

Final Draft
ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on
the Elimination of Violence against Women
(ASEAN RPA on EVAW)

(Agreed at the ACWC-ACW Joint Meeting to
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Final Draft

ASEAN Regional Plan of Action of Elimination on Violence against Women (ASEAN RPA on EVAW)

I. Background and Rationale

Violence against women (VAW) is a violation of human rights which is a form of discrimination against women. It is a manifestation of historically and structurally unequal power relations and inequalities between women and men, which prevail in all countries and which impacts all aspects of the victim's private and public life. VAW violates human rights and fundamental freedoms of women, limits their access to, control over and ownership of resources, and impedes the full development of their potential. As such, it is an obstacle to the social and economic development of communities and states as well as the achievement of internationally agreed-upon development goals.

Even twenty years after the adoption of Beijing Declaration, there has been little improvement in the elimination of VAW, and the rate of violence against women. It is urgent for ASEAN Member States (AMS) to give priority to the elimination of VAW. Moreover, in adopting Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women and Elimination of Violence against Children in ASEAN, AMS are committed to take all appropriate measures to prevent and respond to all forms of VAW. This Regional Action Plan is a demonstration of the AMS's commitment to support the implementation of this Declaration and is consistent with the contents of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD) as well as with the Phnom Penh Statement on the adoption of the AHRD. It is a joint effort of the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) and the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW), in line with their respective Terms of Reference and work plans

ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC)

ACWC is an ASEAN regional human rights mechanism, established in 2010. It is an intergovernmental commission and an integral part of the ASEAN organization. Each AMS has two representatives – one for women and one for children, meaning the Commission comprises 20 Representatives.

ACWC's function and mandate is to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and children in ASEAN, based principally on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), which all ten AMS have ratified. The elimination of violence against women (EVAW) and the elimination of violence against children (EVAC) are among the thematic priority areas in the 2012-2016 ACWC Work Plan adopted at the 5th ACWC Meeting held in July 2012 in Jakarta, Indonesia.

ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW)

The ACW is an ASEAN sectoral body established in 1976. Its mandate is to implement, coordinate and monitor the implementation of ASEAN's key regional priorities and cooperation on women's issues. The 2011-2015 ACW Work Plan prioritizes VAW and sexual minorities as one of the key challenges, noting that responses to address such violence has been "hampered by persistent resistances to and inadequacies in understanding how gender power relations and deeply rooted attitudes and perceptions of women and men operate to subordinate and discriminate women". It also highlights increasing incidents of discrimination and violence against, indigenous/ethnic minority women, women with disabilities and diverse groups of women as a particular concern.

Implementation of ACWC and ACW on EVAW

In implementing its mandate and function, ACWC and ACW have undertaken various activities/projects pertaining to the elimination of violence against women. Under the ACWC Work Plan 2012-2016, ACWC (i) convened a Regional Workshop on Promoting the Right to a Nationality for Women and Children in the Implementation of CEDAW and CRC in ASEAN on 19 August 2013 in Da Nang, Viet Nam which was back-to-back with the Regional Workshop on Promoting the Rights of ASEAN Women and Children through Effective Implementation of the Common Issues in CEDAW and CRC Concluding Observations with Focus on Girl Child on 20 - 22 August 2013; (ii) published the ASEAN Good Practices in Eliminating Violence against Women and Eliminating Violence against Children in 2014 by Malaysia; (iii) conduct annually a public campaign to stop VAW based on diversified thematic message which is led by Thailand; (iv) conducted Workshop on the Promotion of Access to Justice for Women Victims of VAW Trafficking Case on 3-5 February 2014 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam; (v) conducted a workshop for frontline ASEAN social workers on 8-10 April 2014 in Singapore (v) developed the Gender Sensitive Guideline for Handling Women Victims of Trafficking in Person led by Brunei Darussalam; and convened the ASEAN Regional Conference of Senior Officials on Strengthening the Protection and Empowerment of Women Migrant Workers in Manila on 13-14 November 2014; ACWC had also proposed the review of emerging legislations and legal enforcement concerning EVAW, including cyber VAW, and traditions and customs that condoned VAW. In addition, it had initiated the Regional Review of the Management and Treatment of Trafficked Women and Children.

