

# Ending Violence against Women and Girls

Gender-based violence (GBV) is one of the most prevalent and destructive problems that women and girls face in the world, constraining their full participation in social, economic, and political life, and with negative repercussions for societies as a whole. The Asia Foundation pursues a holistic approach to ending violence against women and girls (VAWG) through evidence-based strategies that are rooted in decades of experience across Asia and the Pacific.



## PREVENTION

The Asia Foundation works to prevent VAWG by addressing the underlying risk factors that contribute to violence, while promoting protective factors and advancing positive gender norms.

- In **Bangladesh**, the Foundation has been supporting the efforts of Muslim scholars, respected *imams* (religious leaders) and community leaders – including the wives of *imams* – to raise awareness of women's rights and take actions against VAWG. With local partners, we recently trained over 1,100 religious and community leaders, who have conducted outreach to over 110,000 community members, and have become key sources of information about VAWG.
- In **India**, we engage young men and boys to transform the gender norms that perpetuate VAWG. We have supported local partners to train over 550 adolescent boys about positive masculinities and to become leaders in advocating for gender equality and ending VAWG, and to train young men to facilitate dialogues and take action against VAWG on college campuses.

- In **Timor-Leste**, the Foundation is implementing *Nabilan*, an eight-year intervention aimed at reducing the proportion of women who have experienced violence, and improving the wellbeing of women and children affected by violence. *Nabilan* uses innovative methods and positive messaging to change attitudes, social norms and behavior, including through public service announcements, radio programs, school-based work on positive discipline, and work with the church to encourage respectful relationships. *Nabilan* is also drawing on the well-known SASA! approach to community mobilization in one village, supporting men and women to become active change agents in their own communities.

## SERVICES

The Asia Foundation works with governments and civil society organizations to increase access to quality health and psychosocial services for women and girls who experience violence.

- In **India**, the Foundation provides grants to local partners to raise awareness and counter VAWG. Recent grants have supported a Delhi-based shelter for survivors of

domestic violence; a study on vulnerable women living alone, which helped local governments develop new policies on violence and harassment; trainings for frontline service providers; and creative use of communication tools to socialize young men against street harassment and child marriage.

- In **Sri Lanka**, we supported Women In Need to launch the first mobile application (2six4) designed to combat GBV. With the unprecedented growth of mobile technology in Sri Lanka, the 2six4 app is an innovative mobile solution designed to reach women and girls who experience violence and need information and services.
- In **Timor-Leste**, through the *Nabilan* program, we provide grants to civil society organizations to deliver services to thousands of women and children affected by violence. Services included medical treatment, legal aid, temporary accommodation and shelter, counselling, life skills training, and reintegration support. *Nabilan* also developed a nationally-accredited vocational education program to strengthen the social services sector and improve the quality of service delivery.

## JUSTICE

The Asia Foundation works alongside law enforcement, justice sector actors, and policy makers to ensure that women and girls who experience violence can access justice and security on their own terms.

- In **Afghanistan**, we work in 20 provinces to strengthen access to justice for women affected by violence. We do this by increasing the understanding of women's rights among women and key provincial actors, and by building support for women's rights among community groups and the formal and informal justice systems.
- In **China**, we address sexual harassment in the textile and apparel industry by supporting the development of guidelines and manuals for enterprise-based actions to prevent and respond to sexual harassment for six textile and apparel enterprises.
- In **Pakistan**, we provide technical support to civil society partners to meet the growing demand for cost-effective legal aid for survivors of GBV by increasing knowledge and aware-

ness of legal rights and redressal mechanisms; strengthening the institutional capacity of legal aid centers; and establishing a network of lawyers.

- In **Sri Lanka**, we supported the development of the first computerized database for the National Police's Children and Women's Bureau, which equips the police to better document, track, and address violence against women and children, discrimination, and domestic violence reporting.
- In **Timor-Leste**, *Nabilan's* access to justice CSO partners monitor the courts and advocate for law reform and improvements to implementation of existing laws, and support justice sector institutions through continuing legal education for judges and prosecutors to improve the handling of VAWG cases by the courts.

## RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

The Asia Foundation is committed to expanding the evidence base to inform programs and policies that can effectively prevent and respond to VAWG.

- In **Cambodia**, we published *A Practical Guide to Monitoring Violence Against Women in Television*, a manual that provides clear, efficient methods to monitor the type and amount of VAWG shown on television. Drawing on Cambodia's experiences, the manual is a step-by-step guide that can be adapted to other countries.
- In **China**, following passage of the country's first Anti-Domestic Violence (DV) Law, which identified employers as key stakeholders in addressing DV, we supported research to improve understanding of how DV affects the workplace and inform implementation of this new law. *Impact of Domestic Violence on the Workplace in China* established a baseline on the perceptions, experiences, and effects of DV in the workplace among employees and employers.
- In **Timor-Leste**, we launched ground breaking research on the prevalence and perpetration of violence against women and children in Timor-Leste, *Understanding Violence against Women and Children in Timor-Leste: Findings from the Nabilan Baseline Study*.

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