



ASIA-PACIFIC CONFERENCE ON THE PROMOTION OF GENDER-RESPONSIVE JUDICIAL SYSTEMS

*Strengthening Formal Justice Systems' Responses to
Violence Against Women and Girls*

23 May 2022

Pre-Conference Booklet





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A woman walks around downtown Dili, the capital and commercial center of Timor-Leste (photo by Luis Enrique Ascui/ADB).

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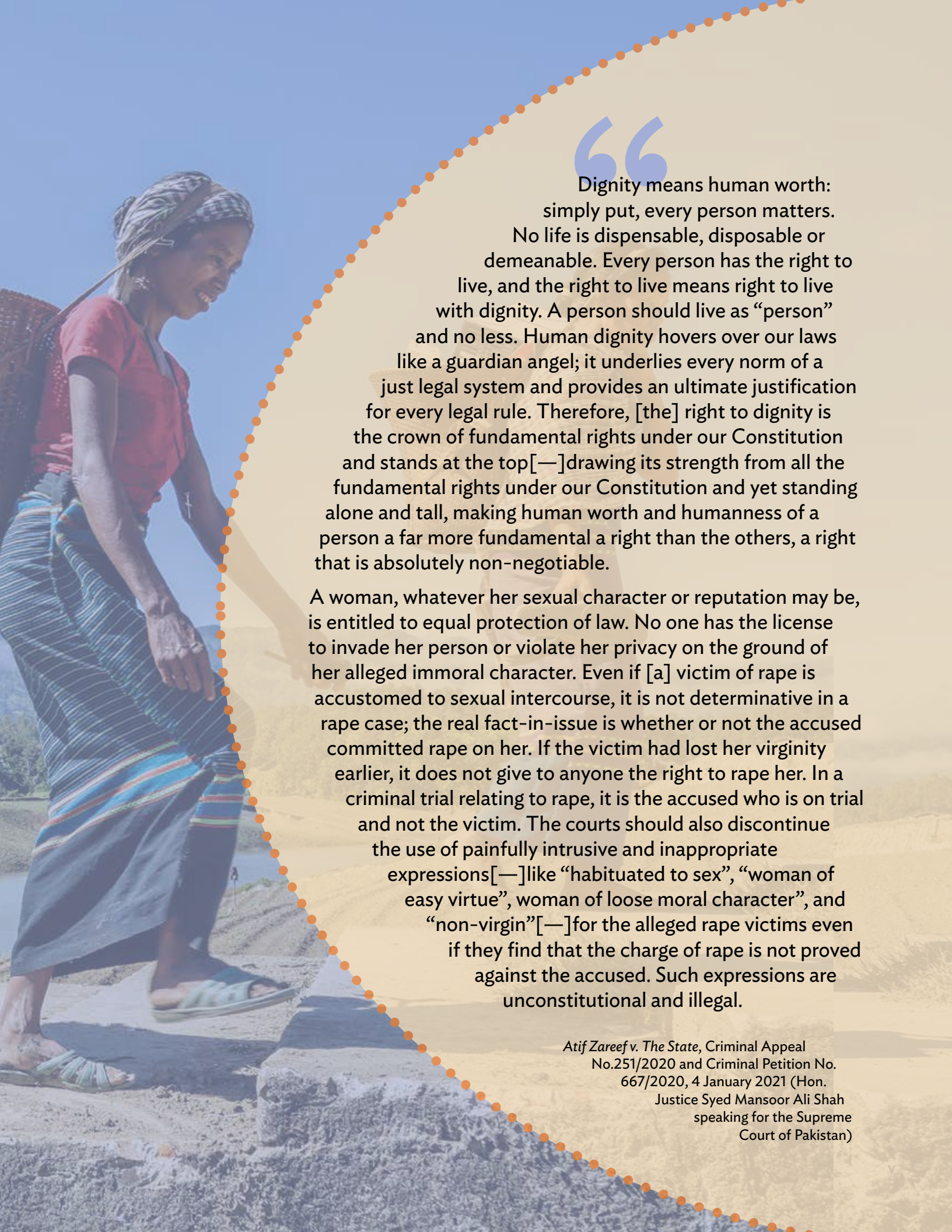
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Local Marma women return home from the village market after shopping, Boli Para, Thanchi, Banderban (photo by Abir Abdullah/ADB).



“

Dignity means human worth: simply put, every person matters. No life is dispensable, disposable or demeanable. Every person has the right to live, and the right to live means right to live with dignity. A person should live as “person” and no less. Human dignity hovers over our laws like a guardian angel; it underlies every norm of a just legal system and provides an ultimate justification for every legal rule. Therefore, [the] right to dignity is the crown of fundamental rights under our Constitution and stands at the top[—]drawing its strength from all the fundamental rights under our Constitution and yet standing alone and tall, making human worth and humanness of a person a far more fundamental a right than the others, a right that is absolutely non-negotiable.

A woman, whatever her sexual character or reputation may be, is entitled to equal protection of law. No one has the license to invade her person or violate her privacy on the ground of her alleged immoral character. Even if [a] victim of rape is accustomed to sexual intercourse, it is not determinative in a rape case; the real fact-in-issue is whether or not the accused committed rape on her. If the victim had lost her virginity earlier, it does not give to anyone the right to rape her. In a criminal trial relating to rape, it is the accused who is on trial and not the victim. The courts should also discontinue the use of painfully intrusive and inappropriate expressions[—]like “habituated to sex”, “woman of easy virtue”, “woman of loose moral character”, and “non-virgin”[—]for the alleged rape victims even if they find that the charge of rape is not proved against the accused. Such expressions are unconstitutional and illegal.

Atif Zareef v. The State, Criminal Appeal
No.251/2020 and Criminal Petition No.
667/2020, 4 January 2021 (Hon.
Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah
speaking for the Supreme
Court of Pakistan)



Dancers at a cultural presentation in Rarotonga, Cook Islands (photo by Eric Sales/ADB).

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CONFERENCE AGENDA

■ OPENING CEREMONY

Conference time by location

09:00–15:00 : Manila, Philippines Time (GMT +8)
06:00–12:00 : Islamabad, Pakistan Time (GMT +5)
10:00–16:00 : Dili, Timor-Leste Time (GMT +9)
11:00–17:00 : Sydney, Australia Time (GMT +10)
13:00–19:00 : Suva, Fiji Time (GMT +12)

■ OPENING CEREMONY

09:00–09:15 Manila 11:00–11:15 Sydney
06:00–06:15 Islamabad 13:00–13:15 Suva
10:00–10:15 Dili

► MERESEINI RAKUITA

Principal Strategic Lead, Pacific Community (SPC)

► MUNKHTUYA ALTANGEREL

*United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Resident Representative*

► BRUCE GOSPER

*Vice-President (Administration and Corporate Management),
Asian Development Bank (ADB)*

► MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

- **Christina Pak**, Principal Counsel, ADB

■ SETTING THE SCENE

09:15–09:30 Manila 11:15–11:30 Sydney
06:15–06:30 Islamabad 13:15–13:30 Suva
10:15–10:30 Dili

► Overview of Violence Against Women and Girls in Asia and the Pacific (10 mins.)

- **Samantha Hung**, Chief of Gender Equality Thematic Group, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, ADB
- **Abigail Erikson**, Senior Advisor, Ending Violence Against Women and Girls, UN Women

► Short skit shedding light on a survivor's experience in the criminal justice system (3–5 mins.)

Wellness Break (15 mins.)

09:30–09:45 Manila 10:30–10:45 Dili 13:30–13:45 Suva
06:30–06:45 Islamabad 11:30–11:45 Sydney

PLENARY SESSION 1

SESSION 1:

ADDRESSING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN THE FORMAL JUSTICE SYSTEM - REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

(1 hour and 15 mins.) 09:45–11:00 Manila 10:45–12:00 Dili 13:45–15:00 Suva
06:45–08:00 Islamabad 11:45–13:00 Sydney

- Identifying gaps, barriers and solutions to achieve fair and effective protection of women and girls in the formal justice system
 - Ensure victim's dignity in the legal-judicial process
 - Provide effective protection measures to minimize repercussions and remove fear
 - Provide reparation to rebuild lives post violence
- Q & A

► **MODERATOR:** **Zarizana Abdul Aziz**, Gender and Human Rights Lawyer and Adjunct Professor, George Washington University

► **PANEL CONTRIBUTORS:**

Hon. Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Supreme Court of Pakistan

Genoveva Tisheva, Member, Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women [CEDAW]); Managing Director, Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation; and Chairperson, Alliance for Protection from Gender-Based Violence

Shamima Ali, Coordinator, Fiji Women's Crisis Centre and Chairperson, Pacific Women's Network Against Violence Against Women

Tevita Seruilumi, Family and Sexual Violence and Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion Adviser, Justice Services for Stability and Development, Papua New Guinea

Andy Yetriyani, Chairperson, Indonesian National Commission on Violence Against Women (Komisi Nasional Anti Kekerasan terhadap Perempuan / Komnas Perempuan)

Emily Morrison, Consultant, Sustainable Solutions Timor-Leste, UNDP Timor-Leste

► **FACILITATOR:**

Laura Arboleda Gutiérrez, Qualified lawyer (Colombia) and Master of Public Policy candidate, The London School of Economics and Political Science

Wellness Break (15 mins.)

11:00–11:15 Manila 12:00–12:15 Dili 15:00–15:15 Suva
08:00–08:15 Islamabad 13:00–13:15 Sydney

PLENARY SESSION 2

SESSION 2:

GOOD PRACTICES IN INCREASING CONFIDENCE IN THE FORMAL JUSTICE SYSTEM – REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL APPROACHES

(1 hour and 15 mins.) 11:15–12:30 Manila 12:15–13:30 Dili 15:15–16:30 Suva
08:15–09:30 Islamabad 13:15–14:30 Sydney

- Initiatives implemented by judicial systems to increase access to justice, e.g. specialized GBV judges and prosecutors, mobile courts, fast-tracking, victim-centered approach and online testimony and hearings
- Capacity building of justice personnel—during COVID-19 and beyond (showcasing of ADB interactive e-module)
- Advocacy tools (presentation of video and illustrations)
- Q & A

► **MODERATOR:** **Hon. Dr. Robyn Layton AO QC**, *Former Justice of the Supreme Court of South Australia and Adjunct Professor, University of South Australia*

► **PANEL CONTRIBUTORS:**

Hon. Justice Ananda Mohan Bhattarai, *Supreme Court of Nepal*

Hon. Judge Robyn Tupman, *District Court of New South Wales, Australia and Secretary Treasurer, The International Association of Women Judges*

Hon. Judge Shazib Saeed, *District and Sessions Judge/Director General, Case Management, Lahore High Court/Visiting Faculty, Punjab Judicial Academy, Pakistan*

Rea Abada Chiongson, *Senior Legal Adviser on Gender, International Development Law Organization*

Samar Minallah Khan, *Communications and Behavior Change Specialist and International Filmmaker*

► **FACILITATOR:**

Nikita Singh, *Qualified lawyer (Australia) and Master of Public Policy candidate, The London School of Economics and Political Science*

Break (1 hour) *Dinner Break for Fiji participants – sponsored by ADB*

12:30–13:30 Manila 13:30–14:30 Dili 16:30–17:30 Suva
09:30–10:30 Islamabad 14:30–15:30 Sydney

■ TAILORED SESSIONS – Concurrent Breakout Sessions

(to be held in separate Zoom rooms for virtual participants)

(to be held in separate conference rooms for Fiji participants)

(1 hour)	13:30–14:30 Manila	14:30–15:30 Dili	17:30–18:30 Suva
	10:30–11:30 Islamabad	15:30–16:30 Sydney	

■ SESSION 3A:

CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSION FOR JUDGES

[Closed session for judges; the session will be recorded for documentation purposes but will not be livestreamed or made available to the public to allow for open exchanges]

- Judges from Asia and the Pacific region and beyond will share experiences in adopting good practice measures applying gender perspectives in adjudicating GBV cases, as well as discuss specialized mechanisms, judicial tools and knowledge resources.