Under the ACW Work Plan 2011-2015, ACW convened Regional Conference with Male, Youth, HIV & AIDS Networks towards the Prevention of Gender-Based Violence on 15 - 16 November 2012 in Manila, Philippines; organized Regional Workshop on Strengthening National Capacities to collect VAW Statistics in the ASEAN Region was carried out on 6 - 9 August 2012 in Jakarta, Indonesia; delivered ASEAN Regional Conference of Senior Officials on Strengthening the Protection and Empowerment of Women Migrant Workers on 13 - 14 November 2014 in Manila, Philippines; and initiated Regional Meeting on engendering school curriculum with a view to eliminate stereotyping women and sexist languages.

II. Definition and Forms of Violence against Women

(a) Definition of violence against women

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) refers to violence against women as “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life.

(b) Forms of violence against women

Violence against women encompasses but is not limited to the following:

- a. Physical¹, sexual², psychological³ and economic⁴ violence occurring in the family such as denying a partner control over basic resources, battering, sexual abuse of female children in the household, marital rape, dowry-related violence, female genital mutilation and other traditional practices harmful to women, non- spousal violence and violence related to exploitation;
- b. Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring within the general community, such as rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in educational institutions and elsewhere, trafficking in women and forced prostitution;
- c. Physical, sexual and psychological violence perpetrated or condoned by the State and/or non-state entities, wherever it occurs (UNICEF, 2000 and Beijing Platform for Action, 1995).

¹ **Physical violence** is the intentional use of physical force with the potential for causing death, disability, injury, or harm. Physical violence includes, but is not limited to, scratching; pushing; shoving; throwing; grabbing; biting; choking; shaking; slapping; punching; burning; use of a weapon; and use of restraints or one’s body, size, or strength against another person” (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 2015).

² **Sexual violence** is any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, or other act directed against a person’s sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting. It includes rape, defined as the physically forced or otherwise coerced penetration of the vulva or anus with a penis, other body part or object (WHO, 2002).

³ **Psychological abuse** which includes behaviour that is intended to intimidate and persecute, and takes the form of threats of abandonment or abuse, confinement to the home, surveillance, threats to take away custody of the children, destruction of objects, isolation, verbal aggression and constant humiliation (UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre, 2000).

⁴ **Economic abuse** includes acts such as the denial of funds, refusal to contribute financially, denial of food and basic needs, and controlling access to health care, employment etc. (UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre, 2000)

Other forms of VAW exist. These include early and forced marriage and other forms of harmful practices that constitute or contribute to VAW and new and emerging forms of VAW, including VAW committed using information and communications technology (ICT) such as online harassment, abuse, bullying, stalking and distribution of denigrating images.

Diverse groups of women suffer from multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and inequalities, making them especially vulnerable to violence. They include women with disabilities; women living with and affected by HIV and AIDS; girls; older women; ethnic minority and/or indigenous women; women in conflict with the law; women living in disaster or conflict affected areas; refugee and displaced women; documented and undocumented migrant women; stateless women, women's human rights defenders/gender equality advocates, and women who are trafficked for forced labor or sexual exploitation among others.

III. Progress toward addressing Violence against Women in ASEAN

The ASEAN region has seen significant progress in addressing VAW in recent years through concerted policy action at both regional and national level. Most AMS have enacted dedicated national laws on VAW and/or domestic violence, while some have developed National Action Plans to support the implementation of laws and policies. Government and/or civil society actors have provided services for women and girls who have experienced violence, which include shelters, hotlines and One Stop Crisis Centers while dedicated women's and children's desks in police stations that are available in several countries. Many countries have also implemented awareness-raising campaigns to reduce acceptance for VAW. However, progress has been uneven, with some forms of VAW, such as marital rape and other forms of sexual violence, not always covered in current legislation. Areas that still require further attention include data gaps on the extent and impact of VAW; limited financial and human resources to support the enforcement of laws and the delivery of support services; and the pervasiveness of discriminatory gender norms and stereotypes that condone VAW.

Specifically, highlights of the relevant initiatives undertaken by ASEAN Member States are available on Part II of this Plan of Action.

IV International and Regional Commitments on EAW

(a) International commitments

AMS have demonstrated their commitments to ending VAW through the ratification and adoption of a number of international human rights treaties. In particular, all AMS have ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Additionally, AMS have submitted periodic reports on VAW, participated in the periodic CEDAW reviews, and undertaken obligations to implement the concluding observations issued by the CEDAW Committee to all AMS, in particular on VAW.

