to advocate for specific policy changes.
 - A sub-group of Partners for Prevention is the South Asian Alliance to Promote the Role of Men and Boys in Gender Equality, Violence Prevention and Masculinities.
- **Pacific Regional UNiTE Campaign Strategy**
www.unifem.org.au/AnnouncementRetrieve.aspx?ID=42318

A key joint activity of UN agencies in the Pacific. In 2010, a Reference Group to Address Sexual and Gender Based Violence was established to assist the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat to support national efforts in taking forward a mandate from Forum Leaders in 2009 on this issue
- **UN Secretary General’s Database on Violence against Women**
webapps01.un.org/vawdatabase/home.action

A coordinated database on the extent, nature and consequences of all forms of violence against women, and on the impact and effectiveness of policies and programmes for, including best practices in, combating such violence.
- **UN Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality Task Force on Violence against Women**
www.un.org/womenwatch/ianwge/taskforces/tf_vaw.htm
- **White Ribbon Campaign**
www.whiteribbonday.org.au/

White Ribbon is the largest global male-led movement to stop men’s violence against women
- **Men Engage Alliance (NGO Alliance)**
www.menengage.org/

Men Engage is a global alliance of NGOs and UN agencies which seeks to engage boys and men to achieve gender equality. Men Engage believes that questioning men’s and women’s attitudes and expectations about gender roles is a crucial way to achieve gender equality.

Regional platforms for intergovernmental engagement

The following events present valuable opportunities to raise concerns and/or make submissions on issues relating to violence against women:

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) - 2011 Calender of Meetings and Events⁶³

Date	Meeting	Venue
26-28 September	SOM ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW) Meeting	TBC
3-6 October	10th ASEAN Committee on Women (10th ACW) Meeting, 3rd ACW+3, Preliminary Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Women	Indonesia
October - TBC	7th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth (AMMY) and 3rd ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Youth (AMMY+3)	Ha Noi, Viet Nam
October - TBC	27th Meeting of ASEAN Working Group on Pharmaceutical Development (AWGPD)	Viet Nam
7 November	Workshop on Violence Against Women (VAW) Data Collection System	Jakarta
8-10 November	10th ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW) Meeting (Preliminary Meeting of ASEAN Ministers on Women)	Jakarta
11 November	1st ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW) Ministerial Meeting	Jakarta
13 November	APEC Leaders Meeting	Honolulu, USA
17-19 November	19th ASEAN Summit and Related Summits, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASEAN Leaders renew declaration on HIV and AIDS • The launching of ASEAN Regional Report on HIV and AIDS • Commemoration of the 10th Year of the ASEAN Declaration on HIV and AIDS 	Bali, Indonesia
25 November	White Ribbon Day	
TBC	ASEAN Task Force on AIDS Meeting	Surabaya, Indonesia

62 See: <http://www.aseansec.org/25680.htm>

Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Secretariat - 2011 Calender of Meetings and Events⁶⁴

Date	Meeting	Venue
3-7 October	Diet, Nutrition & Lifestyle Workshop (for Francophones)	Noumea, New Caledonia
31 October – 4 November	Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations (CRGA 41)	Majuro, Marshall islands
7-8 November	7th Conference of the Pacific Community	Majuro, Marshall islands

- **South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) - 2011 Calendar of Monthly Meetings and Events** ⁶⁴
 - The SAARC Technical Committee on Women, Youth and Children formulates broad strategies and guidelines for effective implementation of its mandate.
 - The Technical Committee also reviews the status of implementation of the Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution 2002

⁶³ See: <http://www.forumsec.org.fj/pages.cfm/events/>

⁶⁴ See: http://www.saarc-sec.org/areaofcooperation/detail.php?activity_id=10

Taking action as a male parliamentarian

Global and regional level initiatives that my country is currently a part of	Global and regional level initiatives that my country is not currently involved in but that I believe would it benefit from	Upcoming regional events at which I plan to raise issues relating to violence against women

Communiqué from the Australian Parliamentary Group on Population and Development Parliamentary Roundtable on Ending Gender Based Violence in the Asia-Pacific Region⁶⁵

We, the Parliamentarians of the Australian Parliamentary Group on Population and Development (PGPD) gathered together with Members of Parliament from Papua New Guinea and Samoa, Ambassadors, High Commissioners, representatives of the international community, representatives of Australian non-government organisational community and other stakeholders for the Parliamentary Roundtable on Ending Gender Based Violence in the Asia-Pacific Region on 9 May 2011 to engage in learning and discussions on the multifaceted impacts of, and avenues for, addressing gender based violence.

