

# APWLD

## Annual report 2020



# CONTENTS



## LIST OF ACRONYMS

04



## ABOUT APWLD

06



## OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

08



## MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL COORDINATOR

10



## OUR IMPACT: 2020 SNAPSHOTS

12

- Developed the Capacity of Women Activists and their Communities
- Produced Feminist Knowledge, Tools and Resources
- Provided Advocacy Space and Opportunities for Feminist Activism
- Strengthened Feminist, Cross-Constituency Movement Building



## STORY HIGHLIGHTS

22



- Shifting Power through Grassroots Feminist Organising and Movement-Building
- Women's Global Strike (WGS) Campaign
- Supporting Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs)
- The Resilience of Grassroots Communities and APWLD amidst COVID-19



## PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

42

- Breaking Out of Marginalisation (BOOM) Programme
- Climate Justice (CJ) Programme
- Labour Programme: Women Organising Workers (WOW)
- Migration Programme: United and Act for Human Rights (MUAH)
- Women Interrogating Trade and Corporate Hegemony (WITCH) Programme
- Women in Power (WiP) Programme
- Feminist Law and Practice (FLP) Programme
- Feminist Development Justice (FDJ) Programme
- Grounding the Global (GG) Programme



## INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

100



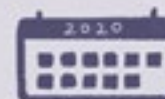
## INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING AND SUSTAINABILITY

106



## FINANCIAL NARRATIVE

108



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

116



# LIST OF ACRONYMS

|               |       |   |
|---------------|-------|---|
| <b>APF</b>    | ----- | ASEAN People Forum                                      |
| <b>APFSD</b>  | ----- | Asia Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development          |
| <b>APPFSD</b> | ----- | Asia Pacific Peoples’ Forum for Sustainable Development |
| <b>APRCM</b>  | ---   | Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism          |
| <b>APWLD</b>  | ----- | Asia Pacific Forum on Women Law and Development         |
| <b>ASEAN</b>  | ----- | Association of Southeast Asian Nations                  |
| <b>BOOM</b>   | ----- | Breaking out of Marginalisation                         |
| <b>CBO</b>    | ----- | Community Based Organisation                            |
| <b>CJ</b>     | ----- | Climate Justice   |
| <b>CSW</b>    | ----- | Committee on the Status of Women                        |
| <b>FDJ</b>    | ----- | Feminist Development Justice                            |
| <b>FLP</b>    | ----- | Feminist Law and Practice                               |
| <b>FLTP</b>   | ----- | Feminist Legal Theory and Practice                      |
| <b>FPAR</b>   | ----- | Feminist Participatory Action Research                  |
| <b>GBV</b>    | ----- | Gender Based Violence                                   |
| <b>GG</b>     | ----- | Grounding the Global                                    |
| <b>GCF</b>    | ----- | Green Climate Fund                                      |
| <b>GFMP</b>   | ----- | Globalisation Fundamentalisms Militarism Patriarchy     |
| <b>HLPF</b>   | ----- | High Level Political Forum                              |
| <b>ISDS</b>   | ----- | Investor State Dispute Settlement                       |

|                |       |  |
|----------------|-------|--|
| <b>LGBTQI</b>  | ----- | Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer Intersex                            |
| <b>NDC</b>     | ----- | Nationally Determined Contributions  |
| <b>P&amp;M</b> | ----- | Programme and Management Committee   |
| <b>REC</b>     | ----- | Regional Council   |
| <b>SDG</b>     | ----- | Sustainable Development Goals  |
| <b>UNCTAD</b>  | ----- | United Nations Conference on Trade and Development                         |
| <b>UNEP</b>    | ----- | United Nations Environment Programme                                       |
| <b>UNESCAP</b> | ---   | United National Social and Economic Commission<br>for Asia and the Pacific |
| <b>UNFCCC</b>  | ----- | United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change                      |
| <b>UNHCHR</b>  | ----- | United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights                          |
| <b>UNHRC</b>   | ----- | United Nations Human Rights Council  |
| <b>WGS</b>     | ----- | Women’s Global Strike  |
| <b>WHRDs</b>   | ----- | Women Human Rights Defenders   |
| <b>WIP</b>     | ----- | Women in Power   |
| <b>WITCH</b>   | ----- | Women Interrogating Trade and Corporate Hegemony                           |
| <b>WMG</b>     | ----- | Women’s Major Group  |
| <b>WTO</b>     | ----- | World Trade Organisation   |

# ABOUT APWLD



## WHO WE ARE

The Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD) is the leading network of feminist organisations and individual activists in Asia and the Pacific. Our 252 members represent organisations and groups of diverse women from 29 countries in the region, covering the five subregions of Central Asia, East Asia, Pacific, South Asia and Southeast Asia. We are an independent, non-governmental, non-profit organisation and hold consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council. Over the past 34 years, APWLD has actively worked towards advancing women's human rights and Development Justice.