In 1992, the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) adopted General Recommendation No. 19, which reaffirmed that VAW constituted a form of discrimination against women and which formed the basis for the elaboration of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women in 1993. The Declaration calls upon States to exercise due diligence to prevent and punish acts of VAW. In the same year, the Vienna Declaration and Program of Action, was adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, which unequivocally states that VAW cannot be condoned in any circumstance⁵ Also, the Beijing Platform for Action, adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, urges governments and all sectors to take integrated measures to prevent and eliminate VAW.

In recent years, AMS have continued to address VAW through active participation in and adoption of the Agreed Conclusion of the Fifty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held in 2013. AMS are also committed to implementing international resolutions related to EAW, including those of the General Assembly, the Human Rights Council, and the United Nations Security Council. These include Resolution 1325, 1820, 1888 and 1889 on Women, Peace and Security, the International Conference on Population and Development and

⁵ 1993 Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, Paragraph 18

other relevant human rights instruments and processes. Most recently, AMS participated in the Asia-Pacific Regional 20-year Review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and endorsed a Ministerial Declaration. The Outcome document reaffirms the need for a stand-alone Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women Goal in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that include indicators and targets to end VAW. [Note: SDG targets to be referenced, once finalized and approved] ASEAN Member States have been actively engaged in the Commission on Status of Women (CSW) Meetings particularly the 57th Session of CSW in 2013 on violence against women.

(b) Regional commitments

In 2004, AMS came together to produce the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women in ASEAN, which was followed in 2013 by the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women and the Elimination of Violence against Children in ASEAN. These Declarations reaffirm the commitment of ASEAN towards eliminating VAW and serve as a blueprint for collaboration among AMS. As in the section, Implementation of ACWC and ACW on EVAW, strengthening regional efforts to address VAW is a priority in the work plans of both ACWC and ACW. Towards this end, at their first joint meeting in Yangon on 15 October 2014, ACWC and ACW agreed to jointly develop a regional plan of action to implement the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women and Violence against Children in ASEAN. This ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on Elimination of Violence against Women (ASEAN RPA on EVAW) carries this commitment further by translating the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women and the Elimination of Violence against Children in ASEAN into concrete actions to guide regional and national implementation of this Declaration.

Additionally, AMS have made a number of other commitments related to EVAW, women's empowerment and gender equality. They include the ASEAN Declaration against Trafficking in Persons Particularly Women and Children (2004), the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Plan of Action (2004), and the ASEAN Declaration against Trafficking in Persons Particularly Women and Children (2013).

V. Guiding Principles for Development and Implementation of the Regional Plan of Actions on EVAW

The impact of VAW cuts across all the three pillars of ASEAN economic, political-security and socio-cultural, and all three pillars are similarly committed to ending such violence. This ASEAN Regional Plan of Action is developed to implement the ASEAN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Elimination of Violence Against Children, adopted by the Leaders at the 23rd ASEAN Summit in 2013, by translating those commitments into strategies and actions to be undertaken at regional and national levels by ASEAN Member States.

The Regional Plan of Action will help ASEAN Member States in progressing towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals , especially the goal on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. The Regional Plan of Action also helps ASEAN Member States in translating the commitments made by the leaders in the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the “Asian and Pacific Conference on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment: Beijing +20 Review” on 20 November 2014 in Bangkok, into reality towards elimination of discrimination and violence against women and girls in ASEAN region.

This ASEAN Regional Plan of Action is an expression of those joint commitments and is developed based on the following guiding principles:

(a) Human rights based approach

All people in ASEAN have the right to a life free of violence and discrimination. States are the primary duty bearers to ensure this right and the duty to eliminate violence against women. A human-rights based approach to eliminate VAW is one that empowers victims and survivors to access information and remedies and to claim their human rights, and holds duty bearers accountable for providing gender-sensitive and victim-centered services to all victims and survivors. These principles are also enshrined in CEDAW. The approach entails taking active steps to embed human rights standards in laws, policies and responses to violence against women

and recognizing the interdependence and interrelated nature of human rights. It includes addressing underlying gender inequalities; unequal power relations and discriminatory gender norms and stereotypes as well as promoting gender equality and the realization of human rights, and ensuring the full and effective participation of women and girls in all prevention and response. VAW has often been justified by invoking socio-cultural and religious customs and values. Being so, it is important for States to “modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women with a view to achieving the elimination of prejudices and customary and all other practices which are based on the idea of the inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes or on stereotyped roles for men and women”⁶.