► **MODERATOR:** **Hon. Dr. Robyn Layton AO QC**, *Former Justice of the Supreme Court of South Australia and Adjunct Professor, University of South Australia*

► **PANEL CONTRIBUTORS:**

Hon. Chief Justice Kamal Kumar, *Supreme Court of Fiji*

Hon. Judge Robyn Tupman, *District Court of New South Wales, Australia and Secretary Treasurer, The International Association of Women Judges*

Hon. Justice Vui Clarence Nelson, *Supreme Court of Samoa and Member, Committee on the Rights of the Child (Convention on the Rights of the Child)*

Hon. Justice Hima Kohli, *Supreme Court of India*

Hon. Justice Henri Jean Paul B. Inting, *Supreme Court of the Philippines*

► **FACILITATOR:**

Maria Cecilia T. Sicangco, *Senior Legal Officer, ADB*

■ SESSION 3B:

CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSION FOR PROSECUTORS

[Closed session for prosecutors; the session will be recorded for documentation purposes but will not be livestreamed or made available to the public to allow for open exchanges]

- Prosecutors from the Asia and the Pacific region and beyond will discuss issues and challenges in investigating and handling violence against women and girls cases and share experiences in adopting good practice measures.

► **MODERATOR:** **Zarizana Abdul Aziz**, *Gender and Human Rights Lawyer and Adjunct Professor, George Washington University*

► **PANEL CONTRIBUTORS:**

H.E. Dr. Alfonso Lopez, *Prosecutor General, Timor-Leste*

Hon. Justice Sandi McDonald, *Supreme Court of South Australia and former Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions*

Shyamala Alagendra, *Gender Advisor, United Nations Sri Lanka Accountability Team, Former Prosecution Trial Lawyer, International Criminal Court, and Former Assistant Director of Public Prosecutions, Fiji*

[Christopher Pryde, Director of Public Prosecutions, Fiji-TBC]

Asiya Yasin, Public Prosecutor, Punjab, Pakistan

► **FACILITATOR:**

Lea Halberstein, Juris Doctor (JD) candidate, Northeastern University School of Law

■ **SESSION 3C:**

**CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSION FOR VICTIM/SURVIVOR ADVOCATES
AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS** [open session]

- Participants will exchange experiences in adopting good practice measures applying gender perspectives and standards of practice and guidelines in violence against women and girls cases and discuss examples to improve the formal judicial system.

► **MODERATOR:** Kate Eastman AM SC, Human Rights Lawyer

► **PANEL CONTRIBUTORS:**

Nalini Singh, Executive Director, Fiji Women's Rights Movement

Bárbara de Oliveira, Partner, JU'S, Jurídico Social Consultoria, Timor-Leste

Catriona Martin, Pro Bono Director-Asia Pacific, DLA Piper

Liliwaimanu Vuiyasawa, Gender and Child Care Consultant, Gender Economic Inclusion
Group, International Finance Corporation

Henry Cornwell, Counsel, ADB

Asmita Basu, Law, Gender and Human Rights Specialist

► **FACILITATORS:**

Nelania Sarmento, Communications and Liaison Officer (Consultant), ADB

Zhansaya Imanmadiyeva, Master of Public Policy candidate, Graduate School of Public Policy,
University of Tokyo

Wellness Break (15 mins.)

14:30–14:45

Manila

15:30–15:45 Dili

18:30–18:45 Suva

11:30–11:45

Islamabad

16:30–16:45 Sydney

■ **CONCLUDING SESSION**

(15 mins.)

14:45–15:00 Manila

15:45–16:00 Dili

18:45–19:00 Suva

11:45–12:00 Islamabad

16:45–17:00 Sydney

■ **SESSION 4:**

CONCLUDING SESSION

- Report back on breakout sessions from rapporteurs
- Q & A



A woman and a child pose at the newly opened Mactan Cebu International Airport in the Philippines (photo by Ariel Javellana/ADB).

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BACKGROUND PAPER

The right of access to justice for women and girls is essential to the realization of women's rights. Justice is an enabler of rights. Absence of justice leads to the deprivation of rights.

Among these rights are the right to life, liberty and security of persons;¹ freedom from cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment;² and the right to equality and freedom from discrimination.³ These rights also mirror the fundamental rights and freedoms protected under almost all constitutions.

The most common form of violation of these rights is violence against women and girls (VAWG). VAWG is a global issue—1 in 3 women experience physical, sexual, psychological and other forms of violence.⁴ Women and girls in Pacific countries face some of the highest rates of violence with 60–80% of women and girls aged 15–19 experiencing intimate or nonintimate partner violence in their lifetime.⁵ The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated VAWG, with women and girls across all countries facing even higher rates of violence and sexual abuse.⁶

Violence against Women and Girls in Asia and the Pacific

Most VAWG is intimate partner violence (IPV), which is “behavior by an intimate partner or ex-partner that causes physical, sexual or psychological harm, including physical aggression, sexual coercion, psychological abuse

¹ *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* (ICCPR), New York, 16 December 1966, United Nations Treaty Series, Vol. 999, No. 14668, p. 171. Arts. 6 and 9; and General Assembly Resolution 217 A (III), *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR), A/RES/217(III) (10 December 1948). Art. 3.

² ICCPR, Art. 7; and UDHR, Art. 5.

³ ICCPR, Arts. 3, 14, 23, and 26; and UDHR, Arts. 1, 7, and 16.

⁴ World Health Organization (WHO), et al. 2021. *Violence against Women Prevalence Estimates, 2018—Global, Regional and National Prevalence Estimates for Intimate Partner Violence against Women and Global and Regional Prevalence Estimates for Non-Partner Sexual Violence against Women*. Geneva. This Report was an analysis of prevalence data from 2000–2018 across 161 countries and areas, conducted by WHO on behalf of the UN Inter-Agency Working Group on Violence Against Women Estimation and Data (VAW-IAWGED).

⁵ J. K. Singh, et al. 2020. *Comparative Legal Review of the Impact of Gender Stereotyping on Judicial Decisions in Violence against Women Cases across the Pacific Island Region*. London: Equality and Justice Alliance for Sisters for Change.

⁶ UN Women. 2021. *Measuring the Shadow Pandemic: Violence against Women during COVID-19*; and WHO. 2021. *Devastatingly Pervasive: 1 in 3 Women Globally Experience Violence*. 9 March. News Release.

and controlling behaviors.”⁷ Table 1 below shows 2018 national prevalence estimates of IPV among ever-married/partnered women aged 15–49 years in Asia-Pacific member countries for which data is available.

Table: Country Prevalence Estimates of Lifetime and Past 12 Months Physical and/or Sexual Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) among Ever-Married/Partnered Women Aged 15–49 Years, 2018

Country	Lifetime IPV Point Estimate (%)	Past 12 Months IPV Point Estimate (%)
Armenia	10	5
Australia	23	3
Azerbaijan	14	5
Bangladesh	50	23
Bhutan	22	9
Brunei Darussalam	–	–
Cambodia	19	9
Cook Islands	33	14
Fiji	52	23
Georgia	10	3
India	35	18
Indonesia	22	9
Japan	20	4
Kazakhstan	16	6
Kiribati	53	25
Kyrgyz Republic	23	13
Lao People’s Democratic Republic	19	8
Malaysia	19	–
Maldives	19	6
Marshall Islands	38	19
Micronesia, Federated States of	35	21
Mongolia	27	12
Nauru	43	20
Nepal	27	11
New Zealand	23	4
Niue	–	–
Pakistan	29	16
Palau	31	14
Papua New Guinea	51	31
People’s Republic of China	19	8
Philippines	14	6
Republic of Korea	–	8
Samoa	40	18
Singapore	11	2
Solomon Islands	50	28
Sri Lanka	24	4
Tajikistan	24	14
Thailand	24	9
Timor-Leste	38	28
Tonga	37	17
Turkmenistan	–	–
Tuvalu	39	20
Uzbekistan	–	–
Vanuatu	47	29
Viet Nam	25	10

IPV=intimate partner violence.

Source: World Health Organization (WHO), et al. 2021. *Violence against Women Prevalence Estimates, 2018—Global, Regional and National Prevalence Estimates for Intimate Partner Violence against Women and Global and Regional Prevalence Estimates for Non-Partner Sexual Violence against Women*. Geneva. pp. 68–74.

⁷ WHO. *Violence against Women: Fact Sheet*.

The Justice System Response to Violence against Women and Girls

Over the past decade, at least 158 countries have passed laws on gender-based violence, including domestic violence.⁸ However, laws alone are not sufficient to eliminate VAWG.⁹ In relation to justice system actors—including judges, prosecutors and lawyers—common access to justice barriers women and girls encounter include (i) harmful gender bias and stereotyping; (ii) lack of gender sensitivity; (iii) inadequate investigation or prosecution of offences; (iv) re-traumatizing court processes; and (v) inadequate sentencing outcomes, often based on gender bias and taking into account inappropriate factors, such as victim blaming or “provocation.” In addition, there is a lack of appreciation of the challenges faced by women and girls in making formal complaints about the violence against them.

Underpinning these challenges faced by women and girls are other impediments such as low literacy, limited knowledge of their legal rights, harmful gender discrimination against them, male controlling behaviors towards their partners and ideologies of male sexual entitlement, cultural and social norms that excuse or normalize violence against them, lack of support by family members and community leaders, and insufficient support services. The cumulative effect of these factors in turn lead to impunity of the offender for their violent behavior and act as a deterrence for women and girls in the future being prepared to seek formal justice.

Improving Access to Justice for Women and Girl Survivors

Justice is “an ideal of accountability and fairness in the protection and vindication of rights and the prevention and punishment of wrongs.”¹⁰ Initiatives shown to improve access to justice for VAWG survivors require justice system stakeholders and duty-bearers to fulfil their obligations by (i) ensuring justice institutions are effective, accountable, and gender-responsive; and (ii) creating an enabling environment for women and girls to access the justice system.¹¹ This includes increasing capacity and awareness of judges and prosecutors through customized trainings on gender sensitization and VAWG laws and procedures; specialized institutions (such as GBV courts); reform of VAWG laws and court procedures and practices, including addressing re-traumatization of survivors; and streamlined practices in crime investigation, judicial decision-making, sentencing, and reparation.¹²

⁸ World Bank. 2022. *Women, Business and the Law 2022*. Washington, DC. p. 25. N.B. These laws usually address physical and psychological violence, but a significant number do not have provisions addressing sexual, economic, and financial abuse. In the World Bank study, 158 economies have laws addressing physical violence, and 157 economies have laws addressing psychological violence. However, only 134 and 113 have laws addressing sexual and economic violence, respectively.

