

2020 Asian Conference of Women's Shelters

**Stopping Gender-Based Violence
and Gender Inequality in a
Post-COVID World**

October 6 – November 3, 2020

This conference is organized by:

**The Garden of Hope Foundation
The Asian Network of Women's Shelters**

INTRODUCTION

As coronavirus continues to spread across the world, there are already signs that the pandemic is leading to an outbreak of domestic abuse as victims of violence, especially women, girls, and members of the LGBTQ+ community, are locked down with their abusers, making it hard or impossible to escape. Many countries have seen a jump in cases of domestic violence during lockdown, and many more are concerned that the true case count is being under reported.

The 2020 Asian Conference of Women's Shelters therefore seeks to examine the impact of COVID-19 on women's shelters as well as on gender-based violence across the entirety of Asia. The outcomes of this conference will be powerful tools for supporting NGOs in the region to advocate for greater awareness of shelter services, particularly among different marginalized groups; lobby for stronger government support of these shelters and law reform to end gender-based violence; and focus on improving responses to future crises or disasters to better protect vulnerable communities.

Speakers at previous conferences include vice-chair of UN CEDAW, Bandana Rana, and chair of Global Network of Women's Shelters, Chi, Hui-Jung. Speakers who have been invited to take part in this year include Ending Violence against Women Programme Manager in UN Women, Melissa Alvarado; Founder and Executive Director of Sangsan Anakot Yawachon Development Project, Matcha Phornin; Journalist, Mona Eltahawy; Past President of Singapore Council of Women's Organisations, Malathi Das, and Australian writer, Jess Hill.

This conference will furthermore be an international platform for scholars, researchers, and shelter practitioners to discuss interdisciplinary research and practices in the fields of establishing and running a women's shelter in Asia. The conference will also propose solutions for more accurate collection and analysis of domestic violence data.

This year's conference will take place virtually as three webinars throughout October to November, 90 minutes per webinar, four and a half hours in total. These webinars will address the difficulties shelters faced during this pandemic and the corresponding measures that each country responded to. These meetings will be the platform for shelters to discuss and learn from each other's practices.

Agenda

Theme	Speakers	Content
<p>Date: October 6 Time: 16:00-17:30 Taiwan local time (GMT +8)</p> <p>Gender Equality and Paving the Way for Future Generations</p>	<p>Bandana Rana</p> <hr/> <p>Melissa Alvarado</p>	<p>Leading social activists will delve into the complexities and challenges of enacting gender equality from the perspectives of international institutions, local governments, all the way through to the role of individuals. The speakers will address the challenges of establishing an international standard for gender equality across a global setting of individual countries with different systems of governance, laws and beliefs. Through exploring areas of progress, setbacks and achievements, this webinar will question the direction of gender equality in an ever-globalizing world.</p>
<p>Date: October 20 Time: 16:00-17:30 Taiwan local time (GMT +8)</p> <p>Testimonies from Gender-Based Violence Survivors during the COVID-19 Pandemic</p>	<p>Matcha Phornin</p> <hr/> <p>Mona Eltahawy</p>	<p>This webinar will focus on the lived experiences of survivors and witnesses to gender-based violence during the COVID-19 pandemic. These stories give a tangible insight to the real impact of COVID-19 upon vulnerable groups, and moreover, highlight the importance of uplifting the voices of suppressed communities.</p>

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Theme	Speakers	Content
<p>Date: November 3 Time: 16:00-17:30 Taiwan local time (GMT +8)</p> <p>How to Systematically End Violence Against Women?</p>	<p>Jess Hill</p>	<p>Systematically ending gender-based violence requires a top to bottom transformation. This webinar will explore how changes in mindsets of both men and women, all the way through to changes in government policies and legal systems, can contribute towards putting an end to violence against women.</p>
	<p>Malathi Das</p>	

ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS

The Garden of Hope Foundation

The Garden of Hope Foundation is a non-government, non-profit group established in 1988 to help disadvantaged girls and young women, especially girls caught in the sex industry; survivors of sexual abuse and domestic violence; and survivors of human trafficking. Many of the Foundation's clients have been subjected to more than one form of abuse.

From one halfway house, their services have grown to include shelters and service centers throughout Taiwan providing counseling and temporary housing to employment training, social work, and legal aid. Their latest phase of development helps women "go the second mile" with job training, housing aid and emotional support after they leave the shelter.

The Foundation's vision is a world free of sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, and domestic violence. They work to rescue and rehabilitate vulnerable children, women, and their families; promote gender justice; and advocate for social and educational reform. Their mission is to empower girls and women so that they can realize their full potential and take charge of their lives.

More information can be found at: <https://www.goh.org.tw/en/index.asp>.

Asian Network of Women's Shelters

The Asian Network of Women's Shelters seeks to establish a just world in which communities and families live free from all forms of violence. These shelters promote warm, inclusive, and mutually respectful families and communities. Their purpose is to unite, promote, and strengthen the women's shelter movement in Asia to end all forms of gender-based violence.

The network is a platform to promote cross-learning between countries and various regions, as well as a place to strengthen advocacy for policy and legislation related to violence against women. The shelters are finally a representative network that amplifies Asian voices globally in the continued fight for women's equity and justice.

More information can be found at: <https://shelterasia.org/>.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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