(b) Multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary approach

All sectors, organizations and individual persons in ASEAN are responsible for ERAW. As VAW is a complex problem with root causes at different levels, preventing and responding to violence requires the full involvement of every sector of the State, and multiple disciplines. This includes but not limited to education, health, the police, the justice system, social services, and the finance sector. All sectors and agencies at national and local levels need to work together as a coherent system. Additionally, the development and implementation of comprehensive and coordinated multi-sectoral policies, programmes, systems and processes, in line with international standards should bring together and strengthen the commitment of all relevant government agencies, NGOs, private sectors and other actors.

(c) Evidence-based approach

All policies, programmes and strategies formulated and implemented to prevent and combat VAW should be grounded on empirical evidence and meaningful participation of women especially those from the marginalized groups and sectors. Evidence can be gathered through regular disaggregated data collection and other means on the extent and impact of VAW as well as ongoing monitoring and evaluation to assess the impact and effectiveness of the responses.

(d) Due diligence

⁶ Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 1979

AMS act to eradicate VAW through due diligence. This means the States commit to take all reasonable measures to prevent, protect, prosecute and provide rehabilitation for victims/survivors.

(e) Partnerships and collaboration

Implementation of this RPA requires meaningful participation of and partnerships among all relevant ASEAN bodies, government and non-government agencies, civil society, communities and the private sector as well as national, regional and international organizations. These partnerships should include the voices of victims/survivors and marginalized/ vulnerable groups of women. Building broad ownership of the Plan, harnessing the collective knowledge and expertise of all actors, and ensuring that all stakeholders work together in a collaborative manner are essential components for ensuring effective prevention and response strategies.

VI. Time Frame

This Regional Plan of Action covers a 10-year period (2016 – 2025) in line with the ASEAN Community Blueprint (2016 – 2025).

VII. Policy Statement and Ultimate Goal

ASEAN has a policy of zero tolerance for all forms of VAW. Recognizing VAW as a violation of human rights, ASEAN is determined to eliminate all forms of VAW as a matter of priority.

The ultimate goal of this Plan is therefore the elimination of all forms of VAW in ASEAN.

VIII. Objectives

The objectives of this Regional Plan of Action are:

1. ASEAN has institutionalised EVAW policies and sustained support across pillars and sectors; and
2. AMS have effective prevention and protection services supported by national EVAW legal framework and institutional mechanisms.

IX. Key Strategies and Actions

Ending VAW in ASEAN requires a sustained and coordinated set of actions and investments that incorporate both prevention and response. It entails stopping VAW before it starts by addressing the complex set of root causes and drivers which can lead to violence. It requires ensuring that all victims/survivors are able to access a full range of quality support services that meet their immediate and long-term needs. It calls for the adoption and full implementation of legal frameworks to hold perpetrators to account and ensure the effective administration of justice. It means ensuring that all relevant institutions, organizations and individuals have the skills and knowledge to respond appropriately to cases of VAW, and all actors work together as a coherent system. Finally, an effective VAW framework requires sufficient data, research and monitoring to ensure that prevention and response strategies are based on evidence, and prevention and response mechanisms are systematically monitored and evaluated to assess their effectiveness. The prevention and response strategies have to be continuously adapted to respond to any changes in the situation on the ground. Therefore, the ASEAN RPA on ERAW covers the following key actions; whose implementation will be considered in accordance with regional and national contexts and circumstances:

The Regional Plan of Action adopts the following strategies: devising effective; coordinated strategies to prevent violence; protecting victims/survivors of violence; developing and strengthening legal frameworks; strengthening capacity of individuals and institutions, collecting data and monitoring the efforts through periodic review.

The following actions will be adopted at regional and national levels towards achieving the objective:

ACTION 1: PREVENTION

1. Develop a comprehensive national VAW framework that integrates prevention and response, including policies and programs that draw on international and national evidence of the most effective strategies (national level).

