

CONCEPT NOTE
Regional Training of Trainers
Building skills of young activists to engage in peer support to prevent violence against women

5th- 7th May 2015
Amari Watergate Hotel
Bangkok, Thailand

Introduction

On 25 February 2008, the United Nations Secretary-General launched the campaign UNiTE to End Violence against Women, 2008-2015, with the overall objective of raising public awareness and increasing political will and resources for preventing and responding to violence against women and girls (VAWG). The Secretary-General's campaign calls for a strengthening of the work of the UN system and seeks to increase global advocacy and resources for the work on the issue and build partnerships and capacities that address the persistence of gender inequality and VAWG. Under the framework of the UNiTE Campaign, UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) organized the first global UNiTE Youth Forum in 2012, which led to the creation of the UNiTE Youth Network.

In 2013, the UN joint programme Partners for Prevention (P4P) launched a ground-breaking study that interviewed more than 10,000 men in six countries in Asia and the Pacific about their use and experiences of violence: "Why do some men use violence against women and how can we prevent it". This unprecedented study provides unique insights around the deep-rooted patriarchal values and men's sense of entitlement and control over women and their bodies that lie at the heart of violence against women (VAW). It found that the average age of VAW perpetration was earlier than previously thought, with half of men who admitted to perpetrating rape having done so for the first time as teenagers. The study thus confirmed the centrality of working with boys already from a younger age than had previously been understood, in order to effectively challenge the dominant, violent notions linked to being a man and promote new, healthy and respectful notions of masculinity.

Background of the project

In late 2013, based on an expressed need from the UNiTE Youth Network and in line with the findings of the P4P study, Women ROAP decided to develop a region-specific, youth-friendly toolkit to build the skills of and capitalize on the leadership and involvement of young people in preventing and responding to VAWG, with the support of a core group of regional Youth Network members. In 2014, this collaboration resulted in the finalization of "The Change-Makers: A Young Activist's Toolkit for Ending Violence against Women and Girls."

Rolling out this toolkit is a core piloting component of the project, generously supported by the Danish Innovation Facility, which UN Women ROAP is now developing through new, innovative strategies for engaging and building critical skills of young people, including through the use of sports, peer education and social media. The overall goal of this project is to contribute to reduced acceptance of VAW amongst young men and women in Asia and the Pacific. The specific objective of the project is to increase the availability of regional tools, models and creative approaches for youth-focused peer support, outreach and advocacy to prevent VAW.

In that regard, UN Women ROAP will conduct a regional Training of Trainers (TOT) in Bangkok, to build the capacity of youth activists to use the above toolkit to in turn engage other young people - in their respective countries or areas.

Overview of the TOT

To meet the above objectives, UN Women ROAP is now rolling out different creative and innovative strategies for the promotion of non-violent notions of masculinity and respectful relationships amongst young people, building skills of young male and female activists to engage in peer support to prevent VAW. As part of the Danish funds initiatives and to ensure a dissemination process of the aforementioned toolkit, led by key youth stakeholders, UN Women ROAP is inviting a core group of Asia-Pacific regional members of the UNiTE Youth Network and other selected youth activists for a three-day TOT to build skills of young activists to engage in peer support to prevent VAW.

The training, which will be held in Bangkok, Thailand, from the 5th to the 7th of May 2015, will serve to support young leaders to become facilitators for the implementation of the toolkit. The experience of the participants working with youth and promoting healthy relationships would allow UN Women to ensure that this resource is rolled out across the Asia-Pacific region.

After the TOT, and depending on the availability of funding, it is foreseen that peer-to-peer training for youth people will be supported in the region. It is expected that the trainees of the TOT will be interested and ready to conduct peer-to-peer training for youth people in their respective countries, with the technical support of UN Women.

As part of a dynamic bank of solutions for social change for the same initiative, social media actions to promote non-violent and respectful relationships will be implemented in selected countries. It is envisioned further collaborations with the young activist to promote non-violent and respectful relationships using innovative tools.

Expected outputs of the TOT

- Enhanced substantive and facilitation skills of a group of young peer educators from the Asia-Pacific region on using a developed regional tool to prevent VAW.
- Increased commitment, awareness and visibility on how the aforementioned tool can be disseminated and used beyond the scope of the workshop.
- Strengthened mutual learning and networking, in particular through peer-to-peer skills transfer and mentoring actions, for a more sustainable and stronger regional network of young activist committed to EVAW.
- New opportunities for innovative actions identified, including through the use of social media, peer support and other youth-friendly approaches.

Format of the TOT

The TOT will be held over the course of three days (5th- 7th May 2015) in Bangkok, Thailand. In order to maximize participation and the sharing of knowledge and experiences, the sessions are being designed using interactive and participatory formats, supported by facilitators.

Funding arrangements

UN Women ROAP will cover the cost of the TOT, as well as the cost of participants outside Bangkok for accommodation (share accommodation in twin rooms if applicable) and subsistence allowance according to UN regulations. Lunch and coffee breaks will be cover for all the participants during the duration of the workshop.

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