The dialogue and the presentations gave evidence to and outlined the links between gender based violence (GBV), human rights and gender equality, the relationships between GBV and health outcomes, examined the role of policy and legislation as a tool for ending GBV, and highlighted promising practices and community responses throughout the region. Discussions demonstrated the complex nature of this issue, the challenges, and successes experienced by individuals and those working to end GBV. Arising from these presentations a series of recommendations was compiled.

The recommendations are founded on a number of principles including that we, as members of the PGPD, cannot accept the high rates of GBV throughout the region and recognise that GBV is a violation of human rights and a barrier to sustainable development. Therefore, we acknowledge and support that:

- Violence against women and girls should be addressed through the lens of human rights based approaches and the Australian Government should embed human rights in their development program and more broadly across foreign policy
- Violence is taught and learned and without appropriate support for children who experience or witness violence such violence is likely to cause inter-generational harm and further undermine efforts in eradicating violence; further support for comprehensive and age appropriate school-based education in respectful relationships which addresses violence is a critical aspect of a violence elimination strategy
- Consequences of violence are numerous and multifaceted and require a comprehensive and complex system of interventions at all levels to address and eliminate gender based violence. Such programs must be long term initiatives and require predictable and recurrent resources and support
- Women need to be heard at all levels of government. When women are involved as leaders in decision-making processes, decisions reflect women's needs and experiences
- National Governments and the global development community need to find new opportunities to address gender inequalities and integrate women's empowerment into all aspects of policy, programming and service delivery
- Culture and customary law plays an important role in the development, implementation, and evaluation of formal policy
- When communities are in stress, including from high population growth, poverty and burdened resources, GBV can be exacerbated and addressing this must include an emphasis on delivery of reproductive health services and family planning
- Women are at greater vulnerability to climate change risks resulting from social and cultural circumstances including inadequate access to resources, displacement, and family responsibilities
- Gender equality must be considered central in all program and service delivery
- Violence prevention activities should include culturally and contextually appropriate responses to address substance use, including alcohol
- Recognise the important role of the health care system and ensure that health professionals are trained and supported to respond to GBV and its severe physical and psychological effects over a