2. Develop and disseminate regional innovative tools, handbooks and guidelines that build on national and international good practices, to guide the development and implementation of the national framework on prevention of violence against women (regional level).
3. Design, implement, and evaluate evidence-based and context-specific and cultural sensitive awareness-raising campaigns for changing social norms towards non-violence and respectful relationships, especially through making effective use of existing [people-oriented] media outlets and communication channels. The awareness raising campaign to address violence against women could include the root causes of gender inequality, discriminatory norms, and other contributing factors, as well as the types of punishment for violators (national and regional levels).
4. Develop and widely distribute information and advocacy materials, including in the local languages, on the prevalence and types of VAW, social and economic costs of VAW, related laws and policies, as well as information on how to report cases and access to justice and other services. These materials should aim to reduce the stigma of victims-survivors, eliminate acceptance of VAW, and communicate positive and empowering stories of women and men as agents of change (national and regional levels).
5. Work in partnership with educational institutions, civil society organizations, parents, communities, and private sectors;
 - i. to foster the value of non-violence, gender equality, and zero tolerance on VAW;
 - ii. to promote positive masculinity through the review and revision of formal and non-formal education curricula, development of sourcebooks and textbooks, teaching and learning methodologies and materials;
 - iii. to develop and improve codes of conduct for individuals or communities, and;
 - iv. to provide an enabling environment at all levels for gender equality and zero tolerance against VAW (national and regional levels).

6. Develop and ensure gender responsive regulatory mechanisms, codes of conduct and/or guidelines for the media, journalists, advertising, animation and gaming industries to eliminate the glamorization and normalization of VAW, harmful gender stereotypes, and the objectification of women and girls in popular culture in mainstream and social media (national level).
7. Develop national standards for the implementation of prevention and elimination of VAW in the workplace through measures such as regulatory frameworks, policies and procedures for employers, unions and workers (national level).
8. Develop national standards to ensure safety of women and girls in public transportation and public spaces and also the mobility with women-friendly environment (national level).
9. Ensure that the prevention of all forms of VAW, particularly sexual violence, is incorporated into disaster risk reduction and management protocols and programs as well as in all humanitarian response assistance (national level).
10. Engage social influencers/social change makers from all walks of life (e.g. community and religious leaders, artists, athletes, and youth leaders) to serve as champions for gender equality and empowerment of women and promote zero tolerance for VAW, as well as empower victims/ survivors to become champions themselves (national and regional levels).
11. Engage men and boys as collaborative partners and allies for preventing VAW, including through the development and implementation of programs that challenge male sexual entitlement and dominance over women. Promote the concept of non-violence and positive masculinities (national and regional levels).

12. Develop and implement programs for couples, parents, in-laws and other family members, to promote respectful and equal relationships, and non-violent conflict resolution, based on human rights, dignity and gender equality (national level).
13. Develop guidelines and modules to promote intergenerational non-violence in families, schools and communities (national and regional levels).
14. Develop codes of conduct and provide training for service providers and law enforcement officers to prevent VAW and abuse by authorities (national and regional levels).

ACTION 2: PROTECTION AND SUPPORT SERVICES FOR VICTIMS/SURVIVORS

15. Provide multi-disciplinary and coordinated response services for victims/survivors through an integrated support system that includes but is not limited to medical and psychological care, counselling services, legal aid, interpreter and translation services, 24/7 telephone and online hotlines, accommodation and financial support, as well as assistance to access to the justice system, with effective referral pathways between the various parts of the system (national level).
16. Establish and monitor the implementation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for service provision including physical, psychological, health, reproductive health and legal services that ensure the safety and confidentiality of victim/survivors and their children. Referral system could also be accessible and available (national level).
17. Provide adequate, effective and efficient VAW support system with competent and gender-sensitive providers across geographical locations that are accessible and meet the diverse needs of all women, especially those experiencing multiple forms of discrimination (national level).

