

UN WOMEN CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR GENDER EQUALITY



ABOUT UN WOMEN

Established in 2010, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (“UN Women”) is the global champion for women and girls.

UN Women supports UN Member States in setting global standards for achieving gender equality, working with governments and civil society in enhancing laws and regulations and creating policies, programmes and services needed to ensure that the standards are effectively implemented and truly have an impact on women and girls worldwide. It works globally to make the vision of the Sustainable Development Goals (“SDGs”) a reality for women and girls and stands behind women’s equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on four strategic priorities:

- **Governance and participation in public life:** All women are able to fully and equally participate in decision-making, and women and girls can benefit from gender-responsive laws, policies, budgets, services and accountable institutions.
- **Women’s economic empowerment:** Women have income security, decent work and economic autonomy.
- **Ending violence against women and girls:** All women and girls live a life free from all forms of violence.
- **Women, peace and security, humanitarian action and disaster risk reduction:** Women and girls contribute to and have greater influence in building sustainable peace and resilience, and benefit equally from the prevention of natural disasters and conflicts and humanitarian action

UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system’s work in advancing gender equality, and in all deliberations and agreements linked to the 2030 Agenda. UN Women works towards positioning gender equality as fundamental to the Sustainable Development Goals, and a more inclusive world.



“We have just over eight years to go until 2030, and we know that where we have the most work to do is on gender equality. In fact, globally only one of the 18 indicators on SDG 5 is ‘close to target.’”

– Executive Director of UN Women, Sima Bahous

REGIONAL CONTEXT FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

The Asia-Pacific region is home to 60 per cent of the world’s population and accounts for more than 40 per cent of global GDP. Along with economic growth, there has been significant progress in laws and policies for the promotion and protection of gender equality for the past decade. But significant gaps between policy and practice remain in intersecting issues from violence against women to women’s economic empowerment.

It is noticeable that the Asia-Pacific is the only region in the world where women’s labour force participation has fallen since 1990 with women workers concentrated in the most vulnerable forms of informal employment without job security and access to social protection. Frequent natural hazards and the COVID-19 pandemic have affected women and girls disproportionately. The Asia-Pacific region also accounted for the largest number of gender-related killings in 2021.



“Women’s participation and equal power is fundamental to progress for everyone. I’m sure you are aware of the evidence which shows conclusively that equality between woman and men makes us all safer, happier, more prosperous, and more successful. And yet, the reality in which we find ourselves is that at the current rate of progress, it may take another 300 years to achieve gender equality. I hope we all agree that this three centuries is too long.”

– UN Women Goodwill Ambassador, Anne Hathaway’s Speech for the B20/G20 Indonesia Summit on 14 November 2022

THE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR GENDER EQUALITY IN SEOUL, REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Established in Seoul in 2022 with support from the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family of the Republic of Korea, the UN Women Centre of Excellence for Gender Equality (“the Centre”) works to improve the implementation of normative and policy frameworks and address discriminatory social norms and practices that perpetuate gender inequality in Asia and the Pacific.

The Centre is a ‘knowledge hub’ to facilitate research, education & training, sharing of innovations and lessons learned, networking, and development of multi-stakeholder partnerships. The UN Women Centre of Excellence for Gender Equality is the first of its kind in the Asia-Pacific region.

Leveraging UN Women’s technical and operational capacities as well as existing networks and platforms, the Centre:



Provides specialized training programmes to diverse stakeholders from government entities, academia, civil society organizations and the private sector;



Conducts research and promotes gender statistics; and



Facilitates multi-stakeholder partnerships at national and regional levels.

Through the three pillars of work under the leadership of the Centre’s Director, the Centre aims to contribute to operationalizing normative frameworks on gender equality and the empowerment of women, informing innovative approaches to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, transforming harmful social norms in the fast-changing and unique social landscape of Asia and the Pacific, and forging partnerships across sectors.



Photo: UN Women/Ahjung Lee



Photo: UN Women/Jaeki Kim

The Centre will also capitalize on the Republic of Korea’s rich experience in accelerating gender equality, and share Korea’s inspiring stories as well as lessons learned with other countries through UN Women’s regional and global networks.

The Centre is already delivering trainings for over 200 people from various groups and institutions within the Asia-Pacific region on three main themes for 2022:

- Ending violence against women
- Climate change, environment & disaster risk reduction in alignment with the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW66)
- Gender data and statistics

In 2023, the Centre looks forward to scaling up its research, policy dialogue, and gender training activities with a thematic focus on women and technology. The Centre will leverage Korea’s expertise on non-conventional data sources and the use of technology for data production, including big data. Innovation will be used to generate new knowledge on the various links between women and technology.

With the UN Women Centre of Excellence in the Republic of Korea, UN Women today is better positioned to help advance gender equality and women’s empowerment in the region.



Photo: UN Women/Harin Katipearachchi

UN Women Centre of Excellence for Gender Equality

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