⁹ J. Klugman. 2017. *Gender Based Violence and the Law*. Background Paper on Governance and the Law for the World Development Report 2017. Washington, DC: World Bank.

¹⁰ United Nations, Security Council, *The Rule of Law and Transitional Justice in Conflict and Post-Conflict Societies: Report of the Secretary-General*, S/2004/616 (23 August 2004).

¹¹ UN Women, et al. 2018. *A Practitioner's Toolkit on Women's Access to Justice Programming*. New York: United Nations.

¹² M. Ellsberg, et al. 2019. *Ending Violence against Women and Girls: Evaluating a Decade of Australia's Development Assistance*. Canberra: Government of Australia, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; S. Cusack. 2014. *Eliminating Judicial Stereotyping—Equal Access to Justice for Women in Gender-Based Violence Cases*. Paper submitted to the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights on 9 June 2014; Z. Abdul Aziz and J. Moussa. 2012, reprint 2016. *Due Diligence Framework: State Accountability Framework for Eliminating Violence against Women*. Penang; and UN Women and The Advocates for Human Rights. 2011. *Working with the Justice Sector to End Violence against Women and Girls*. 20 December 2011. pp. 18–20.

Asian Development Bank's Technical Assistance on the Promotion of Gender-Responsive Judicial Systems

The Asian Development Bank's (ADB) Technical Assistance (TA) on the Promotion of Gender-Responsive Judicial Systems, undertaken through the Office of the General Counsel's Law and Policy Reform Program, is one aspect of the ADB's Strategy 2030 priority of accelerating progress in gender equality in Asia and the Pacific.¹³ The TA aims to strengthen the capacity of judicial systems to respond more effectively to VAWG cases, as well as increase knowledge sharing on gender-based violence and access to justice issues for women and girls.

Asia-Pacific Conference on the Promotion of Gender-Responsive Judicial Systems

The Conference aims to identify and promote good and promising practices and successful outcomes in ensuring women and girls' access to justice in VAWG cases.

The right to access to justice is multidimensional. It encompasses justiciability, availability, accessibility, good quality, the provision of remedies for victims and the accountability of justice systems.¹⁴

The Conference also aims to identify common gaps and barriers to access to justices.

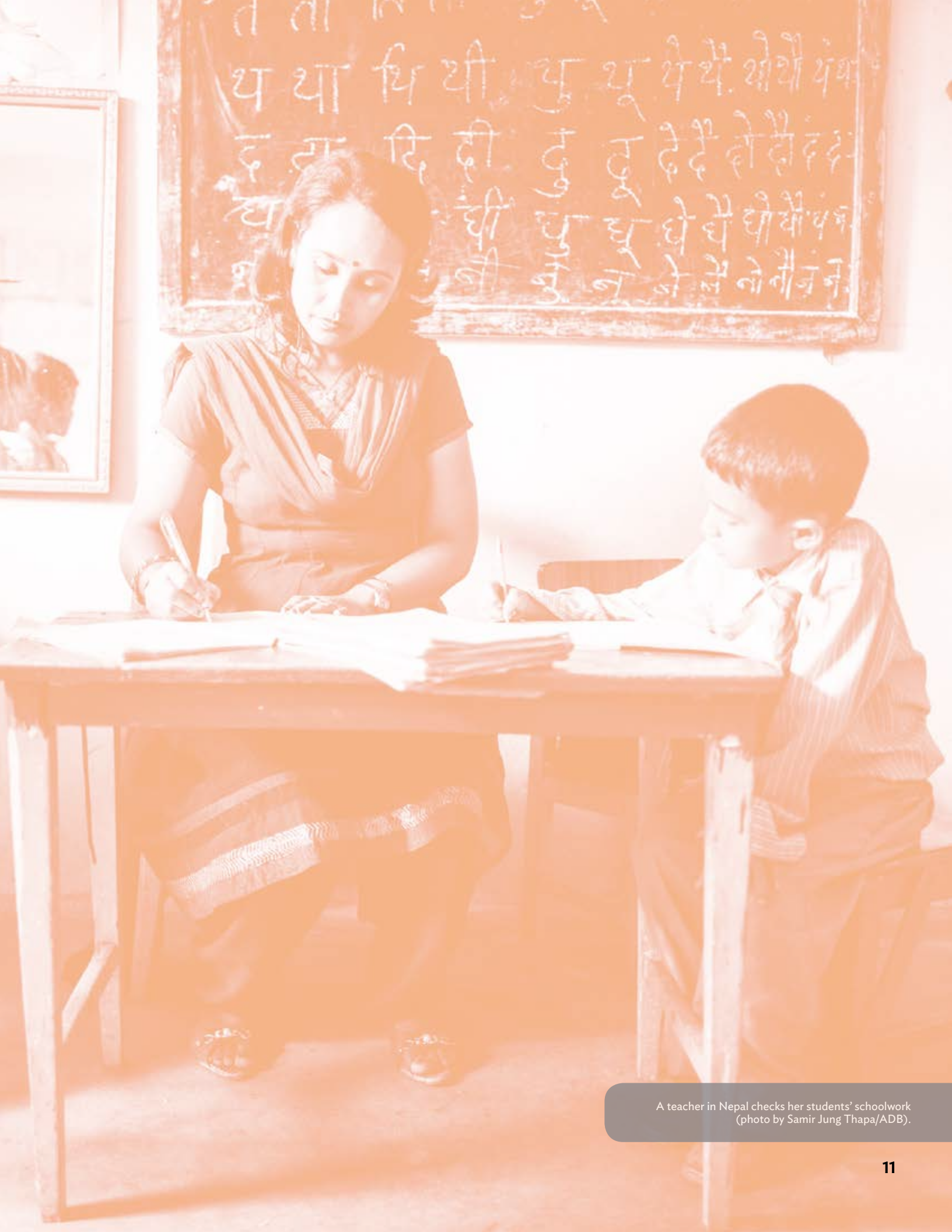
These obstacles occur in a structural context of discrimination and inequality owing to factors such as gender stereotyping, discriminatory laws, intersecting or compounded discrimination, procedural and evidentiary requirements and practices, and a failure to systematically ensure that judicial mechanisms are physically, economically, socially and culturally accessible to all women. All these obstacles constitute persistent violations of women's human rights.¹⁵

This Conference likewise intends to increase regional knowledge sharing on better handling and adjudication of the VAWG cases. Participants will comprise judges, prosecutors, lawyers, government officials, civil service organizations, academia, development partners and other relevant stakeholders. The Conference is an important means to help turn around the trajectory of increased VAWG heavily impacted upon by COVID-19 in the Asia-Pacific region.

¹³ ADB. 2018. *Strategy 2030: Achieving a Prosperous, Inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable Asia and the Pacific*. Manila.

¹⁴ UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, *General Recommendation No. 33: General Recommendations on Women's Access to Justice*, CEDAW/C/GC/33 (3 August 2015). para. 1.

¹⁵ Footnote 14, para. 3.



A teacher in Nepal checks her students' schoolwork
(photo by Samir Jung Thapa/ADB).

Ms. Rokeya Akter, site engineer, is responsible for the construction of a three-story multipurpose cyclone shelter to hold 2,000 people and 500 cattle, at a school in Galachipa, Patuakhali District, Bangladesh (photo by Gerhard Jörén/ADB).



3

INAUGURAL SESSION SPEAKERS



MERESEINI RAKUITA

*Principal Strategic Lead, Pacific Women and Global Chairperson,
FP2030 Governing Board*

Mereseini Rakuita is a visionary champion of gender equality and women's rights in Fiji and the Asia-Pacific region. She is currently the Principal Strategic Lead for the Pacific Women program at the Pacific Community (SPC), driving SPC's work on gender equality and empowerment of women and girls within SPC and across the Pacific region. She holds a concurrent and complementary role as global chairperson for FP2030, a global movement dedicated to advancing the rights of people everywhere to access family planning services.

She was the youngest female politician to be elected to parliament in 2014 and was subsequently appointed as the first female Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources (2014–2016). She has previously served as Acting Permanent Secretary for Justice and Anti-corruption with oversight of operations in the Elections Office (2012–2013), a State Solicitor (2009–2013)—the highest ranked female legal advisor to the Government—and Chairperson of the Telecommunications Authority of Fiji (2008), the first and youngest Fijian woman in all these roles during tenure. As legal advisor to Government, she practiced extensively as a barrister and solicitor within the Fijian court system.

During her tenure as Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, she introduced and rolled out a number of inclusive and gender-sensitive policy and legal reforms.

She was keen to go about these reforms with a whole of government, whole of population, evidence-based and transformative approach to drive forward achieving gender equality at the heart of the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals

Inaugural Session Speakers

Mereseini Rakuita *(continued)*

(SDGs). Those include the roll out of a whole of population consultation for the development of Fiji's National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against All Women and Girls, which is cited as a best exemplar globally; the introduction of Transformative Gender Mainstreaming Institutional Capacity Development across government with a focus on gender-responsive budgeting; and strategic investment in gender statistics.

In 2019, she was elected as Chair of the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing Platform for Action +25 review.

Ms. Rakuita holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Practice from the Australian National University and a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Tasmania in Australia. She was admitted as a Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory in 1997 and Barrister and Solicitor of the High Court of Fiji and Commissioner for Oaths of the High Court of Fiji in 1998.

Ms. Rakuita was born on the island of Vanua Levu in Fiji and has three children.



MUNKHTUYA ALTANGEREL,

United Nations Development Programme Resident Representative

Ms. Altangerel is the Resident Representative of UNDP Timor-Leste since June 2019. Previously, Tuya served as the Deputy Resident Representative for Programmes and Operations in UNDP Georgia during 2018–2019, and as the Deputy Resident Representative in UNDP Kazakhstan (2014–2018). Tuya also served as a Policy Specialist/Advisor on MDGs, local development and south-south cooperation in the Bureau of Development Policy in UNDP New York (2007–2014), and as an international Assistant Resident Representative in UNDP Kyrgyzstan (2005–2007). Tuya has a rich development experience through working with the World Bank, CIVICUS-World Alliance for Citizen Participation, Environmental Resources Management (consulting company) and other international organizations. Tuya holds a Master of Science degree in Development Management/Development Economics from the London School of Economics, and a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations from the University of Pennsylvania. She speaks English and Russian.



BRUCE GOSPER

*Vice-President, Administration and Corporate Management,
Asian Development Bank (ADB)*

Mr. Bruce Gosper is the Vice-President for Administration and Corporate Management of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

He assumed the position on 1 February 2021.

Mr. Gosper is responsible for the overall management of the operations of the Budget, People, and Management Systems Department; Corporate Services Department; Office of the General Counsel; Information Technology Department; Office of the Secretary; and Procurement, Portfolio and Financial Management Department.

Mr. Gosper has 40 years of experience working with multilateral and regional institutions dealing with trade and economic policy and running large public sector organizations. Before taking up a role at ADB, he was Australia's High Commissioner to Singapore. Prior to that he was Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Trade and Investment Commission – Australia's trade promotion and investment facilitation agency. Previous roles include Deputy Secretary of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, responsible for Australia's trade policy and trade negotiations, and Ambassador to the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Geneva, where he led Australia's multilateral trade initiatives and chaired the WTO General Council and WTO Dispute Settlement Body. He held senior roles in the Australian Embassies in Washington and Tokyo, as well as served on the Board of the former Export Finance and Insurance Corporation. He is a member of Asia Society's Advisory Council.