18. Incorporate the prevention of and response to all forms of VAW into the planning and delivery of disaster risk reduction programs and protocols as well as in all humanitarian responses following natural disasters, conflict situations, or other emergencies (national and regional levels).
19. Provide support services for the reintegration of victims/survivors, including vocational training, income generating and employment assistance programmes to support women's empowerment, economic independence, and access to affordable housing. Support the leadership and empowerment of victims/survivors of violence to act as women's leaders, advocates and champions on EAW (national level).
20. Provide early identification screening tools and referral pathways for victims of violence during antenatal, maternal and child health checks by other service providers who conduct routine home visits in the community (national level).
21. Establish and support community-based mechanisms to detect and protect cases of VAW and women at risk and provide support to victims/survivors (national level).
22. Institute comprehensive protection measures and programs for women's human rights defenders/gender equality advocates, professionals, and service providers whose work supports victims/survivors (national level).
23. Create or strengthen accessible, effective and gender-sensitive complaint mechanism with investigative and monitoring functions for workplace abuse and harassment in all workplace whether informal and informal sectors including domestic workers (national level).

ACTION 3: LEGAL FRAMEWORK, PROSECUTION AND JUSTICE SYSTEM

24. Adopt gender-responsive implementation of national legislation to penalize all forms of VAW, in compliance with the obligations outlined in CEDAW and CRC and other

applicable international human rights standards particularly through effective and coordinated multi-disciplinary measures for both prevention and response (national level).

25. Review and amend laws, regulations, policies, practices and customs that perpetuate VAW or any form of discriminatory practice, including customary or religious laws, and any legislation which accepts the “defence of honour” as a mitigating factor related to crimes against women and girls and female genital mutilation (FGM) and honour killings. Whether in customary or religious law and the formal justice system, cases should be resolved with respect for the human rights of victims/survivors and in accordance with the international obligations on gender equality and international human rights standards. All duty-bearers in the justice sector are to be held accountable for guaranteeing the safety, protection and dignity of victims/survivors (national level).
26. Investigate, prosecute, and punish all acts of VAW and end impunity for all perpetrators, including State actors and persons of authority (such as teachers, religious leaders, political leaders, law enforcers and persons with immunity) using due processes (national level).
27. Review, monitor and evaluate the implementation of laws on VAW, in relation to the criminal justice system. This could include comprehensive investigations into how the criminal justice system responds to different forms of VAW, such as monitoring court decisions, judicial processes, investigations and quality and effectiveness of legal aid and other justice services to victims/survivors (national level).
28. Review and revise laws in recognition and in consideration of new and emerging forms of VAW, such as sexual violence against women in cyber space (national level).
29. Develop jurisprudence to recognize “battered woman syndrome” and to eliminate gender-based stereotypes in carrying out court decisions (national level).

30. Establish mechanisms for women's access to justice through:
 - i. creating enabling environment;
 - ii. removing barriers they face;
 - iii. providing effective and affordable / [free] legal assistance for impoverished victims/survivors;
 - iv. providing access to just and effective redress and remedies, and;
 - v. providing reparation from the harm that they have suffered (national level).

31. Strengthen victim-centered and gender-sensitive administration of justice, such as, inter alia, for instance through the creation and provision of one-stop centers and specialized court systems or proceedings that guarantee prompt and efficient handling of cases of VAW, for example, the use of screens in the courtroom, video record statement, use of communication aid and limit public gallery etc. (national level).

32. Strengthen the capacity of the judicial system to provide gender-sensitive responses to VAW. Prohibit compulsory and forced alternative dispute resolution processes, including forced mediation and conciliation, in relation to all forms of VAW (national level).

33. Create and/or strengthen law enforcement and prosecutor units, court systems and/or legal processes to respond to VAW by:
 - i. providing adequate funding on VAW and the staff;
 - ii. promoting the employment of more women in the frontline of law enforcement in order to accommodate vulnerable victim-survivors;
 - iii. providing adequate specialized training on VAW;
 - iv. conducting reviews of judicial processes law enforcement practices and performance;
 - v. establishing/improving minimum standards, in adherence to the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, and CEDAW, for law enforcers to strengthen the response to incidents of VAW (national level).

34. Provide effective and urgent protection orders to all victims/survivors as well as women human rights defenders / gender equality advocates, and service providers against all forms of VAW. The violation of protection orders should be criminalized and their implementation closely monitored (national level).
35. ASEAN to recognise and work towards enforcement of cross-border protection orders across jurisdictions, and ensure / enhance that immigration laws and administrative procedures do not prevent women from leaving or addressing violent situations due to fear of deportation, loss of legal status or revoked custody over the children (regional level).
36. Ensure the accountability of duty-bearers on VAW incidents that occur during or after situations of conflict, disasters and situations of unrest through legal and judicial process and transitional justice mechanisms and with the full and effective participation of women in such processes as well as ensuring that victims/survivors are able to access redress, reparations and other remedies (national level).
37. Establish/improve legislation to ensure safe environments for the long-term well-being of victim/survivors and family members and where appropriate the perpetrators should be removed from home (national level).

