

### Who We Are

APWLD is the leading network of feminist organisations and individual activists in Asia Pacific. Our 228 members represent groups of diverse women from 27 countries in Asia Pacific. Over the past 30 years, APWLD has actively worked towards advancing women's human rights and Development Justice. We are an independent, non-governmental, non-profit organisation and hold consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

### Our Work

APWLD fosters feminist movements in Asia Pacific to influence laws, policies and practices at the local, national, regional and international levels. We develop capacities, produce and disseminate feminist analyses, conduct advocacy and foster networks and spaces for movement building to claim and strengthen women's human rights. APWLD empowers women in the region to use law as an instrument of change for equality, justice, peace and Development Justice.

### Our Beliefs

We believe that advances in women's human rights are achieved and sustained when autonomous feminist movements exist and have an enabling environment to work. We believe that law can be repressive as well as transformative. We use feminist analysis to dissect, engage with and transform laws, legal practices and the systems that shape and inform them. We believe that the nexus of patriarchy with militarism, fundamentalisms and neo-liberal economic globalisation is responsible for gross violations of women's human rights and fundamental freedoms. We believe that equality, Development Justice and the realisation of human rights can only happen when women, particularly marginalised women, are empowered to lead policy and legal debates and determine solutions. We believe, to achieve lasting and sustainable change, engagement with women themselves, both at the grassroots and policy making levels, is needed to bring a feminist approach and perspective to their advocacy.

### Our Structure

Our diverse and active membership provides the strength and expertise that drives and executes our work. Members are actively involved in APWLD's programme work through taking part in Programme Organising Committees. APWLD is governed by a Programme and Management Committee comprised from a larger Regional Council of active members. Our Secretariat in Chiang Mai and in Penang carries out day-to-day operations and provides for programme implementation as well as financial and technical support.

### Our Herstory

APWLD developed from dialogues among women lawyers, social scientists and activists from Asia Pacific, which began at the 1985 Third World Forum on Women, held in Nairobi, Kenya. Participants in these dialogues recognised that gaining the capacity to mobilise people to understand social, economic and political dimensions of women's oppression and take collective action for change required a clear focus and strong organisation. In 1986, women lawyers and activists in the region formally launched APWLD and set up a Secretariat in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Secretariat relocated to Chiang Mai, Thailand in 1997; with a satellite Secretariat in Penang, Malaysia opened in 2017 to support the growing work of APWLD.



The first APWLD steering committee members in 1986, Tagaytay, Philippines. From L-R: Emelina Quintillan, Asma Jahangir, Farida Ariffin, Rani Jethmalani, Virada Somswadi and Mere Pulea

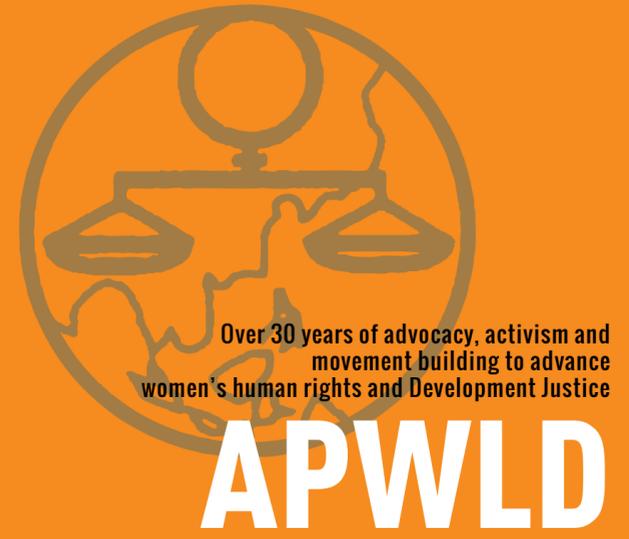
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## Our Programmes

### FEMINIST LAW AND PRACTICE (FLP)

This long standing programme focuses on building capacity of women's rights advocates and organisations to transform discriminatory laws, policies and practices; and increase women's access to justice. The programme recently incorporated urgent response and solidarity support to Women Human Rights Defenders during crisis periods through feminist litigation strategies, trial observations and campaigns.

### WOMEN IN POWER (WIP)

The programme aims to strengthen women's political leadership and democratic participation of women in decision makings. It provides feminist political training to women leaders, supports the formation of women's political agenda "Womanifestoes", supports progressive women parliamentarians such as the Pacific Island Women's Caucus and facilitates its engagement with women's rights movements.

### BREAKING OUT OF MARGINALISATION (BOOM)

This programme focuses on building capacity and movements of the most marginalised grassroots women in the region - Rural, Indigenous, Migrant and Urban Poor women. The programme conducts Feminist Participatory Action Research to document rights violations, collectively craft solutions and advocacy strategy for change at local, national, regional and international levels.

### LABOUR AND MIGRATION (L&M)

The programme has two goals: a) To advance women workers' rights to Decent Work and participatory democracy by shaping and organising labour movements (Labour - Women Organising Women programme); b) To ensure women migrants enjoy substantive equality and are able to make informed choices about migration (Migration programme). It focuses on increasing capacities, voices and leadership of women workers and migrants by providing feminist organising training, Feminist Participatory Action Research, and supporting networks for collective labour and migrant movements building, including the United for Foreign Domestic Workers' Rights (UFDWR).

### CLIMATE JUSTICE (CJ)

This programme focuses on building capacity of the women most affected by climate change and collecting evidence on the impacts faced by communities. Our advocacy aims to ensure climate framework and commitments from local to global level to respond to the realities of Asia Pacific women, and institute more gender-just and ecologically principled solutions. The programme conducts Feminist Participatory Action Research with grassroots women's organisations and their communities, and mobilise cross-movements collaboration to co-create a Feminist Fossil Fuel Free Future.

### GROUNDING THE GLOBAL (GG)

This programme monitors the development of regional and international mechanisms and policies to identify strategic advocacy opportunities for APWLD members and partners. It aims to ensure international and regional laws, norms, standards and procedures are both reflective of women's human rights issues in Asia Pacific and are effectively utilised by women in the region. This programme builds on APWLD's existing legacy in conducting annual Asia Pacific consultations with UN mandate holders. It continues to support the Southeast Asia Women's Caucus on ASEAN.

### FEMINIST DEVELOPMENT JUSTICE (FDJ)

This programme aims to bring about a shift in development policies and practices at local, national, regional and international levels. It challenges the traditional model of development and promotes Development Justice - a transformative framework that aims to reduce inequalities between countries, between rich and poor and between men and women. The programme prioritises developing capacities of women's rights organisations to monitor and influence development initiatives and policies, including Sustainable Development Goals implementation, and demand accountability.

### WOMEN INTERROGATING TRADE & CORPORATE HEGEMONY (WITCH)

This is the newest programme of APWLD which focuses on building the capacity of women's rights organisations to understand the impact of trade and investments rules on women's human rights; and increase the power of feminist movements to interrogate and halt the growing power of corporations. The programme works with APWLD members and other social movements to demand spaces and political decisions for trade and investment frameworks that promote, protect and fulfill human rights and promote Development Justice.