Mr. Gosper is a graduate of Macquarie University and The University of New England.



Establishing safe public spaces. Gender-based violence in public spaces—such as rape, sexual remarks, and touching—restricts the freedom of movement of women and girls and their right to participate in their community (photo by Madiha Aijaz/ADB).

4

MASTER OF CEREMONIES AND MODERATORS



CHRISTINA PAK

*Principal Counsel and Team Leader,
Law and Policy Reform Program, ADB*

Ms. Christina Pak specializes in international development finance, law and policy reform, dispute resolution and ESG standards and drives thought leadership on sustainable development issues. She is currently a Principal Counsel of the Asian Development Bank and manages the Office of General Counsel's Law and Policy Reform Program which designs and implements legal and judicial reform technical assistance projects across the Asia and the Pacific region. Christina oversees a diverse portfolio in the areas of environmental protection and climate change, gender equality, private sector development, public-private partnerships and digital economy. She also serves as ADB's Accountability Mechanism Policy Counsel advising the Board of Directors, the Office of the Compliance Review Panel and the Office of the Special Project Facilitator. In her previous role as a project counsel at ADB, Christina worked on complex multi-sector projects across the Central and West, Southeast and East Asia regions. She is a Steering Committee Member of the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law and a Member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. Christina is a US-qualified lawyer, admitted in the States of New York and New Jersey.



ZARIZANA ABDUL AZIZ

*Gender and Human Rights Lawyer and
Adjunct Professor, George Washington University*

Zarizana specializes in legal and policy reform on gender equality, family law and gender-based violence, focusing on intersections between international human rights, gender, culture, and national legal regimes.

Zarizana has drafted legislations as well as reviewed and revised laws on gender equality, violence against women and family law in several countries as well as trained legislative drafters, academics and scholars on legislative drafting. Zarizana has undertaken forty-country multi-year research on gender-based violence and based on the findings, developed the Due Diligence Framework on State Accountability for Eliminating Violence against Women. Most recently, she undertook multi-country researches into ICT/online gender-based violence in Asia and in the Middle East and North Africa as well as an 11-country research into Christian Personal Status Laws in Asia, the Middle East and North Africa from a gender and human rights perspective. She co-authored a research paper on COVID-19 and Violence Against Women: Unprecedented Impacts and Suggestions for Mitigation (Routledge, June 2021). She is also the editor of the [Court Companion on Gender-Based Violence Cases](#) (ADB, 2021).

From 2017-2020, as principal capacity development consultant for the Asian Development Bank, Zarizana conducted judicial training and capacity-building in Pakistan, training 600 judges and judicial trainers and in Afghanistan, training 200 judges, prosecutors and judicial trainers as well as provided technical assistance in the setting up of Pakistan's GBV Court.

Zarizana was Human Rights Fellow and visiting scholar at Columbia University, New York, USA. She was also adjunct professor and visiting scholar at Northeastern University School of Law, Boston, USA and is currently adjunct professor at George Washington University, Washington DC, USA.



HON. DR. ROBYN LAYTON AO QC

*Former Justice of the Supreme Court of South Australia and
Adjunct Professor, University of South Australia*

Robyn is a former Supreme Court Judge of South Australia. Prior to her Supreme Court appointment, she was a barrister and Queen's Counsel, and a judge in various jurisdictions. As a judge, Robyn developed and delivered judicial training courses on issues such as vulnerable witnesses including children and women giving evidence in court. She co-authored a Bench Book on Children as Witnesses, for all Australian judges. She is an accredited judicial educator and a Fellow of the Commonwealth Judicial Education Institute in Canada.

Robyn is an adjunct professor at Justice and Society, University of South Australia. She holds a Master of Laws and is a Doctor of the University of South Australia. She works independently as a judicial education and program development consultant. Since completion of her terms as a member and later the Chair of the Committee of Experts on Application of Conventions of International Labour Office (ILO), Geneva in 2008, as an ILO consultant she delivers training for judges and lawyers in labor law and human rights standards internationally.

As a consultant for the Asian Development Bank (ADB), she has undertaken a number of gender capacity building projects and technical assistance: a Gender Development Poverty Reduction Project for Women (Cambodia, Kazakhstan, and the Philippines); Strengthening Women's Resilience to Climate Change and Disasters (Fiji, Lao PDR, and Mongolia); Legal Literacy for Women (Afghanistan and Pakistan); and currently Promotion of Gender Responsive Systems (Timor-Leste and Fiji).

During her work in Pakistan, in addition to the training of some 600 judges with other consultants, she set up Pakistan's first gender-based violence court. Her work included developing the practice directions providing for gender-sensitive approaches to women and children giving their evidence, court structural changes, and use of remote video facilities. She later co-authored the ADB knowledge product [Court Companion on Gender-Based Violence Cases](#).

Robyn has received national awards for her work relating to law, human rights, women, children and indigenous peoples including Member of the Order of Australia (OA) (2012); The South Australian, Australian of the Year (2012) and Australian Woman Lawyer Award (2016).



KATE EASTMAN AM SC

Human Rights Lawyer

Kate Eastman AM SC is an Australian barrister working in the fields in human rights, discrimination, employment and public law. She holds an Honorary Doctor of Laws and a Master of Laws from the University of Technology Sydney (UTS), a Master of Laws (with Distinction) from the University College London and a Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Laws from the University of New South Wales. Over her 30 years practicing as a lawyer, Kate has been committed to human rights and equality, with a particular focus on the rights of women. She has taught human rights and international law at a number of Australia universities and in a number of international programs, most recently in Uganda. In 2019, she was awarded the Australian Human Rights Commission's Human Rights Award, Law Award. In 2021, she was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for significant service to the law, to human rights, and to professional organizations. In 2022 she was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award by Women Lawyers Association (NSW).

A photograph of two technicians in a factory setting, overlaid with a red tint. On the left, a man in a white lab coat and hairnet is partially visible. On the right, a woman in a light-colored lab coat and hairnet is focused on assembling a small electronic component. In the foreground, a large printed circuit board (PCB) with various electronic components is visible. The background shows the industrial structure of the factory with overhead lights.

Technicians assemble electronic products in a factory inside the Savan Park Special Economic Zone in Savannakhet, Lao People's Democratic Republic (photo by Ariel Javellana/ADB).

100ml CH_3COOH 0,1M + 50ml NaOH

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b) Tentukan pH campuran.

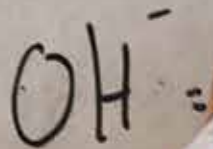
$$K_a = 1 \cdot 10^{-5}$$

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$$= \sqrt{10^{-6}}$$

$$10^{-3}$$



5

CONFIRMED SPEAKERS

as of 8 May 2022
in alphabetical order, by surname



SHYAMALA ALAGENDRA

*Gender Advisor, United Nations Sri Lanka Accountability Team;
former Prosecution Trial Lawyer, International Criminal Court;
and former Assistant Director of Public Prosecutions, Fiji*

Dato' Shyamala Alagendra is a Malaysian lawyer with over 24 years' experience as a domestic and international criminal lawyer. She is presently the Gender Advisor to the newly established United Nations (UN) Sri Lanka accountability team and, prior to this, was the Gender and Child Rights Advisor to the United Nations Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar.

She served as a prosecution trial lawyer in the International Criminal Court (ICC) on the Darfur cases, where her team investigated and indicted former President of Sudan Omar Al Bashir and senior members of his government. The case against Omar Al Bashir remains the only case at the ICC in which an accused has been charged for genocide. She also served as a prosecutor at the Special Court for Sierra Leone where she successfully prosecuted senior military and rebel commanders and former President of Liberia Charles Taylor for war crimes and crimes against humanity. Shyamala also served as a prosecution trial lawyer at the Special Panel for Serious Crimes in East Timor, leading investigations into and prosecutions of senior Timorese militia leaders and high ranking Indonesian military and police commanders for crimes against humanity related to the 1999 post-referendum violence.

She has represented persons accused before several international courts, including at the ICC, where she represented the Deputy President of Kenya, William Ruto, and Ambassador Francis Muthauram, the Head of the Civil Service of Kenya. She was counsel and subsequently lead counsel for Saif Al Islam Gadaffi of Libya.

Speakers

Shyamala Alagendra *(continued)*

She acted as legal adviser and counsel at the EULEX Court in Kosovo to the defense team that successfully represented Fatmir Limaj, then Deputy Prime Minister of Kosovo, on war crimes and corruption charges. Shyamala also appeared as counsel before the Special Tribunal for Lebanon, and has represented groups of victims of grave human rights violations in Sierra Leone, Kenya, and Albania.

Shyamala served as the Assistant Director of Public Prosecutions of Fiji between 2018 and 2019. During her tenure, she led the office's work on sexual violence prosecutions, with particular focus on child rape cases. She successfully argued before the Supreme Court of Fiji to increase the sentence tariff for child rape, and secured the first life imprisonment sentence ever to be imposed for child rape in the country.



SHAMIMA ALI

*Coordinator, Fiji Women's Crisis Centre and Chairperson,
Pacific Women's Network Against Violence Against Women*

Shamima is the Coordinator of the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre, and has been so for the past 36 years. She is also the chairperson of the Pacific Women's Network Against Violence Against Women and a founding member of the Fiji Women's Rights Movement. Shamima also served as a Human Rights Commissioner in Fiji from 2004 to 2006.

Much of her work has been in developing and conducting training with police and other service-providers in Fiji as well as the Pacific. Over the years, she has received recognition for her years of service in the Pacific region on behalf of women, including the United States State Department's inaugural Women of Courage Award in 2007, the Amnesty International Aotearoa New Zealand's inaugural Human Rights Defender Award in 2009, and the Pacific Person of the Year Award by Islands Business Magazine in 2011. She was also named a Paul Harris Fellow of the Rotary Foundation in 2009 for her work on human rights and the elimination of violence against women.

Named one of 100 influential persons of the last century in Fiji for the advancement of women's rights (*Twentieth Century Fiji—People Who Shaped this Nation*, ed. Stewart Firth and Daryl Tarte), Shamima is a self-proclaimed passionate feminist political activist.



ASMITA BASU

Law, Gender and Human Rights Specialist

Asmita Basu has over 20 years of experience in project management, research, campaigning, advocacy and capacity development in the fields of gender and human rights. Her major work has been in the area of drafting laws and reviewing law/policy implementation on violence against women and women's equality rights in India, Bangladesh and Lao People's Democratic Republic. She was involved in the drafting of India's civil law on domestic violence and in implementing one of India's largest violence against women prevention projects ('Safe Cities Initiative'), supported by the United Kingdom Department for International Development in Madhya Pradesh. She has been invited to UN organized expert group meetings on gender rights and was listed as a CEDAW expert for capacity development in the Asia-Pacific region. Her extensive experience also includes conducting program and project evaluations, as well as providing technical advice for designing and implementing development aid programs on issues such as refugee rights, crime prevention, child rights, labor rights, governance, and minority rights.