ACTION 4: CAPACITY BUILDING

38. Develop training programs and manuals for multi-disciplinary teams and other relevant professionals/service providers, such as health and social workers, police, prosecutors, judges and mediators, for the provision of well-coordinated, gender-sensitive, culture-sensitive and survivor-centered services (national level).
39. Develop programmes to build women's capacities to resist oppression and violence, to exercise their autonomy and negotiate the terms of their existence in the public and private sphere (national level).

40. Develop training programmes for abusers and perpetrators through reviewing promising models and distilling good practices related to attitudinal changes and behaviour modification. The approaches developed should address root causes of violence, including drivers of violence, and should take into consideration possible integration with other remedial programs such as on alcohol and drug addiction (national level).
41. Strengthen the capacity of relevant agencies to collect data in relation to VAW at national and sub-national levels (national level).
42. Develop and implement protocols, manuals and training activities for relevant stakeholders to increase capacity to collect, interpret and use data on VAW for policy and programs to monitor change (national level).
43. Promote the regional sharing of good practices and experiences, including feasible, practical and successful policy and program interventions, as well as manuals/handbooks for gender-sensitive handling of VAW cases. Promote the application of these successful interventions and experiences in other settings through social media and capacity building activities (regional level).

ACTION 5: RESEARCH AND DATA COLLECTION

44. Establish regional guidelines on the collection and analysis of data related to VAW, aligned with existing global ethical guidelines (regional level).
45. Develop/improve national data systems to collect disaggregated data on VAW, The data national system should include:
 - i. prevalence data in line with indicators ⁷;

⁷ Core indicators for measuring violence against women as identified by Friends of the Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission on indicators on violence against women

- ii. risk and protective factors associated with VAW;
- iii. cost and impact of all forms of VAW;
- iv. accessibility to services for victims/survivors;
- v. quality of services and client satisfaction; and
- vi. VAW in disaster and conflict situations (national level).

46. Strengthen the collection of national administrative data for effective policy development and implementation by taking into account harmonization and its appropriate use from related agencies and civil society, confidentiality, ethics and safety (national level).

47. Review research gaps and conduct qualitative and quantitative research concerning all forms of VAW and their underlying causes (national level).

48. Evaluate the impact of policies and programs so as to contribute towards development of evidence-based policies, programs, plans of actions, and laws (national level).

ACTION 6: MANAGEMENT, COORDINATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

6.1. Management and Coordination

49. Develop and effectively implement time-bound multi-sectoral National Action Plans on EVAW with the involvement of all relevant authorities, civil society organisations and other key stakeholders. Provision of adequate financial and human resources at all levels and clearly defined indicators and targets are essential for effective implementation of the National Action Plans on EVAW (national level).

50. Establish and/or strengthen relevant government bodies and structures to ensure effective implementation and follow-up of National Action Plans on EVAW; ensure that the National Action Plans incorporate and respond to the specific needs of different groups of women, including marginalized women, in their planning, delivery and monitoring; and

make progress reports accessible to the general public and all relevant stakeholders.
(national level)

51. Make available adequate financial, technical, and human resources in all sectors for key interventions to eliminate VAW. Clearly define the roles and responsibilities, and identify funding sources (national level).

52. Strengthen existing national mechanisms, including through the allocation of additional resources for national women's mechanism with the assistance of related stakeholders, in implementing, monitoring and reporting of recommendations from CEDAW, CRC, the Universal Periodic Review Process of the United Nations Human Rights Council and other relevant Treaty Bodies which relate to the elimination of all forms of VAW (national level).

53. Develop national coordination mechanisms for EVAW, including mechanisms to prevent and respond to disasters and conflict situations (national level).

6.2 Monitoring and Evaluation

54. Review and revise other areas of national policy to ensure a consistent multi-sectoral coordination among government bodies to promote gender equality and the elimination of VAW (national level).