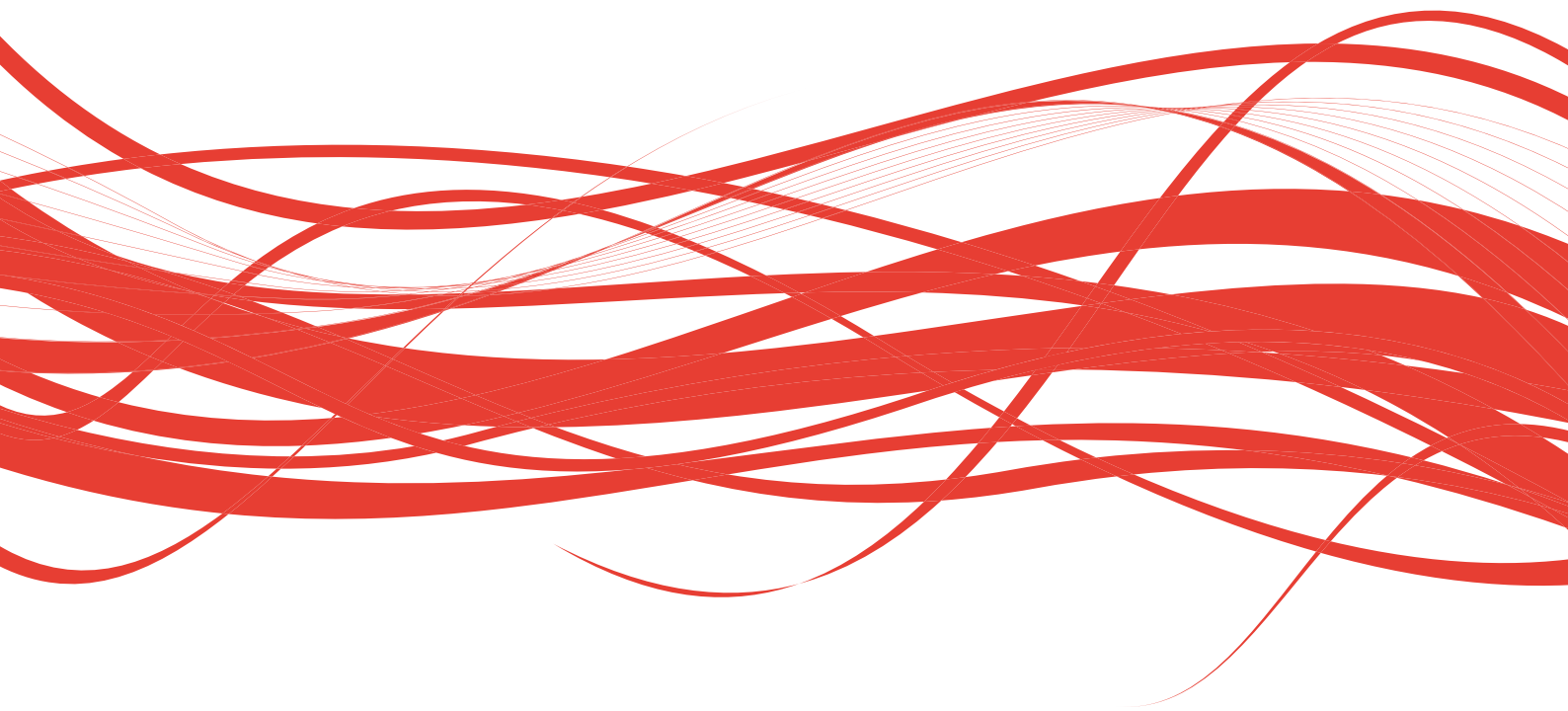
65 Parliamentary Group on Population and Development (2011), <http://www.pgpd.asn.au/>