HON. JUSTICE ANANDA MOHAN BHATTARAI

Supreme Court of Nepal



Justice Dr Ananda Mohan Bhattarai is a justice at the Supreme Court of Nepal. He holds M.A (English & Pol. Sc.) from Tribhuvan University, and LL.M & JSD from National Law School of India University. He is also a recipient of the Hubert Humphrey Fellowship (2002-03) for research studies at MIT and Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship (2005-06) at Max Planck Institute of Comparative Public Law and International Law, Germany. Justice Bhattarai has authored 4 books and contributed several dozens of articles on legal issues in national and international journals. His book "Protection of Himalayan Biodiversity" (Sage, 2010) received wide reviews both home and abroad.

Justice Bhattarai has handed down many landmark decisions in matters relating to the Constitution, human rights, gender justice, criminal justice and environmental justice. Among them, his decisions on matters concerning LGBTQ+ rights, the killing of women on accusation of witchcraft, right to acquire citizenship in the name of mother are much acclaimed for ensuring gender justice.



REA ABADA CHIONGSON

Senior Legal Advisor on Gender, International Development Law Organization

Rea Abada Chiongson is the Senior Legal Advisor on Gender at the International Development Law Organization (IDLO). She leads IDLO's work on justice for women and spearheads the integration of gender in the organization's justice and rule of law programming.

Before joining IDLO in 2014, she was Gender and Justice Advisor at the World Bank's Justice Reform Practice Group and the Gender, Conflict and Fragility program. In her earlier years, she worked with the Asian Development Bank, with a focus on supporting the development of the Gender Equality Law in Vietnam, as well as with UN Women on strengthening legal frameworks on gender equality in Southeast Asia. She also worked with the International Women's Rights Action Watch-Asia Pacific strengthening global, regional and national capacities on the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in at least 30 countries. From 1996 -2001, she was a staff attorney at the Ateneo Human Rights Center in the Philippines working on legal reform and providing legal aid and empowerment to marginalized segments of society. At the same time, she was also Deputy Secretary-General of the Working Group for an ASEAN Human Rights Mechanism, where she worked for the establishment of an ASEAN Inter-governmental Commission on Human Rights and the ASEAN Commission on Women and Children.

Among her publications are: [Do our laws promote gender equality: a handbook for CEDAW-based legal reviews](#) (2010); and [Justice Sector Delivery of Services in the Context of Fragility and Conflict: What Is Being Done to Address Sexual and Gender-Based Violence?](#), in the [World Bank Legal Review](#), (2015). Rea also led the development and dissemination of several IDLO publications including: [Climate Justice for Women and Girls: A Rule of Law Approach to Feminist Climate Action](#) (2022); [Women and Customary and Informal Justice Systems](#)(2020); [Justice for Women Amidst COVID-19](#) (2020); [Justice for Women](#) (2019); [Women Delivering Justice](#)(2018); and [Women, Food, Land: Exploring Rule of Law Linkages](#) (2017).

Rea earned her B.A. and J.D. degrees from Ateneo de Manila University in the Philippines and her LL.M. from Columbia University.



HENRY CORNWELL

Counsel, ADB

Henry is a lawyer in ADB's Office of General Counsel. Supporting the operations of ADB's Pacific and South Asia Regional Departments, Henry is implementing projects to strengthen community, policing and legal systems to protect and uplift survivors of gender-based violence in Nepal and Fiji.

Henry obtained his LLB (Hons) and BA from the University of New South Wales in 2016, and his Master of Public Policy from the London School of Economics in 2020. He was admitted as a solicitor in the Supreme Court of New South Wales and the High Court of Australia in 2016.

Prior to joining ADB, Henry worked as a commercial lawyer in Sydney, as Tipstaff (Judge's Associate) to the Hon. Justice Ruth McColl AO at the New South Wales Court of Appeal, and as an Indigenous rights lawyer in regional Australia. Henry has extensive professional experience throughout Asia and the Pacific, particularly in Australia, Timor-Leste and Papua New Guinea. During his time as a commercial lawyer, Henry successfully represented several survivors of gender based violence from Africa and the Pacific in their claims for asylum in Australia. A career highlight was establishing a prima facie assumption in relation to the risk of harm faced by transgender women in Papua New Guinea, at the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

ABIGAIL ERIKSON

Senior Advisor, Ending Violence Against Women and Girls, UN Women



Abigail Erikson is a clinical social worker who has dedicated her professional career towards improving the lives of women and girls. Abigail has 20 years of experience working on sexual and reproductive health and rights, counselling and psychosocial support in the health and social services sector, and global efforts to prevent violence against women and girls in complex settings.

For the past seven years Abigail has served as the head of UN Women's Ending Violence Against Women and Girls program for the Pacific region. She works closely alongside Pacific women's rights experts and government partners to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls.

Abigail is based in Suva, Fiji.

Speakers



SAMANTHA HUNG

Chief of Gender Equality Thematic Group, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, ADB

Samantha Hung is the Chief of Gender Equality Thematic Group at the Asian Development Bank (ADB) where she provides leadership for advancing gender equality across all aspects of ADB operations and knowledge work. Samantha has over two decades of experience in gender equality at project, program and policy levels in the Asia Pacific. Before joining ADB in 2009, she held various gender advisor roles, including for the New Zealand Agency for International Development, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, UNICEF, Australian Government Office on the Status of Women and UK Institute of Development Studies attached to the University of Sussex.

Samantha is a dual Australian/UK citizen. She holds a Masters degree in International Development from RMIT University in Melbourne, Honors Law and Commerce degrees from the University of Melbourne, and a post-graduate qualification in Human Resources Management from CIPD, UK.

SAMAR MINALLAH KHAN

Communications and Behavior Change Specialist and International Filmmaker



Since obtaining her Master of Philosophy in Anthropology and Development from the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom, Samar has been challenging child marriages and various forms of culturally sanctioned forms of violence against women and girls. This she does by reaching out to different audiences through training programs and screenings of documentaries. She has been part of training programs at the National Judicial Academy, National Police Academy, and Civil Services Academy.

Referred to by the media as ‘The Savior of Soul,’ ‘Women who Rock the World,’ and ‘The Crusader with the Camera,’ she continues to advocate against child marriages.

In parts of Pakistan, girls are given away as compensation to settle disputes or to pay for crimes committed by men in their family or tribe. The family receiving the girl can make her a child bride, enslaving her for the rest of her life. Swara, as this custom is known, was practiced in parts of Pakistan for generations—until one woman, Samar Minallah Khan, used a camera to catalyze change.

Samar Minallah Khan *(continued)*

In 2003, Samar created a documentary on Swara. Her goal was to raise awareness of the horrific custom and mobilize policymakers to abolish it. Thanks in part to her campaign, Swara was made illegal in Pakistan in 2004. Dozens of girls were rescued.

She did not stop there—she made sure that the law was implemented. She took the cause to Pakistanis of all backgrounds, even convincing truck drivers to paint anti-Swara slogans on their vehicles.

She sees her documentaries as a way to give voice to those who are seldom heard. Her films are made in regional languages and screened locally, so that people can relate and see themselves through her stories. She uses her lens to focus on unsung heroes within rural communities, such as Pakistani fathers who take enormous risks to stand up for their daughters. She believes in engaging men in order to end violence against women.

Samar has won several national and international awards: Commonwealth Secretary General's Innovation for Sustainable Development Awards 2021, Vanguard Award 2015, DVF Award 2015, Women with Wings 2014, Vital Voices Global Leadership Award (2012), Asia Foundation's Chang Lin Tein Fellowship (2010), Pakistan Women's Day Award (2010), Roberto Rossellini Award (2009), Canon Premio Internazionale (2009), The Asia Society Young Leader (2007), and Asia Society's Perdita Huston Award (2007). Her latest film, *Out Swing*, won the Best Foreign Language Short at the 2021 Moscow International Film Festival, the Best Sport Film at the 2021 Toronto Women Film Festival, and Best Short Documentary at the March 2021 Florence Film Awards. A previous campaign she led also won four awards at the 2019 Cannes International Festival of Creativity.



HON. JUSTICE HIMA KOHLI

Supreme Court of India

Justice Hima Kohli was a practicing Advocate mainly in the High Court of Delhi, India, until she was elevated as a Judge in the same Court in 2006. During her practice as a Standing Counsel and Legal Advisor to the New Delhi Municipal Council, as well as an Additional Standing Counsel, Government of Delhi [1999-2004], she appeared in a number of important public interest cases, including (i) the enforcement of fire safety norms in high rise buildings, (ii) cleaning river Yamuna and its embankment, (iii) removal of unauthorized construction in Delhi, (iv) redevelopment and maintenance of ancient monuments and sites in Delhi, (v) free flow of traffic in Delhi, and (vi) removal of encroachments on public land.

Justice Kohli was sworn in as the Chief Justice of the High Court for the State of Telangana at Hyderabad on 7 January 2021 and was appointed as the Chancellor of National Academy of Legal Studies and Research, Hyderabad. Thereafter, she was appointed as a Judge of the

Speakers

Hon. Justice Hima Kohli *(continued)*

Supreme Court of India on 31 August 2021. She was appointed as a Member of the Gender Sensitization Internal Complaints Committee on 12 March 2022.

She is a member of the International Law Association (Regional Branch: India), the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ), and the Indian Law Institute. She is the Founder Patron of “WILL”-Women in Law and Litigation, a society of women judges and lawyers based in Delhi. She is also the Founder Term Trustee of International Arbitration and Mediation Centre, Hyderabad, established in 2021.

Besides performing her official duties as a Judge, Justice Kohli takes keen interest in environmental jurisprudence, mediation as an alternative dispute resolution mechanism, family courts, and legislation relating to women. She has participated in and presented papers at several international and national symposiums and conferences on these subjects, including the 14th Biennial Conference of the IAWJ with the theme “Building Bridges between Women Judges of the World” at Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 2018, and the International (All Women) Webinar on “Post-COVID Mediation—Charting the Path of the Future (Mediation vs. Adjudication)”, organized by the Supreme Court Mediators and the Commonwealth Lawyers in Delhi, in 2020.

HON. CHIEF JUSTICE KAMAL KUMAR

Supreme Court of Fiji



Justice Kamal Kumar acquired his Bachelor of Law from Queensland University of Technology, Australia back in 1999. Upon completion of Bar Practice Course in the year 2000, he was admitted as a Barrister to the High Court of Australia and the Supreme Court of Queensland. From 2000 to May 2013, he practiced as Barrister and Solicitor at Young & Associates, Solicitors, Lautoka, Fiji.

He was appointed as a Judge in the High Court of Fiji from May 2013 to 7 April 2019.

He became Acting Chief Justice on 8 April 2019.

In September 2018, he was appointed Chairperson of the Fiji Human Rights and Anti Discrimination Commission (FHRADC). His appointment as Chairperson of FHRADC was extended on 12 January 2021, for a further term of three years.

In terms of community service, from 2001 to 2006 and again from 2009 to 2012, he served as President of the Lautoka Branch of the Dakshina India Andhra Sangam of Fiji, a society that manages two colleges and five primary schools. He eventually became National President of the said organization in the year 2012 and continues in that position as at to date. He also held various positions in the Rotary Club of Lautoka, served as Assistant District Governor for District 9920 Rotary International, and in the Board of Visitors, Lautoka Hospital, Fiji.



