

Anyone is welcome to join!

Online Forum
of Asia-Pacific Women of Faith Network

Responding to Gender- Based Violence in the Asia-Pacific



12th – 13th November 2025 (Online)

12:30 – 15:00 Jakarta time

**You can check when we start in your local time on the last page.*

Cooperation of :
The Eastern Indonesia Women's Network (JPIT), Religions for Peace Indonesia
(RfP-I) and Asia Pacific Women of Faith Network (APWoFN) of ACRP

Introduction

The Eastern Indonesian Women's Network (JPIT) is a network of 80 interfaith women from Eastern Indonesia (East Nusa Tenggara, Maluku, Sulawesi, Papua, and Kalimantan). This network focuses its activities on research and publications related to three themes: women, religion, and culture. JPIT's first research, publication, and advocacy focused on past gross human rights violations related to the 1965–1966 anti-communist violence in Indonesia. Since 2014, JPIT has actively assisted victims of human trafficking under the guise of Indonesian labor migration and examined the role of religions in preventing and addressing human trafficking in Eastern Indonesia. In the past five years, the network has also focused on agrarian conflicts that have led to ecological destruction and violence against indigenous communities, especially women, in several regions of Eastern Indonesia.

Women's issues are inextricably linked to the threat of gender-based violence, which involves women as victims of verbal, psychological, physical, and sexual violence. Based on 2024 data, the Indonesian National Commission on Violence Against Women recorded 339,782 cases of gender-based violence, 90% of which were online.[1] Internationally, specifically in Asia, the Canadian Ambassador to Asia noted that 88% of women aged 18–24 were victims of online gender-based violence.[2] In the context of Eastern Indonesia, the role of religion and culture further limits women's ability to mobilize and speak out. The persistent patriarchal culture that permeates society renders women second-class citizens and disregards their social importance.

Women's lives in Indonesia and across Asia as a whole are vulnerable to violence. Current unrest, amidst increasingly volatile political conditions in Indonesia and the world, has further limited the space for Indonesian and Asian women to find a safe space from the threat of violence. Therefore, JPIT in collaboration with Religions for Peace (RfP) Indonesia and the Asia Pacific Woman of Faith Network (APWoFN) of ACRP, will hold an online forum to exchange experiences and thoughts in responding to gender-based violence from women in Eastern Indonesia and Asia with the theme "Responding to Gender-Based Violence in the Asia Pacific and Eastern Indonesia: What needs to be done together and how to make it happen?"

Objectives

1. Strengthen networks and solidarity of women and religions in responding to gender-based violence in Eastern Indonesia and Asia-Pacific.
2. Share experiences regarding to women's experiences in Eastern Indonesia and Asia-Pacific in responding to gender-based violence. What good things have been achieved, what are the challenges and threats, and what solution has been taken?
3. Gather concrete ideas on what needs to be done together and how to implement it.

Participants

Participants in the open discussion from religious leaders, interfaith-based organizations, women's organizations, activists in Indonesia and Asia, JPIT, Religions for Peace Indonesia, APWoFN, and ACRP as well from Religions for Peace, globally.

Registration

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/L2FKoUcFRbey0rDy8u4u9Q>



Agenda (November 12: Day I)

12:25	Open Zoom	
12:30	Opening	
12:30-12:33	Opening prayer (Bahai)	by Mrs. Nasrin Astani (Indonesia)
12:33-12:36	Welcome Remarks	by A.Elga J. Sarapung (Chair of APWoFN)
12:36-12:46	Opening Remarks	by Prof. M. Machasin (Chair of RfP Indonesia)
	Opening Remarks	by Rev. Dr. Mery Kolimon (JPIT)
12:46-12:49	Introduction of moderator	by Imel Lopo (MC)
12:49-13:25	Sharing from Eastern Indonesia (Panel Presentation)	Moderator: Martha Bire (JPIT) Panelist: Gres Graselia from East Nusa Tenggara Panelist: Jull Takaliuang from North Sulawesi
13:25-13:35	Geothermal Projects and Violence Against Women in Flores	by Grace Graselia (Indonesia Environmental Forum/WALHI, East Nusa Tenggara-NTT)
13:35-13:45	The fulfillment of the right to justice for Women facing the Law in Papua	by Nur Aida Duwila from Jayapura (Legal Aid of Indonesian Women Assosiation for Justice/LBH APIK, Jayapura, Papua)
13:45-13:55	Mining Oppresses Women's Space in North Sulawesi	by Jull Takaliuang (Yayasan Suara Nurani Minaesa, Manado)
13:55-14:40	Question and Answer: Informative and critical question about the topic	Moderator: Martha Bire (JPIT)
14:40-14:43	Closing Note	Moderator: Martha Bire (JPIT)
14:43-14:45	Closing Prayer (Muslim)	by Sriwahyuni (JPIT)
	Screenshot/group photo	

