

21 November 2017

Media Advisory**Multi-Country Study Launch:
The Trial of Rape: Understanding the criminal justice system response to sexual
violence in Thailand and Viet Nam**

Violence against women and girls is one of the most widespread violation of human rights worldwide. In Asia and the Pacific, violence affects around one in three women in her lifetime. Violence against women impedes human development, and has serious negative consequences, ranging from immediate to long-term physical, sexual, psychological and social impacts, which often prevent women and girls from fully participating in society. In addition, it carries tremendous economic costs. These costs are borne at all levels, from the individual and the household to the wider community and society at large.

As a part of the [16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign](#) (25 November – 10 December), UN Women, UNDP, UNODC will release a study identifying the key factors that hinder women from achieving justice in Thailand and Viet Nam. The study is the first of its kind in the Asia-Pacific region which provides important new insights into where and why attrition occurs in the administration of justice for women survivors of sexual violence and how it can be reduced. It also provides constructive recommendations to address the challenges in criminal justice sector.

WHAT: A UN Multi-country study launch and panel discussion: *“The Trial of Rape: Understanding the criminal justice system response to sexual violence in Thailand and Viet Nam”**

WHEN: 10.00-11.40 hrs., Wednesday 29, November 2017

WHERE: The Cellar Room, The Dusit Thani Hotel, Bangkok

The event will be opened by our keynote speaker **Dr. Kittipong Kittayarak**, Executive Director of Thailand Institute of Justice. UN Women Deputy Regional Director **Anna-Karin Jafors** will present key findings and recommendations from *The Trial of Rape* report.

It will be followed by a panel discussion with justice experts from Viet Nam and Thailand.

- **Nguyen Thi Kim Thoa**, Director General, Criminal and Administrative Law Department, Ministry of Justice, Viet Nam
- **Le Thi Van Anh**, Director of Criminal Law Division, Criminal and Administrative Law Department, Ministry of Justice, Viet Nam
- **Dr. Suntariya Muanpawong**, Chief Judge in the Research Justice Division, The Supreme Court of Thailand
- **Eileen Skinnider**, Lead Researcher of *The Trial of Rape*

Moderator: Nicholas Booth, Programme Advisor, UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub
Media Q&As

The event will be closed by **Claudia Baroni**, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer.

Note to Journalists

*Simultaneous will be provided throughout the event.

You are cordially invited to attend the lunch reception and request exclusive interviews. You are kindly requested to register in advance by providing your name and the news organization to bkk.communications@unwomen.org

For media inquiries, please contact:

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For more information:

<http://asiapacific.unwomen.org> | @unwomenasia | #16Days | #EndVAW



Note to Editors

The event is a part of the [16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign](#) (25 November – 10 December) commemorated by the UN under the umbrella of the Secretary-General's campaign UNiTE to End Violence against Women. This year's theme is "Leave No One Behind: End Violence against Women and Girls", in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It emphasizes the importance of reaching the most marginalized, including adolescents and the elderly, indigenous women and women affected by conflict and natural disaster, first.

One in three women and girls experience violence in their lifetime. This year's commemoration coincides with the unprecedented mobilization of millions behind #MeToo and other movements in an escalating global protest against sexual harassment and assault.

During the 16 Days, governments, civil society and individuals will be mobilized and iconic buildings and monuments lit up in orange, the official colour of the UNiTE campaign, symbolizing hope and a violence-free world. The call is for everyone to play their part to end violence against women and girls— through marches and rallies, concerts and public festivals—and taking the outcry to action. In 2016, people in a record 105 countries participated.