H.E. DR. ALFONSO LOPEZ

Prosecutor General, Timor-Leste

Prosecutor General Alfonso Lopez was sworn in as the Prosecutor General of the Republic of Timor-Leste on 29 April 2021. He is a first-class public prosecutor who specializes in national and international criminal law. Prior to his current position, Prosecutor General Lopez spent a substantial part of his professional life at the Public Prosecutions Office as the Deputy Prosecutor General of the Republic, District Prosecutor, and Prosecutor in various parts of Timor-Leste. In those roles, his responsibilities spanned criminal, civil, and national security matters, as well as direct supervision of investigations and prosecutions of various and complex cases.

CATRIONA MARTIN

Pro Bono Director-Asia Pacific, DLA Piper



Catriona is a pro bono lawyer with over 10 years' experience working with disadvantaged individuals, community law centers, NGOs, UN agencies, development organizations and Governments in low income countries. She manages DLA Piper's pro bono work across 13 offices in the Asia Pacific region.

Catriona leads the firm's strategic pro bono support in the Pacific region where she manages major client relationships with Pacific Island Nation Governments and the University of South Pacific. She oversees the regional pro bono support of people who have been forcibly displaced and women who have experienced violence. Her pro bono work involves both direct legal representation and legal education, as well as legal advice to NGOs working with those communities. She also leads the firm's pro bono work supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and businesses.

Having previously worked as a criminal defense lawyer for vulnerable young people, Catriona has deep expertise representing children and young people in criminal and family violence matters and advocating for their rights. She has also spent time working for an Indigenous organization in Alice Springs where she developed an evaluation framework for a family violence program. Catriona regularly speaks at conferences on topics related to the practice of pro bono, human rights and solutions to social justice issues.

Speakers



HON. JUSTICE SANDI MCDONALD

Supreme Court of South Australia and former Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions

Justice Sandi McDonald was admitted as a legal practitioner in 1995 whereupon she took up a position as a prosecutor in the South Australian Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. Justice McDonald prosecuted her first jury trial a week after her admission. She continued working as a prosecutor for the next 27 years rising through the ranks to become a senior prosecutor, Deputy Director and Acting Director of Public Prosecutions. In November 2021, Justice McDonald was appointed to the Supreme Court of South Australia.

Throughout her career as a prosecutor, Justice McDonald prosecuted some of the most significant trials in South Australian history. These included the “Bodies in the Barrels” murders, the abduction and murder of Louise Bell, and most recently the NCA bombing. Justice McDonald has also had a particular interest in improving the access to justice for domestic violence victims living on the APY Lands.

EMILY MORRISON

Consultant, Sustainable Solutions Timor-Leste, UNDP Timor-Leste



Emily has over 20 years of experience internationally and in Australia, specializing in supporting and strengthening institutions and grassroots organizations to adopt long term solutions and improving community engagement strategies. She is director of Sustainable Solutions Timor-Leste which focuses on gender, community and socially inclusive approaches; working with human rights and strengths based frameworks to foster significant, sustainable change at community and organizational levels.



HON. JUSTICE VUI CLARENCE NELSON

Supreme Court of Samoa and Member, United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (Convention on the Rights of the Child)

Justice Vui Clarence Nelson has more than 20 years of experience in the judiciary of Samoa. He currently serves as senior justice at the Supreme Court, and was previously with the Samoa Court of Appeal and Land and Titles Court (Appellate Division). He is also a current member and former vice-chairperson of the United Nations (UN) Committee on the Rights of the Child (Convention on the Rights of Child).

Justice Nelson is an advocate for children's rights, child participation, and protection of children, especially victims of sexual violence. Over the years, he has authored many child rights decisions, including the landmark case of *Police v Vailopa* [2009]. He served five years as member of the South Pacific Council of Youth and Children's Courts, and was involved in the creation and set-up of the Olomanu Juvenile Facility for Children and the Sex Offenders Register. He also trains and mentors Pacific judges and magistrates on child justice systems and principles.

Justice Nelson holds a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Canterbury in New Zealand.

BÁRBARA DE OLIVEIRA

Partner, JU'S, Jurídico Social Consultoria, Timor-Leste



Barbara Oliveira is a human rights lawyer who has been working in (and for) Timor-Leste for close to 20 years. Ms. Oliveira has worked with State institutions, the United Nations and national non-governmental organizations in the area of access to justice, judicial reform and strengthening of rights-based legal framework in Timor-Leste since 2003. In 2018 with two other professionals, Ms. Oliveira established JU,S Jurídico Social, a social enterprise in the legal sector (www.jus.tl). JU,S Jurídico Social has been a driving force in the defense of gender-based violence survivors, working tirelessly and under threat and pressure to represent victims of sexual and domestic violence in high profile cases in Timor-Leste. JU,S Jurídico Social has also been pivotal in promoting increased capacity of State institutions on victim centered practices and is a trusted partner of international development partners working in access to justice in Timor-Leste.

Speakers

Bárbara de Oliveira *(continued)*

Ms. Oliveira is a law lecturer at the *Universidade da Paz* in Timor-Leste and has authored a number of publications in her area of specialization.

Ms. Oliveira has also work experience in her specialized areas in Angola, South Africa, Mozambique, FYR Macedonia, Hungary and Switzerland (Geneva).

Ms. Oliveira is originally from Brazil and has studied towards her law degree at the University of Kwazulu-Natal in Durban, South Africa. Ms. Oliveira obtained her Master's Degree in Human Rights and Democratization at the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights (today Global Campus on Human Rights). Ms. Oliveira has a fond interest in photography of rural settings in both her Brazilian natural country and her home country in Timor-Leste. Ms. Oliveira has married following Timor-Leste's Lospalos tradition and has two children (14 and 12 years old).



HON. JUDGE SHAZIB SAEED

*District & Sessions Judge/Director General, Case Management, Lahore High Court/
Visiting Faculty, Punjab Judicial Academy, Pakistan*

Mr. Saeed began practicing law in 1990. In 2009, he joined Pakistan's judicial service as an additional district and sessions judge in Punjab, serving different districts such as Chakwal and Dera Ghazi Khan. He also served in the Advisory Committee and at present is posted as the Director General for Case Management of the Lahore High Court.

Mr. Saeed is likewise part of the Visiting Faculty of the Punjab Judicial Academy, where he was the Director for Research and Administration prior to his current appointments. He has trained judges and judicial officers on murder, rape, and mock murder trials, as well as gender-based violence cases and other related matters.

He wrote various reported judgments on environmental issues and authored several books, including "Handbook on Murder Trials" and "Judgments of the Punjab Environmental Tribunal." He was a member of International Union of Conservation of Nature from 2017 to 2020.



HON. JUSTICE SYED MANSOOR ALI SHAH

Supreme Court of Pakistan

Justice Shah was elevated to the bench at the Lahore High Court in 2009 and, after serving as the Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court for almost two years, was elevated to the Supreme Court of Pakistan in early 2018. He did his schooling at Aitchison College, Lahore and obtained his law degree from the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom (UK), as well as the University of the Punjab, where he also obtained a degree in Masters in Economics. As a corporate litigator, he was a partner at AFRID, SHAH & MINALLAH¹ and took keen interest in public interest litigation with special focus on environmental issues and sustainable development. He had a passion for teaching and taught law for almost two decades at various institutions including Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS; Punjab Law College; Pakistan College of Law, Lahore; and the Civil Services Academy, Lahore. He was also part of the steering committee that established the law school at LUMS, now called Syed Ahmed Hassan School of Law & Policy (SAHSOL).

His areas of special interest are constitutional law, human rights, climate² and water justice, environmental sustainability, disability rights, criminology, digital surveillance, privacy and proportionality.

He believes in continuous judicial reforms. As the Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court, he spearheaded the formation of Alternate Dispute Resolution Centers (ADRC) in Punjab. This was to provide an alternative to litigation in order to reduce the chronic backlog and staggering pendency of cases. He also set up the first ever Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Court and a Child Court in Lahore, besides Criminal and Civil Model Courts, to create working coordination between stakeholders to speed up dispensation of justice. He introduced Case Management and Court Automation Systems in Punjab, both at the Lahore High Court and the District Courts. He also installed the Enterprise IT System with the help of Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) to sustain the IT vision of the court for the next decade, and to make the judicial system open, transparent, smart and fully connected at all levels. To provide access to justice to an ordinary litigant and the lawyers, an online Call Centre, Judicial Mobile App and online *Sahulat* (care) Center were established.

He underlines the need for Information Technology, Artificial Intelligence, Video Linking, Human Resource Development and Restructuring of the District Judiciary as the effective engines of change for the future and would like them to be mainstreamed to achieve state of the art judicial governance. He lays great emphasis on empowering the District Judiciary by enhancing their capacity through international and domestic training, based on performance

¹ All the three partners were successively elevated to the Bench and the law firm was dissolved.

² He authored the *Asghar Leghari* and *D.G.Khan Cement* decisions.

Hon. Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah *(continued)*

indicators and by providing them a secure and conducive working environment, especially for the women judges. He feels that we need to increase judge per capita to improve the quality and speed of dispensation of justice in the country.

He helped restructure the curriculum at the Punjab Judicial Academy and brought it in line with the global best practices, building a sustainable platform for judicial capacity building of the members of the District Judiciary and the ministerial court staff. He laid special emphasis on research and played a foundational role in setting up the Lahore High Court Research Centre (LHCRC).

At the Supreme Court of Pakistan, he helped establish e-courts by video linking the Principal Seat of the Supreme Court with all the Provincial Registries of the Supreme Court, which has helped save travel cost to Islamabad from all over the country, bringing relief to the working schedule of lawyers who can attend to more cases and work more efficiently by avoiding adjournments. This was done prior to COVID-19 and has attained exceptional utility during the pandemic. The new SC Judicial Mobile Application helps lawyers and litigants navigate their way through the cause lists and court rosters and have enhanced their access to justice. Research and scholarship are the hallmarks of any apex court in the country, hence the Research Centre (SCRC) at the Supreme Court was established, manned by bright and promising Civil Judges from all across Pakistan. SCRC carries the vision to eventually provide and support research to all the courts in the country, thereby enriching Pakistani jurisprudence and the scholarship of judges.

Justice Shah is an accredited mediator from Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR), London; an Honorary Bencher of Lincoln's Inn, UK; a judicial member of the Global Judicial Institute on Environment (GJIE) (Brazil); a member of Global Constitutionalism (Yale University, 2020-present) and a Member of the Rhodes Scholarship Committee for Pakistan (2019-present). He is an avid golfer, loves sports and enjoys cycling, reading, travelling and music.

TEVITA SERUILUMI

*Family and Sexual Violence and Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion
Adviser, Justice Services for Stability and Development, Papua New Guinea*



Tevita, a lawyer, works as an adviser in Papua New Guinea to strengthen the investigation and prosecution of violence against women (VAW), working with the Family and Sexual Violence Units, Sexual Offences Squad, Criminal Investigation Division, and Police Prosecutors within the police in collaboration with Public Prosecutors, on violent offenses against women and children. His work with the police includes the development of (i) standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the police, and (ii) a police curriculum on investigating and prosecution of violence against women offenses.

