



A woman is seen in Balukhali camp March 5, 2018 in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. Photo: UN Women/Allison Joyce

# UN WOMEN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

NEWSLETTER | April-August 2018



**#DontTellMeHowToDress**

**DON'T BLAME THE CLOTHES**

As countries around the world reassess their views and approaches to sexual violence, in Thailand an exhibition that showcases victims' clothing challenges the notion that women's appearance and behaviour are to blame when they are assaulted and asks audiences to question the acceptance of sexual violence... [Read more](#) ▶



## PIG PENS POWER A SOLUTION TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN VIET NAM

### ■ VIET NAM

When Trin Gim first started her biogas digester business in the little district of Ung Hoa, Viet Nam, she raised many eyebrows. But eight years later, she has achieved not only financial success, but has played a role in a larger fight in Viet Nam against the devastating impacts... [Read more](#) ▶

**GOVERNMENT OF SWEDEN PLEDGES USD 9.6 MILLION TO ENHANCE WOMEN'S ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN ASIA PACIFIC**

■ ASIA-PACIFIC



## Photo Essay: "I'M ASHAMED TO SAY I HIT HER ONCE, BUT I'VE REFORMED."

### ■ VIET NAM

Thanks to the Male Advocates club's training sessions, organized by UN women and Da Nang Women's Union, he now understands many of the root causes of violence against women and girls... [Read more](#) ▶

**HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN THE PHILIPPINES PAINT "ROADS TO SAFETY FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS"**

■ PHILIPPINES



## Voices of Youth: ARE THAIS REALLY THAT ACCEPTING OF LGBTIQ PEOPLE?

### ■ THAILAND

From tourist images of Pattaya, Phuket and Bangkok, it would seem that Thailand is very accepting of LGBTIQ people. But in fact, discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation occurs in schools, trainings and workplaces.... [Read more](#) ▶





## LEADERSHIP PROJECT TO BUILD ON WOMEN'S REPRESENTATION IN SAMOA

### ■ SAMOA

A new leadership project is launching in Samoa on Wednesday, April 4th, aiming to build on advances in gender equality. The Women in Leadership in Samoa Project seeks to improve gender equality and women's leadership in Samoa... [Read more ►](#)

## SEEKING EQUAL RIGHTS AND EMPOWERING WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES

### ■ INDIA

As an activist, Nidhi Goyal is so proud of all the people in this world, particularly people with disabilities, women with disabilities, who wake up every morning knowing that the world is inaccessible; that the world is hostile; that they'll have to face multiple barriers.... [Read more ►](#)



## OFFICIALS OF CAMBODIA, LAO PDR, MYANMAR AND THAILAND RECOMMEND STEPS TO PROTECT MIGRANT WORKERS

### ■ CAMBODIA



## SOLOMON ISLANDS' WESTERN PROVINCE LAUNCHES FIRST WOMEN'S POLICY TO STRENGTHEN SUPPORT TO WOMEN

### ■ SOLOMON ISLANDS



## From where I stand: "I GROW STRONGER EVERY DAY"

### ■ AFGHANISTAN

One survivor of domestic violence in Afghanistan tells how she was able to heal, regain her independence, and help other survivors... [Read more ►](#)



## Photo Essay: "I WANT TO LIVE IN PEACE"

### ■ BANGLADESH

"I saw the military in Myanmar burn down a lot of houses, and kidnapping and killing others. We fled to Bangladesh to save our lives," says 17-year-old Senu. The refugee population in Bangladeshi settlements has more than doubled; camps are overcrowded, needs are immediate and enormous, and resources are stretched. Despite of hopeless situation, they do not give up hoping better tomorrow. Rohingya women in Bangladeshi refugee camps share stories of loss and hopes of recovery... [Read more ►](#)



## From where I stand: "I AM WORRIED ABOUT THE MONSOON... WILL OUR SMALL SHELTER KEEP STANDING?"

### ■ BANGLADESH

Minara Begum is among the thousands of Rohingya women who fled the violence unleashed by army in her village, Buchidong, Myanmar. Having learned new skills in a UN Women-supported Multi-Purpose Women's Centre in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, she is speaking out, meeting decision-makers in the camp and helping other... [Read more ►](#)





