



“Preventing Violence against Women: Evidence-Based Solutions and Promising Practices from the Asia and the Pacific Region”

Side Event: 12th Asia-Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development

February 26th, h. 11:15 am -12:30 pm GMT+7

Meeting Room G, United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok

CONCEPT NOTE

Organizer

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)

Co-organizer

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Registration

To attend the side event in-person, all registrants must also register on Indico to attend the APFSD **by 21 February** using the link here: <https://indico.un.org/event/1014374/>.

Please register using the option “Registration for Side Events, Associated Events, Exhibition, and Volunteers” and choose your side event. **Those who do not register on Indico will not be able to access the United Nations Conference Center.**

Background

Known to be underestimated, the prevalence of violence against women (VAW) is alarmingly high in Asia and the Pacific. More than one in four women aged 15-49 in the region had experienced physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence at least once in their lifetime. One in ten women experienced this in the last 12 months.¹

Violence against women is rooted in gender-based discrimination, social norms that accept violence, and gender stereotypes that continue cycles of violence. To date, efforts to eliminate violence against women have mainly focused on responding to and providing services for survivors of violence. However, prevention is pivotal to eliminating violence against women and girls completely. Preventing violence against women requires a multi-faceted approach that addresses the root causes and drivers of violence, challenging existing power structures that allow for systemic inequalities, and empowers individuals and communities.

In line with the theme of this APFSD, which focuses on advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda and aligning with this year's APFSD's emphasis on SDG 5 among others, this side event will examine evidence-based solutions and promising practices for preventing violence against women in the Asia-Pacific.

Key Questions and Outcomes

This side event will examine the following key guiding questions:

1. What are the key ingredients of prevention programs that bring about a sustainable shift in harmful social norms?
2. What are some examples of impactful, evidence-based practices for VAW prevention in the Asia-Pacific region?
3. How can national policies and frameworks in the Asia-Pacific better integrate and evaluate VAW prevention efforts?

Bringing together a diverse panel of discussants, this side event aims to spotlight evidence-based solutions and promising practices for preventing violence against women in the Asia-Pacific, with a focus on sustainable, inclusive, and data-driven approaches. In doing so, it will help to clarify how national strategies, evidence-based approaches, and cross-sectoral collaboration can create a comprehensive approach to VAW prevention. Evidence is emerging about what works to prevent violence from occurring in the first instance, and examples are growing within this region and beyond. The side event will unpack why and how to work with men, boys, women and girls, and specific populations to prevent VAW. By the conclusion of the session, participants are expected to advance an evidence-based understanding of VAW prevention and of how to integrate VAW prevention into sustainable development.

¹ <https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/event-documents/SDG%205%20Gender%20Equality.pdf>

Programme

Speaker	Segment and Description	Time
Ms. Melissa Alvarado, Regional Programme Manager, Ending Violence Against Women, UN Women Regional office for Asia and the Pacific, and Ms. Valentina Volpe, Regional GBV Technical Specialist, UNFPA Asia Pacific Regional Office	Opening remarks, introduction of topic and speakers	5 min
Moderated by Ms. Melissa Alvarado and Ms. Valentina Volpe	Panel discussion	35 min
Ms. Danielle Sever, Director, Global Development Section, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Australia	Opening remarks - Australian Strategic Focus and Investments in VAW Prevention	3-5 min
H.E. Sangay Phuntsho, Chief Planning Officer, Office of Cabinet Affairs and Strategic Coordination (OCASC), Office of the Prime Minister, Bhutan	Integrating VAW prevention into national plans and strategies	5 min
H.E. Shivaraj Adhikari, National Planning Commission (NPC) Vice Chair, Nepal	Integrating VAW prevention into national plans and strategies	5 min
Ms. Kate Doyle, Senior Program Fellow, Equimundo (online)	Evidence on Engaging men and boy in VAW prevention efforts	5 min
Ms. Cara Gleeson, Director, Our Watch Institute and Prevention in Action	Evidence on VAW Prevention and Collaboration with Media, Schools, and the Private Sector	5 min
Mr. Tihrani Uluinakauvadra, Participation and Pathways Manager, Oceania Rugby (online)	Linking Sports and VAW Prevention: Using Sports to Transform Harmful Gender Norms – Evidence from the Pacific	5 min
Moderated by Ms. Melissa Alvarado and Ms. Valentina Volpe	Q&A	25 min
	Closing	10 min
Ms. Melissa Alvarado and Ms. Valentina Volpe	Key takeaways and final comments	5 min
H.E. Ratchada Jayagupta, Thailand's Representative to the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC)	Closing remarks	5 min

For information, please contact the following, with messages directed to all contacts to ensure timely responses.

Melissa Alvarado, Regional Programme Manager, Ending Violence Against Women, UN Women Regional office for Asia and the Pacific, at melissa.alvarado@unwomen.org

Camilla Caron, Regional Programme Officer, Ending Violence Against Women, UN Women Regional office for Asia and the Pacific, camilla.caron@unwomen.org

Valentina Volpe, Regional GBV Technical Specialist, UNFPA Asia Pacific Regional Office, at volpe@unfpa.org