Tevita Seruilumi *(continued)*

Tevita also provides technical advice to the Department of Justice and Attorney General on the Family Protection Act, including training and implementation. He has extensive experience advising and training the judiciary in the Pacific on strengthening responses to VAW, including with the Pacific Judicial Strengthening Initiative (2016 – 2021). In his capacity as the Gender and Family Violence Adviser, he worked with the Judiciary to adopt strategies to improve responses to victims and strengthen approaches on perpetrator accountability. Tevita also developed and piloted a program for perpetrators of domestic violence which aligns with best practice, prioritizes women's safety, and is contextual to the circumstances in the region.



NALINI SINGH

Executive Director, Fiji Women's Rights Movement

Nalini Singh, from Fiji, is the Executive Director of the Fiji Women's Rights Movement. She is a feminist and a social development specialist with over 20 years' experience in design, implementation, management, monitoring, and evaluation of women's rights and development programs in the Asia-Pacific. With her passion for women's human rights and gender equality driving her work, her particular interests are in the issues of women's sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), decent work, and organizational capacity strengthening.

Prior to joining FWRM over four years ago, Nalini worked as the Program Manager-Advocacy and Capacity Building for the Asian Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW) based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia for 7 years. Before this she was a Program Officer at the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD) based in Chiang Mai, Thailand for 5 years. Nalini was also part of the Regional Rights Resource Team for 2 years. The diverse and unique experiences across the region have provided Nalini with invaluable skills, practical knowledge, learnings and understanding of contextual realities for the work that she does.

Nalini is a graduate of the University of the South Pacific.



GENOVEVA TISHEVA

Member, Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women [CEDAW]); Managing Director, Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation; and Chairperson, Alliance for Protection from Gender-Based Violence

Genoveva Tisheva is a member of the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women [CEDAW]) for 2019–2022, as well as the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol to CEDAW. She also chairs the Working Group on Gender-Based Violence against Women and Girls.

Likewise, Genoveva is the managing director of the Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation and chairperson of the Alliance for Protection from Gender-Based Violence (GBV). She also serves as director and lecturer at Women's Human Rights Training Institute, an international educational program in Bulgaria.

Genoveva is a lawyer, researcher, advocate and expert in the field of gender equality and women's rights. She has extensive experience in legal reform, having participated in the drafting of the Bulgarian law for protection against domestic violence and amendments to the Penal Code, as well as legislation on gender equality and anti-discrimination. She also represented female survivors of violence in international litigation—*Bevacqua and S. v. Bulgaria*, before the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, and *V.P.P. v. Bulgaria*, under the Optional Protocol to CEDAW.

Genoveva is a member of the European Network of Independent Legal Experts in Gender Equality and Non-Discrimination to the European Commission, and former vice-chair of the European Women Lawyers' Association. She is a prolific author on gender equality, access to justice, and gender-based violence. In 2017, she received The Advocates' 2017 Special Human Rights Defenders Award.



HON. JUDGE ROBYN TUPMAN

*District Court of New South Wales, Australia and Secretary Treasurer,
The International Association of Women Judges*

Robyn Tupman has been a Judge of the District Court for 26 years, currently sitting as a criminal trial court Judge in Sydney. As a solicitor and barrister in private practice from 1978, she had a wide practice with recognized expertise in children's law and sexual assault cases. In the early 2000s, Judge Tupman was involved in advising government on the introduction of legislation to provide special procedures for evidence of complainants in sexual assault cases. In 2016, at the request of the New South Wales (NSW) Attorney General, she set up the Child Sexual Offence Evidence Pilot Scheme in the NSW District Court, which introduced full prerecording for children's evidence and intermediaries for children.

As a lawyer, she has been an advocate for women's rights and gender equality, including as a committee member of the Women Lawyers Association of NSW, of which she is a Life Member, assisting the NSW Women Barristers Forum with mentoring and the NSW Bar Association and for university and school groups.

She was President of the Australian Association of Women Judges (AAWJ) from 2014 to 2021, an Asia Pacific Board member of the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ) from 2016, and is now the IAWJ Secretary Treasurer. The IAWJ promotes women's judicial leadership worldwide and advocates for gender equity and training programs in its member jurisdictions, especially involving issues of domestic violence and human trafficking. Judge Tupman has had considerable contact with members of the Papua New Guinea Judicial Women's Association which has been at the vanguard of promoting programs to combat Gender Based Violence in that country and hopes to be able to provide IAWJ assistance in the future to continue that work.

Speakers



LILIWAIMANU VUIYASAWA

*Gender and Child Care Consultant, Gender Economic Inclusion Group,
International Finance Corporation*

Liliwaimanu is a lawyer, activist and advocate for human rights and the elimination of gender-based violence (GBV). She recently joined the International Finance Corporation (IFC) World Bank Group as a Gender and Child Care Consultant in the Gender Economic Inclusion Group (GEIG).

Prior to joining IFC she worked as a Public Issues Lawyer with the law firm Munro Leys for over 5 years. As a public issues lawyer, she worked predominantly in the area of public issues law, criminal law and family law litigation. She also provides technical support to local and international NGOs on issues surrounding rights, gender-based violence, good governance, democracy and the rule of law.

Prior to joining Munro Leys, Liliwaimanu worked for four and a half years serving as in-house legal counsel for the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre (FWCC). She is committed to developing a cause-driven platform focused on advocating, educating and challenging laws, policies, attitudes and behaviors that tolerate gender inequalities and impede fundamental rights and freedoms.

She now works with IFC in the private sector space creating and fostering respectful workplace behaviors. Liliwaimanu is legal advisor to several charities on constitutional drafting, good governance practices, and legal compliance. Her background in activism offers a unique perspective and skill set, which include advocacy, lobbying, research, gender trainer and family law litigation.

Liliwaimanu is also a Recipient of Pacific Fellowship on Women's Human Rights from the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative, Washington, DC, USA.



ASIYA YASIN

Public Prosecutor, Punjab, Pakistan

Asiya Yasin is a deputy district public prosecutor (senior law officer) at Punjab's Lahore District. She has held this post since 2020.

Prior to her current post, she served as a prosecutor at the Criminal Prosecution Department for 13 years. During this period, she handled murder and narcotics cases in Magistrate and Sessions Courts. She also worked as a prosecutor in Lahore's Gender-Based Violence Court for two years.

ANDY YETRIYANI

*Chairperson, Indonesian National Commission on Violence Against Women
(Komisi Nasional Anti Kekerasan terhadap Perempuan/Komnas Perempuan)*



Andy Yentriyani is currently the chairperson of the Indonesian National Commission on Violence Against Women (*Komisi Nasional Anti Kekerasan terhadap Perempuan/Komnas Perempuan*).

The commission is a national human rights institution (NHRIs) with a specific mandate to build a conducive environment to eliminate all forms of violence against women and to advance women's human rights. The commission is an independent body, set up via a Presidential Decree following public demand for the State's responsibility for sexual assaults committed during the May 1998 riot.

Ms. Yentriyani joined the commission in 2000 and served mostly to monitor and document cases of violence against women in various conflict situations and also in the context of regional autonomy. She was elected as commissioner for her first term in 2010-2014.

A trainer on women's human rights and on documenting gender-based violations against women, Yentriyani is also a lecturer at the University of Indonesia on gender and international relations. She initiated a local organization in her hometown of Pontianak focusing on preserving diversity and peace called *Suar Asa Khatulistiwa (SAKA)*. She also jointly formed *Rukun Bestari*, a national association for building knowledge on social transformation, as well as the *Asia Pacific Women's Alliance for Peace and Security (APWAPS)*.

Born in Pontianak, West Kalimantan, Yentriyani holds a BA in International Relations from the University of Indonesia, and an MA in Media and Communications from Goldsmiths College, University of London, United Kingdom.



Gender disparities in education. Human Rights Watch data indicate that girls represent a disproportionate number of out-of-school youths in Pakistan. By sixth grade, 59% of girls no longer attend school, versus 49% of boys. Secondary school statistics are worse—by ninth grade, 87% of girls are out of school (photo by Sara Farid/ADB).

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FACILITATORS



LAURA ARBOLEDA GUTIÉRREZ

Qualified Lawyer (Colombia) and Master of Public Policy candidate, The London School of Economics and Political Science

Laura is a qualified lawyer admitted to practice in Colombia. She focuses her practice in public interest litigation, working both in strategic litigation and international arbitration. Laura also has experience advising States on their delivery of justice policies, specifically on the design of dispute resolution mechanisms, as well as advising NGOs on international standards and good practices for access to justice, free legal aid, and women's sexual and reproductive rights.

Laura is currently a Master of Public Policy candidate at The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). As such, she started a policy project on Access to Justice for Gender-Based Violence in Fiji with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Law and Policy Reform Program.



NIKITA SINGH

Qualified Lawyer (Australia) and Master of Public Policy candidate, The London School of Economics and Political Science

Nikita is a qualified lawyer admitted to practice in Australia. She is an experienced commercial and legal practitioner advising on the strategic development and effective delivery of key government policies in Trade, Defense and Health. She began her career in Australian Government as a lawyer and later joined Deloitte as a Strategy Consultant. She has advised governments in both Australia and the United Kingdom on the engagement of the private sector in the delivery of public goods and services.

Facilitators

Nikita Singh (continued)

Nikita is currently a Master of Public Policy candidate at The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). Through her Master's degree she started a policy project on Access to Justice for Gender-Based Violence in Fiji with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Law and Policy Reform Program.



MARIA CECILIA T. SICANGCO

Senior Legal Officer, Law and Policy Reform Program, ADB

Maria Cecilia T. Sicangco is currently a senior legal officer at the Asian Development Bank (ADB). She is involved in the design, processing, and implementation of the Law and Policy Reform Program portfolio, which covers key areas such as environment and climate change law, international arbitration, gender-based violence and access to justice, commercial law and private sector development, digital economy, and Islamic finance.

Cecille works with development partners across Asia and the Pacific to promote the rule of law and establish an enabling environment for sustainable development. She has in-country experience in Afghanistan, Bhutan, Cambodia, Fiji, India, Myanmar, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Samoa. Her work has been published in the *Yearbook of International Environmental Law* (Oxford University Press) and the *Human Rights Education in Asia-Pacific Journal*. She authored the *International Climate Change Legal Frameworks* volume of the *Climate Change, Coming Soon to a Court Near You* report series. She also co-authored the *National Climate Change Legal Frameworks* volume, which synthesized the climate legal and policy frameworks of 32 countries in the region and analyzed key legislative trends and climate-relevant constitutional rights. Under ADB's Legal Literacy for Women technical assistance, Cecille put together knowledge resources for judges and prosecutors handling gender-based violence cases in Pakistan and Afghanistan. She contributed to and was the secondary editor of the *Court Companion on Gender-Based Violence Cases*, which guides justice sector stakeholders in making justice more accessible to gender-based violence victims.

Cecille holds a Bachelor of Applied Economics and Accountancy double degree (cum laude) from De La Salle University and a Bachelor of Laws degree (cum laude, salutatorian) from the University of the Philippines. Thereafter, she pursued a Master of Laws in International Legal Studies degree at New York University, where she was the Starr Foundation Global Scholar, Hauser Scholar, and Thomas M. Franck Scholar in International Law.

Cecille is a Philippine- and US-qualified lawyer (admitted to the bar in the State of New York), and a certified public accountant. She is a member of the World Commission on Environmental Law.