## OUR WORK

APWLD fosters feminist movements 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 neoliberal 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 that 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 composed from a larger Regional Council of active members. Our Secretariat in Chiang Mai and a satellite office in Penang carry out day-to-day operations and provide for programme implementation as well as financial and technical support.

## OUR HERSTORY

APWLD is a regional membership-based feminist organisation founded in 1986, as a direct outcome of the 1985 Third World Conference on Women held in Nairobi. It was at the Nairobi meeting that the idea for 'Women, Law and Development' networks was floated, resulting in the establishment of three such regional networks: APWLD in Asia and the Pacific, Comité de América Latina y El Caribe para la Defensa de los Derechos de la Mujer (CLADEM) in Latin America and the Caribbean, and Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF) in Africa. 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 Asia and the Pacific formally launched APWLD and set up a Secretariat in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Secretariat relocated to Chiang Mai, Thailand in 1997.



# OUR THEORY OF CHANGE



We believe that advances in women’s human rights are achieved when strong, autonomous, sustained and diverse feminist movements exist and thrive, free from any form of harassment and constraint. Our work is designed to support and foster movements and amplify their impacts through four key elements:

- 1 BUILDING STRONG CAPACITIES TO ANALYSE, ORGANISE, ADVOCATE AND DRIVE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CHANGE;**
- 2 CO-CREATING KNOWLEDGE, EVIDENCE, TOOLS AND RESOURCES TO ADVOCATE FOR CHANGE;**
- 3 EXTENDING/FACILITATING ADVOCACY SPACE AND OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE WITH AND INFLUENCE POLICY MAKERS AT LOCAL, NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS; AND**
- 4 ENABLING INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURES AND SPACE TO BUILD ALLIANCES, COALITIONS AND NETWORKS THAT AMPLIFY COMMON DEMANDS AND COLLECTIVELY DRIVE CHANGE.**

We believe that sustained movement building occurs when interventions are accompanied by a culture of solidarity with other networks and movements, as well as a culture of accountability of state and non-state actors in the pursuit of women’s human rights.



# MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL COORDINATOR



The year 2020 was exceptionally challenging and most of us experienced diverse yet extraordinary loss. The Coronavirus made it all very clear that the effect of this public health crisis was leading to — and was brought about by — the interconnected economic, social and political crisis, and the most marginalised communities, especially the grassroots women in the global south, are hit the hardest.

There are no end to the stories of loss and injustice our members and grassroots communities shared - from how organised women workers lost their job, how women migrant workers returned to their home countries on their own cost with no government support with complete loss of income, how people are 'locked down' with hardly any access to basic services, how the pandemic further deprived rural and indigenous women of their land and pushed them to starvation, to the increase of women's un/der/paid care work and violence against women. The pandemic has made starkly clear what our members and feminist movements have been saying all along: that the broken system of neoliberal capitalism has, and will always, fail to deliver peoples' fundamental human rights and only widen inequalities of wealth, power and resources.

The COVID-19 was clearly fast tracking multiple and interconnected systems of oppression and exploitation. Documented data confirms that large tech companies and individuals have accumulated wealth in the time of the crisis; while international financial institutions grabbed the crisis chance to further expand their neoliberal capitalist agenda through emergency loans with conditionalities of austerity measures and privatisation of public goods. Free trade agreements also kept on track to

retain the global colonial and hegemonic power. The system of unequal power and oppression seems to have locked in even stronger than before. If we had focused on the 'happenings' around us, we would have entirely lost our hope.

However, we as APWLD, a membership-based and membership-driven network, together saw the hope and light within us. As we create a space to share the stories of women - of their struggles but also of their resistance - the more clear it becomes that it is in the hands of our movements to generate structural change and shift power relations. There are also no ends to the inspiring stories and acts of organising, resisting and caring in solidarity that I hear from our members and partners. They have been at the forefront in challenging neoliberal and authoritarian responses to COVID-19, fighting endlessly to hold governments accountable to their obligations as duty bearers in the time of crisis and mobilising solidarity actions to support each other. This report is a record of such powerful stories of feminist organising and solidarity, and how we all are contributing to making a meaningful change to advance women's human rights and Development Justice.