Agenda (November 13: Day 2)

- 12:25 Open Zoom
- 12:30 Opening
- 12:30–12:33 Opening prayer (Buddhist) by Atthasilani Gandasilani Uun Triya (Indonesia)
- 12:33–12:36 Introduction of Agenda of Day 2 by Imel Lopo (MC)
- 12:36–12:38 Introduction of moderator by Imel Lopo (MC)
- 12:38–13:13 Sharing from Asia (Panel Presentation) Moderator: Martha Bire (JPIT)
Panelist: Pooja Manandhar (RfP Nepal)
Panelist: Deepali Bhanot (RfP India)
Panelist: Terry Sussmilch (RfP Australia)
- 13:13–13:58 Question and Answer
- 13:58–14:43 Mapping out ways to respond to gender-based violence and concrete ideas that can be implemented together (Moderator: Martha Bire)
- 14:43–14:47 Closing Remarks by Suphatmet Yunyasit (Co-Chair of APWoFN)
- 14:43–14:45 Closing Prayer (Quakers) by Sue Ennis (RfP Australia)
- Screenshot/group photo

When We Start in Your Local Time

10:30 Karachi
11:00 New Delhi
11:30 Dhakka
12:00 Yangon
12:15 Katmandu
12:30 Jakarta
12:30 Bangkok



13:30 Beijing
13:30 Manila
14:30 Tokyo
14:30 Seoul
15:30 Brisbane
16:30 Sydney
18:30 Oakland

*Please double-check the exact start time in your location based on Jakarta time.

Language

This forum will be conducted primarily in English, with interpretation provided between Indonesian and English.

Biography of Speakers



Jull Takaliuang

Jull is an activist who fights for the rights of women and children in North Sulawesi. She is currently active in the Minaesa Voice of Conscience Foundation and has worked in several women's and children's protection agencies, such as the North Sulawesi Child Protection Agency and Save Sangihe Island (SSI). She was included in the 95 Inspirational Women Figures by the Indonesian Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection in 2023 and recently received the N-Peace Award from the UNDP in the Untold Stories: Women Transforming Their Communities category in October 2025.



Gres Gracelia

Gres is an environmental activist and content creator specializing in ecological issues in Eastern Indonesia. He currently works as a staff member in the Advocacy and Campaign Division at WALHI NTT, a non-profit organization that advocates for ecological justice, the rights of indigenous peoples and farmers, natural resource conflicts, agrarian issues, and community empowerment. Since 2020, he has been running his own YouTube channel, Cerita Fakta (Fact Stories).



Nur Aida Duwila

Nur Aida is a lawyer who currently serves as director of the Legal Aid Institute for the Association of Women for Justice (LBH Apik) in Jayapura. She dedicates herself to helping women and children, as well as other marginalized groups facing the law in Papua. She also served as Head of the Women, Children, and Disability Empowerment Division of the Jayapura Branch of the Indonesian Advocates Association and remains an active member of the organization's board to this day.

Biography of Speakers



Pooja Manandhar

Pooja Manandhar joined RfP as a youth member in 2006 and actively participated in numerous conferences. After a brief hiatus following her marriage, she rejoined RfP Nepal in 2015 after the earthquake. Since then, she has been deeply involved in various national and international activities with RfP International and ACRP. Pooja has contributed through fieldwork, report writing, and organizational support. Appointed Secretary-General of RfP Nepal after her predecessor's term ended, she remains dedicated to promoting interfaith collaboration and humanitarian service across communities.



Deepali Bhanot

Deepali, former Professor of Sanskrit at Janaki Devi Memorial College, University of Delhi, taught for over forty years at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Her teaching focused on the Vedas, Upanishads, Sanskrit literature, and Indian culture, with special interest in Indian art and the Shilpa Shastras. Specializing in Vedas, Upanishads, and Hinduism, she has also been deeply involved in interfaith dialogue for nearly four decades. She joined ACRP as a youth volunteer in 1981, later serving as Coordinator of its Youth Wing and Women's Committee. She has participated in all ACRP Assemblies since 1981 and remains active with Religions for Peace.



Terry Sussmilch

Terry Sussmilch is the Convenor of Religions for Peace Australia (Tasmania Branch). She has worked as a teacher, counsellor, interpreter and community worker in a number of Australian states and is now retired. She has always been interested in supporting minority communities and particularly faith communities. She is a survivor of domestic/family violence herself and interested in how victims of family violence are supported by their faith communities or not and how they access any help that may be available through government agencies.