## PRIDE IN THE HUMANITARIAN SYSTEM

### ASIA-PACIFIC

A long-neglected component of resilience-building, response and recovery in humanitarian settings is the need to include lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) communities. In Pride month, UN Women and other agencies call for more inclusive action for LGBTIQ communities during humanitarian crisis... [Read more](#) ►



## "I NEEDED TO LEARN TO LEAD MYSELF BEFORE I COULD LEAD OTHERS"

### AFGHANISTAN

Shukuria Hashimi has been with the Afghan National Disaster Management Authority for 17 years, and recently started mentoring women graduate recruits. Hashimi shared her thoughts about a training course by UN Women she attended, on Transformational Leadership and Management for Women in the Afghan Civil Service... [Read more](#) ►



## ASIAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE PLEDGES GREATER EFFORTS TO EMPOWER WOMEN IN REDUCING DISASTER RISK

### ASIA-PACIFIC

More than 50 countries have pledged to give more women leading roles in efforts to reduce the high risks they face from natural disasters in Asia... [Read more](#) ►



## DALIT RIGHTS ACTIVISTS BREAK NEW GROUNDS IN SOUTH ASIA

### BANGLADESH

With the support of FGE, the Feminist Dalit Organization based in Nepal, is striving to address the challenges that Dalit women face in South Asia, in partnership with local organizations such as Nagorik Uddyog in Bangladesh, Swadhikar and Asia Dalit Rights Forum in India, and the Human Development Organization in Sri Lanka... [Read more](#) ►



## REAL CHANGE COMING FOR GIZO MARKET

### SOLOMON ISLANDS

The Markets for Change project expansion to Gizo in Solomon Islands, ensures market vendors, management and others involved in the Gizo market are being consulted to provide guidance and ideas for both the temporary relocation, and the new market facility... [Read more](#) ►



## PANEL OF INSPIRATIONAL WOMEN DISCUSSES ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES IN PROMOTING AND ACHIEVING THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IN INDONESIA

### INDONESIA

Investing in women's empowerment is a direct path towards reaching gender equality. However, despite some progress we still find women's rights and empowerment are far from reality in most countries... [Read more](#) ►





## WOMEN RISE TO POLITICAL LEADERSHIP IN NEPAL WITH HELP FROM A UN WOMEN PROJECT

### ■ NEPAL

The future did not always look promising for Ek Maya B.K. when her husband was killed in the cross-fire between Government forces and insurgents. Things changed after she joined a leadership development project run by UN Women Nepal in partnership with a consortium of six women’s networks led by SAARC Business Association of Home-based Workers... [Read more ►](#)



Take Five:

“IF YOU ARE INVISIBLE IN EVERYDAY LIFE, YOUR NEEDS WILL NOT BE THOUGHT OF, LET ALONE ADDRESSED, IN A CRISIS SITUATION”

### ■ THAILAND

Matcha Phorn-in is the Executive Director of Sangsan Anakot Yaowachon, a civil society organization working with young people from marginalized communities, many of whom are indigenous, in disaster-prone Thai villages at the border with Myanmar. Phorn-in is from an ethnic minority and identifies as a lesbian feminist human-rights defender... [Read more ►](#)



## UN WOMEN URGING MANILA’S YOUTHS TO ‘BREAK THE SILENCE’ ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT

### ■ PHILIPPINES

In Philippines’ machismo culture, sexual harassment often makes a routine bus ride across town a fearful and distressing experience for women and girls. UN Women’s Safe Cities Metro Manila Programme is trying to ease that journey by stepping up efforts to encourage youths to speak up and take action to reclaim public spaces... [Read more ►](#)



From where I stand:

“THE SOLUTIONS REALLY ARE WITH COMMUNITIES AND THE PEOPLE”