55. Establish or improve monitoring system for the implementation of National Action Plan on EVAW through the development of indicators and periodic evaluation of the Plan with the meaningful participation of women's organisations and victims/survivors (national level).

ACTION 7: PARTNERSHIP AND COLLABORATION

56. Implement the ASEAN RPA on EVAW in partnership with civil society organisations, the private sector and international organizations (national level).
57. Encourage greater involvement of the private sector in developing internal policies and programs that address VAW within organizational settings. [] (national level).
58. Recognize the achievements of individuals, groups, civil society organisations and the private sectors who have made outstanding achievement on the elimination of VAW (national level).
59. Establish and/or strengthen coordination strategies between the three ASEAN pillars to end VAW, and support the effective delivery of a multi-sectoral prevention and response to VAW across all sectors (national and regional levels).
60. Enhance bilateral, sub-regional and regional cooperation to assist victims/survivors, through collecting and sharing data on case management and regional research in collaboration with civil society organisations. There should be cross-country exchanges and sharing of good practices in effective VAW prevention and response (national and regional levels).
61. Enhance an active role of national entities in coordinating and collaborating with other regional / international entities on EVAW (regional level).

ACTION 8: REVIEW AND COMMUNICATIONS

8.1 Review of Implementation

62. ACWC Representatives to report annually to ACWC on the progress of the implementation of the RPA on EVAW as well as National Action Plans on EVAW and other actions at the national levels. ACWC and ACW to share and disseminate annual

reports on the progress of the implementation of the RPA on EVAW. (national and regional level).

63. ACWC and ACW to jointly review the RPA on EVAW after five years to accommodate changes in circumstances using participatory approach. Present the findings of the review at the ASEAN Ministerial meetings (regional level).

64. Establish an accountability framework to track progress towards time-bound targets related to the situation of VAW in ASEAN (regional level).

8.2 Communication on the Implementation and Progress

65. ACWC and ACW to develop a website to share information on activities, good practices and challenges on the implementation of the RPA on EVAW (regional level).

66. Report on the implementation and progress of the RPA on EVAW and make these reports available to all stakeholders, including civil society organisations and the general public (national and regional levels).

X. Priority Areas for the First Five Years

(a) Regional Level

Within the first five years of this RPA, at regional level, AMS through ACWC and ACW will:

1. Establish regional guidelines for the collection and analysis of data on VAW

Indicators: Establishment and adoption of guidelines based on the identification of international standards jointly agreed by ACWC and ACW.

2. Develop and enhance regional campaigns on EVAW, among others, through the use of video spots and social media platforms and channels.

Indicators:

- (1) Number of countries has disseminated campaign materials
 - (2) Number of views/visitors/viewers/ people become member of platforms
3. Develop guidelines for SOPs on performance standards for service providers on gender-sensitive handling of VAW cases, including guidelines for support services for victims/survivors and the administration of justice.

Indicators: Guidelines for SOPs developed and adopted.

(b) National Level

At national level, AMS will:

4. Develop and/or strengthen National Action Plans on EVAW through multi-sectoral and inter-agency mechanism to coordinate development, implementation and monitoring of these plans

Indicators:

- (1) Number of countries with National Action Plan on EVAW
 - (2) Number of national multi-sectoral and inter-agency coordination
 - (3) Number of sub-national mechanisms with adequate resources
5. Collect VAW prevalence data in line with international standard⁸

Indicator: Number of countries that collect VAW prevalence data in line with the identification of international standards jointly agreed by ACWC and ACW.

6. Develop and adopt gender responsive legal frameworks to penalize all forms of VAW in full compliance with CEDAW.

Indicator: Number of new/strengthened laws/ regulations on EVAW

⁸ Core indicators identified by the Friends of the Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission on violence against women, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Statistic Division (2014). Guideline for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women-Statistical Surveys. United Nation Publication.

7. Develop and implement preventive interventions that address the root causes of VAW, including gender stereotypes, harmful traditional and religious practices. The interventions should promote positive, respectful and non-violent masculinities.

Indicator:

- (1) Number of AMS that implement preventive measures
- (2) Number of measures implemented

8. Develop national guidelines for SOPs on performance standards for service providers on gender-sensitive handling of VAW cases, including guidelines for support services for victims/survivors and the administration of justice.

Indicator: SOP guidelines developed.