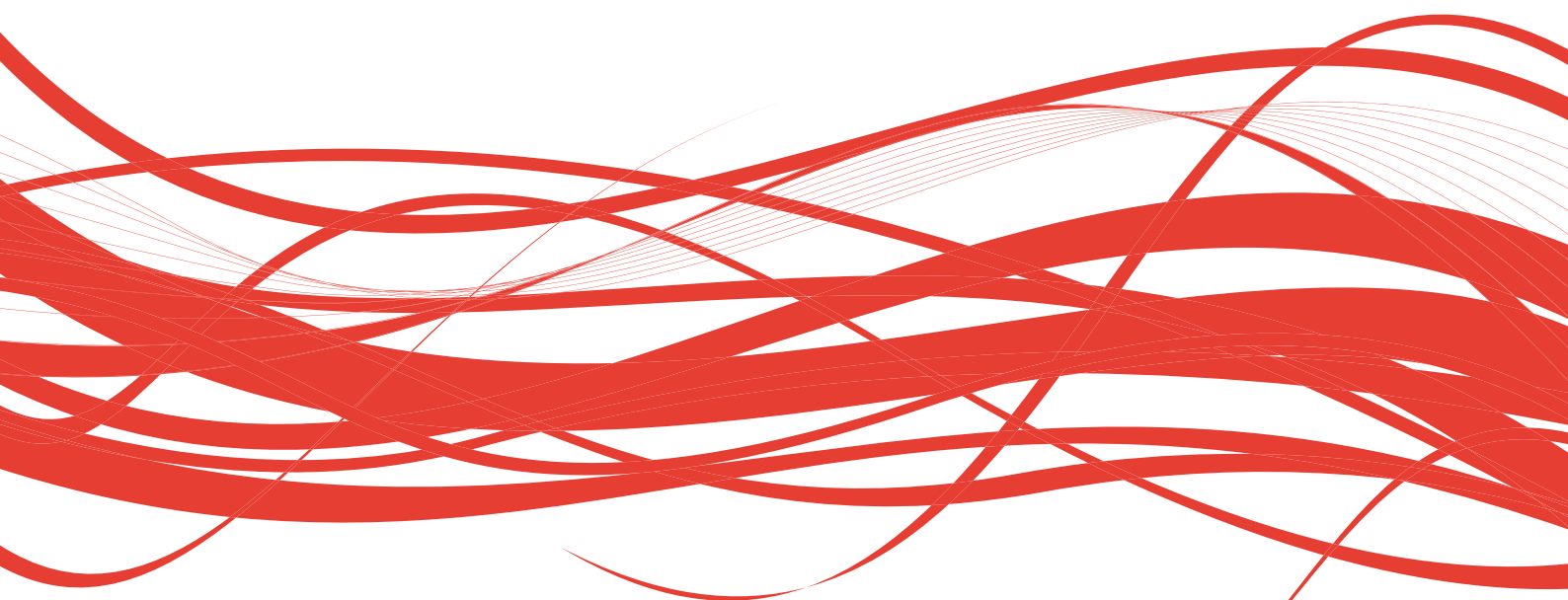
lifetime

- GBV is linked to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and efforts to support SRH and GBV should be pursued together

We commit ourselves to the following actions:

- Duly acknowledge the multifaceted impacts of violence and promote and support interventions occurring at all levels of the ecological model—individual, familial, communal and societal
- Mobilise Parliamentarians and members of our constituencies to speak out against gender based violence and support innovative and effective anti-violence programming that engages men and boys, communities and religious groups, women and young women, and other key stakeholders across all sectors of society
- Support the amendment of old, adoption of new, or removal of sexual offence and domestic violence legislation that is in line with international best practice standards and the principles of international human rights treaties and instruments in the Asia-Pacific region
- Work with local communities and leaders to implement the best standards laid out by international treaties within the local and cultural context
- Ensure all women have access to sexual and reproductive health and family planning services.
- Publicly support the importance of, and promote opportunities for investing in young women's leadership
- Support education, economic, and health sector initiatives that are founded on the principles of gender mainstreaming
- Hold our own and partner Governments accountable to their international, regional, and national commitments made to promote gender equality and end gender based violence
- Ensure that strong engagement by all stakeholders, including members of parliament, civil society and NGOs, is recognised as a fundamental element of violence elimination strategies and best practice and support for this engagement is a priority part of development programming
- Endorse the creation of an Ambassador for Women's Rights or Special Envoy to the Prime Minister, with a remit to address gender disparity in our region and a focus on women's leadership
- Continue to prioritize the response to and prevention of violence within Australia, particularly, among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- Support the implementation and resourcing of the National Action Plan on Security Council Resolution 1325. This should be done in consultation with civil society in a transparent and participative fashion. An Action Plan would acknowledge the delay in processes and opens huge potential for addressing issues of women's participation in conflict and post-conflict reconciliation, identified in the region
- Monitor the implementation and resourcing of the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children 2010-2022 as a unified strategy that highlights
- Australia's commitment to protecting human rights and contributes to a global effort to reduce violence
- Prioritise responses to and prevention of, violence against women in the Asia-Pacific region as part of international development assistance and national planning to promote women's rights and achieve sustainable development outcomes including the Millennium Development Goals and the ICPD PoA
- Prioritise GBV, including sexual assault, when responding to conflict, natural, and humanitarian disasters and provide assistance, treatment, and protection for survivors
- Support funding and collaboration to improve the timely, reliable, and comparable collection and use of data on GBV in the Pacific using internationally proven methodologies including data prevalence, causes and consequences of GBV to Pacific economies, and help ensure that such data is considered as 'core development statistics' alongside traditional macro-economic measures of development
- Ensure that evaluation of programs and their impacts is supported through continued data collection





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This toolkit is available to download in its entirety at:
www.arha.org.au