### ■ INDIA

I started working for women’s empowerment more than 20 years ago when dowry killings were rampant in northern India by helping change many legislations including the law on domestic violence and the law against pornographic display of women. But then I realized that all this helps only middle-class women who can access the law. What about rural women?... [Read more ►](#)

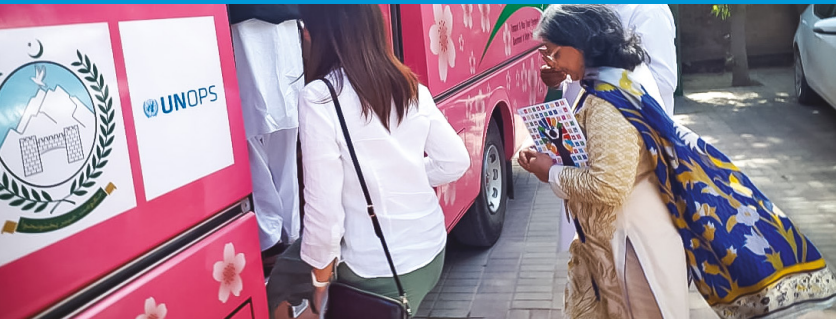


## RAISING WOMEN AND YOUTH’S VOICES FOR PEACE IN THE BANGSAMORO

### ■ PHILIPPINES

In 2014, a bill was filed to create a new political entity in southern Philippines – to be called ‘the Bangsamoro’. The bill to establish the Bangsamoro aims to fulfil the right of Muslim Filipinos in the country’s south to self-governance and autonomy... [Read more ►](#)





## THE GOVERNMENT OF KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA LAUNCHES TRANSPORT SERVICE FOR WOMEN

### PAKISTAN

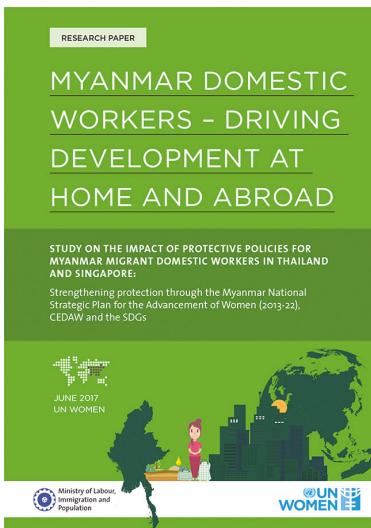
In Pakistan, The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Transport and Mass Transit Department has launched the 'Sakura Women Bus Service' with financial assistance from the Government of Japan along with technical implementing partnership with UNOPS and UN Women... [Read more](#) ▶

## MARKET VENDORS SHOW CAMARADERIE AFTER SEVERE FLOODS

### FIJI

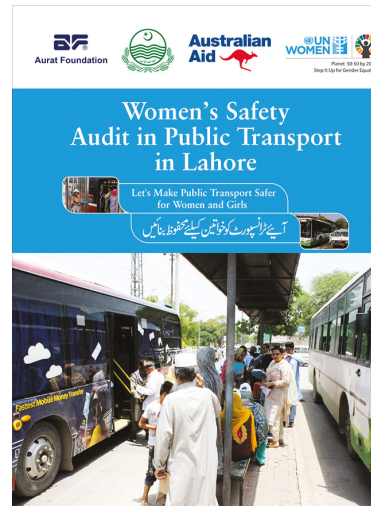
In the wake of Tropical Cyclone Josie in April 2018, severe flooding struck several parts of Fiji and badly affected market vendors. However, with UN Women's Markets for Change project, they are ready to rebuild their market together... [Read more](#) ▶