LEA HALBERSTEIN

Student, Northeastern University School of Law

Lea Halberstein is a rising second-year law student at the Northeastern University School of Law in Boston, Massachusetts. Lea was born and raised in Massachusetts and earned her Bachelor's degree in International Relations at Boston University. Since graduating from Boston University, she has taught English in Fort-de-France, Martinique and worked as a paralegal in both Providence, Rhode Island and Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Lea is passionate about social justice and gender equality, and would like to work in international human rights law. During law school, Lea has served as treasurer of the International Law Society and has gained practical experience in asylum and refugee law. She enjoys meeting new people and living in different cultures to better understand others' perspectives. This summer, she looks forward to participating in the Asia-Pacific Conference on the Promotion of Gender-Responsive Judicial Systems, and in particular researching the judicial system of Timor-Leste.

NELANIA SARMENTO

Communications and Liaison Officer (Consultant), ADB



Nelania holds a law degree from Universidade da Paz (UNPAZ). She assists and supports ADB TA activities by engaging with relevant key parties that are working to address gender-based violence issues in the country. She has prior experience dealing with many different stakeholders and arranging a variety of events in Timor-Leste. She co-founded several youth organizations in Timor-Leste and has been involved in various youth-led projects that promote gender equality, social entrepreneurship, innovation, youth empowerment, and the protection of women and girls from all forms of violence.

Facilitators



ZHANSAYA IMANMADIYEVA

*Master of Public Policy candidate,
Graduate School of Public Policy, University of Tokyo*

Zhansaya Imanmadiyeva is a master's student at The University of Tokyo's Graduate School of Public Policy. Born and raised in Kazakhstan, she obtained her BA in International Relations at King's College London. She wrote her bachelor's research thesis on the topic of gender mainstreaming in the military, with a specific focus on Japan. Based on this initial interest, Jan continues to explore the problems surrounding gender mainstreaming in various sectors, namely in the tech industry. She has been involved in addressing gender gap obstacles in the IT sector, and has co-organized a series of events with NPO "WomEnpowered Int."

Apart from academics, Jan enjoys water sports and loves traveling. These activities help her explore new places and cultures, stimulating curiosity, which she believes is an important aspect of addressing social problems.



A mother in Khentii, Mongolia fixes her daughter's jacket
(photo by Eric Sales/ADB).



A woman in the Ta Oi ethnic group of Viet Nam engages in the traditional craft of Zeng (brocade) weaving (photo by Tran Viet Tuan/ADB).

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CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT



CHRISTINA PAK

*Principal Counsel and Team Leader,
Law and Policy Reform Program, ADB*

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PRABHJOT REHAN KHAN

*Social Development Specialist (Gender and Development),
Gender Equality Thematic Group (SDTC-GEN),
Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, ADB*

Prabhjot Khan works in ADB's Gender Equality Thematic Group and provides support for the implementation, monitoring and reporting of the ADB Policy on Gender and Development and Strategy 2030's Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Operational Plan, 2019-2024. For the past sixteen years she has been working in the field of gender and development, gender mainstreaming and social development. She is experienced in mainstreaming gender into programs and projects in infrastructure sectors such as urban, transport, energy as well as social sectors such as skills development, education, health, agriculture and natural resources management. Prabhjot joined ADB in 2012 as the gender focal person for the India Resident Mission and administered technical assistance projects and grants; supported implementation of project gender action plans and documented gender equality results in project completion reports. In projects, she has been also involved in the evaluation of practical and strategic gender benefits and has worked on intersectionality of gender with other vulnerabilities. Before ADB, she worked with UN Agencies as well as with national and international NGOs and supported programs on advancement of women. She holds a Ph.D. in Social Science from Nagpur University, India (2003).



VERONICA MENDIZABAL JOFFRE

*Senior Gender and Social Development Specialist,
Southeast Asia Department, ADB*

Veronica is a senior gender and social development specialist at the Asian Development Bank. She leads the gender equality program in Southeast Asia and has previously managed ADB's gender equality initiatives in the People's Republic of China (PRC) and Mongolia. Veronica is a strong advocate for sustainable development and a believer in the power of diversity to spark innovation. She has designed and led initiatives for addressing and preventing domestic violence in Mongolia, including through the use of new technologies. Veronica has written extensively on gender-based violence, women in labor markets, gender and sustainable production and consumption, and impacts of systemic crises on vulnerable populations. Veronica holds a Master's Degree in public policy and management from the University of London, School of Oriental and African Studies, and a Master's Degree in agricultural knowledge system from Wageningen University in the Netherlands.



MAIRI MACRAE

Senior Social Specialist (Gender and Development), Pacific Department, ADB

Mairi MacRae is a Gender Specialist in the Pacific Department of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). She supports gender mainstreaming in ADB projects and programs and leads on gender analysis and gender knowledge products in the Pacific. Mairi has over 15 years' experience working on gender and women's rights, including for national and international women's rights organizations, humanitarian NGOs and the UK Department for International Development. She has particular expertise in gender-based violence and recently led a consortium on developing an evidence base on preventing and responding to violence against women and girls in humanitarian crises. Mairi has a MSc in Development Studies from the University of London.



MARIA CECILIA T. SICANGCO

Senior Legal Officer, Law and Policy Reform Program, ADB

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RYAH ZENDRA M. SANVICENTE

Legal Operations Administrator, ADB

Ms. Ryah Sanvicente has been a staff member of the Asian Development Bank since 2005. She worked with the Office of the General Counsel (OGC) as a Legal Operations Assistant from 2005–2009, and moved to the South Asia Department from 2009–2015 as a Senior Operations Assistant. In 2015, she returned to OGC as the Executive Assistant to the General Counsel. In 2019, she joined the Law and Policy Reform Team of OGC as the Legal Operations Administrator.

She graduated from the University of Sto. Tomas with a Bachelor's Degree in Communications Arts in 2000.

GLADYS CABANILLA-SANGALANG

Senior Legal Operations Assistant, ADB



Ms. Gladys Cabanilla-Sangalang has over 20 years of operations and administrative support experience. Before joining ADB, she worked as a paralegal in a full-service law firm that advises clients in the Banking & Finance, Corporate & Commercial, Dispute Resolution, Employment, Immigration, Intellectual Property, and Tax practice areas. Subsequently she became the Executive Administrator to the Global Chief Operating Officer of a multinational law firm and later a Global Talent Management Specialist, overseeing the performance management tool of the Firm and managing the election of local partnership to international partnership.

Conference Secretariat

Gladys Cabanilla-Sangalang *(continued)*

She also worked as an Office Administrator and Purchasing Associate in a subsidiary of the largest media conglomerate in the Philippines that brought the first indoor family educational entertainment center to the Bonifacio Global City, Taguig.

She is currently a senior legal operations assistant in the Office of the General Counsel in ADB, supporting the Law and Policy Reform Program, the operations of ADB's Pacific and South Asia regional departments and private sector legal group.

She graduated from the University of the Philippines with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science (with minor in Economics and Psychology) and earned her Certificate as a Paralegal from the University of the Philippines Law Center. She also holds a diploma on Events Specialist that she earned from the School of Professional and Continuing Education of the De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde.



ANGELO JACINTO

IT and Multimedia Specialist (Consultant), ADB

Mr. Angelo Jacinto is a multimedia specialist and web developer who previously worked with the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) Office of the General Counsel (OGC) in producing the Developing Environmental Law Champions (<https://www.teachenvirolaw.asia>) and the Asian Judges Network on Environment (AJNE) (<https://www.ajne.org>) websites. He also documented events as a photo/videographer and produced video presentations for the Developing Environmental Law Champions Project.

He has been a multimedia and web development consultant with ADB since 2013, having worked mostly with the ADB's Department of Communications (DOC) on the redesign and maintenance of ADB.org (<https://www.adb.org>) and the creation of the ADB Data Library (<https://data.adb.org>). He also developed the Asia-Pacific Road Safety Observatory Website (<https://www.aprso.org>) with the ADB's Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department (SDCC), and the web version of the Office of Anticorruption and Integrity's (OAI) 2019 Annual Report (<https://www.adb.org/multimedia/oai-2019/index.html>). He also produced multimedia feature stories such as Green Cities (<https://www.adb.org/green-cities/index.html>) and Environmental Law Champions for Asia and the Pacific (<https://www.teachenvirolaw.asia/story/index.html>).

Prior to consulting with the ADB, he worked with multilateral organizations such as UNAIDS, UNICEF, the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).



IMELDA T. ALCALA

Senior Project Coordinator (Consultant), ADB

Ms. Imelda T. Alcala has a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (major in Management) degree. She has been with the Asian Development Bank as a consultant for various projects since 1996. Her 26 years in the bank have seen her handle projects in environmental law, energy and water regulation, climate change, food fortification and health policy, regional cooperation in law, justice and development, finance and risk mitigation, and commercial law reform. At present, Ms. Alcala is the Senior Project Coordinator for three technical assistant projects under the Office of the General Counsel's Law and Policy Reform Program: (i) on promotion of gender-responsive judicial systems; (ii) on developing environmental law champions in the Asia-Pacific academe; and (iii) on judicial building in commercial law and climate change law. She is responsible for overseeing and managing the roll-over of project logistics, coordination and administration.

RIZALYN RUTH AGUANTIA

Senior Events and Communications Officer (Resource Person), Promotion of Gender-Responsive Judicial Systems Technical Assistance, Law and Policy Reform Program, ADB



Ruth Aguantia is a part-time newswriter at Christianity Daily, a media outlet based in Los Angeles. She formerly worked at ABS-CBN Corporation as an executive secretary to the Chief Operating Officer of Broadcast for more than two years, and briefly with the Philippine Red Cross as an executive assistant to the Chairman. She also worked at the Asian Development Bank as a contractor for more than two years, serving at the Events Management Unit. She began her career in Philippine Airlines, handling clerical functions for almost four years.

Ms. Aguantia holds a Bachelor's degree in Information Technology from the Polytechnic University of the Philippines, and completed the academic requirements for a Master of Education in Aeronautical Management degree at Philippine State College of Aeronautics.



School children waiting for their transport next to Kings Road in the outskirts of Suva, Fiji (photo by Luis Ascui/ADB).

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CONFERENCE RAPPORTEURS



MARIA CECILIA T. SICANGCO

Senior Legal Officer, Law and Policy Reform Program, ADB

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CARMEN GRACE S. RAMOS

*Knowledge Management Specialist (Resource Person),
Promotion of Gender-Responsive Judicial Systems
Technical Assistance, Law and Policy Reform Program, ADB*

Carmen Grace S. Ramos is a resource person for the *Promotion of Gender-Responsive Judicial Systems* technical assistance, under the Law and Policy Reform Program of the Asian Development Bank.

She has over a decade of experience as a regulatory lawyer in one of the largest utility companies in the Philippines. In such role, she has handled cases on tariff regulation, negotiated power-related contracts, managed compliances, and been heavily involved in policy research and advocacy on various regulatory matters. She has since become Assistant Vice President, heading the regulatory contract management group, in the same company.

Previous to that, she was involved in a legal resource non-government organization doing developmental work for marginalized sectors in the country, with thrusts on workers' rights, gender equality, and children's rights, among others.

Carmen Grace holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology degree and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of the Philippines.

About the Asian Development Bank

ADB is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty. Established in 1966, it is owned by 68 members —49 from the region. Its main instruments for helping its developing member countries are policy dialogue, loans, equity investments, guarantees, grants, and technical assistance.