## PUBLICATIONS



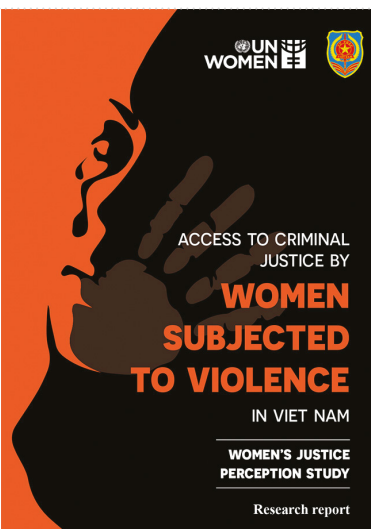
### MYANMAR DOMESTIC WORKERS - DRIVING DEVELOPMENT AT HOME AND ABROAD

The study was undertaken to identify the national and international legal and policy frameworks relevant to the whole of migration cycle for both the Myanmar-Thailand and Myanmar-Singapore corridors. The report also presents recommended policy approaches that focus on promoting and protecting migrant women's human and labour rights... [Read more](#) ▶



### WOMEN'S SAFETY AUDIT IN PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN LAHORE

While all refugees need access to basic humanitarian services to ensure survival, adolescents are a distinct group with distinct vulnerabilities. Their survival, protection, health, education and participation contribute to ensuring gender equality and should be taken into consideration during humanitarian response... [Read more](#) ▶



### ACCESS TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE BY WOMEN SUBJECTED TO VIOLENCE IN VIET NAM WOMEN'S JUSTICE PERCEPTION STUDY RESEARCH REPORT

This study provides new insights into how women perceive the justice system in Viet Nam and how the victims are treated. When the criminal justice system fails to fulfill women's human rights, this contributes to perpetuating cultures of reconciliation, cultures of invisibility, and cultures of impunity. This impunity fuels violence against women, reducing the impact of advocacy and hard-fought policy achievements... [Read more](#) ▶



### SAFETY AUDIT IN THREE AREAS OF JAKARTA

While all refugees need access to basic humanitarian services to ensure survival, adolescents are a distinct group with distinct vulnerabilities. Their survival, protection, health, education and participation contribute to ensuring gender equality and should be taken into consideration during humanitarian response... [Read more](#) ▶

## VIDEOS



### ASEAN VAWG DATA GUIDELINES LAUNCH

#### ■ ASIA-PACIFIC

With support from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the ASEAN Secretariat partnered with the UN Women to strengthen the capacity of ASEAN Member States to systematically collect and use data related to VAWG through the development and dissemination of the ASEAN Regional Guidelines on Violence against Women and Girls Data Collection and Use... [Watch more ►](#)



### SAFE & FAIR PROGRAMME

#### ■ ASIA-PACIFIC

Safe&Fair: Realizing women migrant workers' rights and opportunities in the ASEAN region. The time is now to realize the rights and opportunities of women migrant workers in #ASEAN... [Watch more ►](#)



### HAVE YOU BEEN A VICTIM?

#### ■ BANGLADESH

Sexual harassment in the streets and in public transport is common in all walks of life, in Bangladesh. From January to March of 2018, there were 50 reported cases of sexual harassment in Bangladesh. Have you been a victim of sexual harassment? Together let's stand to #endviolenceagainstwomen... [Watch more ►](#)



### MUJHE HAQ HAI

#### ■ INDIA

Mujhe Haq Hai the video, brings women from all fields, from all parts of India, achievers, and celebrities together- from women leaders at the grassroots level to service authorities, sportspersons, entertainers, businesswomen, and musicians; to inspire women and girls across India and beyond, and spread the message – that women have the right to live a life on their terms on their own choices... [Watch more ►](#)

## DONATE



Globally, a staggering one in every three women has experienced physical or sexual violence in their lifetime. Yet violence is not inevitable. It can be prevented. However, resources for initiatives to prevent and end violence against women and girls are severely lacking. We are trying to change this. With your help, the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women and UN Women can build a culture of non-violence and support women survivors of violence worldwide. Every little bit helps!

[DONATE NOW](#)

UN Women is the UN organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide. Operating in 32 countries in Asia and the Pacific region, UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific focuses on ensuring gender equality and rights-based approach for ending violence against women, preventing violent extremism, women's economic empowerment, gender in humanitarian action, and HIV/AIDS response that can unlock progress across the board.

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