Institutionally, 2020 was to APWLD a year of resilience and tenacity. We shaped significant changes and adjustments to our work, from prioritising our digital and communications capacity building, shifting our feminist participatory approaches to virtual platforms and tools, rescheduling and reprioritising our programme strategies and to holding the line tight to vigilantly participate and influence the global policymaking processes despite the travel restrictions and time inequity. All our programmes and cross-cutting initiatives are rigorously assessed and re-strategised to ensure our work is supportive, considerate, relevant and meaningful to APWLD's grassroots members, partners and their communities. In November 2020, APWLD's Regional Council made an important decision to approve a hybrid model of working arrangement for APWLD's Secretariat for staff's wellbeing and safety as well as for organisational sustainability. By the end of 2021, APWLD Secretariat staff will be working from their respective home countries, except few staff members with statutory duties to be based in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Looking back, arguably, the journey of the year 2020 was not easy at all. Yet, I am convinced that every step we made together was in the right direction guided by the lived realities, experiences, wisdom and love from our members and their grassroots communities.

We decided to title our Annual Report 2020: Determination, Courage and Persistence to remind us of these stories of hope. These crises cannot dim our flame to fight. Rather, it will ignite us even more. As our grassroots members remind us - because we have the mass, because we have the number, and because we have the inherent sovereign power as peoples - we will continue our journey until we win women's human rights and Development Justice for all.

In Solidarity,

Misun Woo  
Regional Coordinator



# OUR IMPACT: 2020 SNAPSHOTS







## DEVELOPED THE CAPACITY OF WOMEN ACTIVISTS AND THEIR COMMUNITIES

We worked with **5688 grassroots women and their communities**, to build their analysis, political organising and advocacy capacity to advance women's human rights and Development Justice. We have supported especially rural, indigenous, migrant and urban poor (RIMUP) women and their communities in the Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR), established women's political agenda 'Womanifesto', shifted dominant development through critical monitoring of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and climate commitments and in political mobilisation of women through Women's Global Strike (WGS) campaign.

As a response to the challenge brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, we maximised our efforts in building the digital capacity of our members and grassroots partners. We built the capacity of **430 members, partners and allies** on digital security, digital advocacy and media advocacy, especially bearing in mind the intensified attacks on women human rights defenders through surveillance.



# PRODUCED FEMINIST KNOWLEDGE, TOOLS AND RESOURCES

APWLD led and contributed to producing 54 statements, submissions, position papers and reports based on grassroots women's realities and perspectives, for our feminist activism and collective demands for Development Justice. Some highlights include:

APWLD's joint submission with FPAR partners have significantly influenced the structural analysis and policy recommendations of the report of the UN Special Rapporteur on Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNSRIP) on the impacts of COVID-19 on Indigenous Peoples; and the study report of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) on the Right to land under the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

We produced the Beijing + 25 regional submission to UN Women and UNESCAP for the regional review process, drawing upon the analysis and data collected and produced by APWLD members and partners in the past five years. The submission served as the basis for our advocacy and coordinated political positioning with feminist allies at multiple platforms regarding the Beijing+25 review processes.

We produced innovative information and communications tools (ICT) especially to support WHRDs, resist the signing of the mega trade deal 'Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)' through a No-RCEP video, and Women's Global Strike campaigns tool kits.

The work of APWLD partners on SDGs monitoring which highlights on systemic analysis served as a basis of various factsheets, statements and position papers by both Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (APRCM) and Women Major Group (WMG). As a result, APWLD positions and demands on Development Justice are reflected in the key outcome documents of the UN. APWLD also co-produced Women 2030 Global Shadow Report: Gender Equality on the Ground highlighting the work of our partners on the ground to strengthen local feminist movements demanding women's human rights and Development Justice.

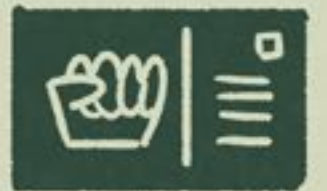


Our programmes produced 30 new resources and publications. Some highlights include:



WITCH programme and Information and Communications team produced a NoRCEP video in a digestible language to reach out to varied grassroots and marginalised groups to unpack this trade agreement and its impacts on women's human rights.

As part of the Access to Justice campaign, The Migration programme produced an open letter and sent postcards to deliver our solidarity support to Mary Jane Veloso.



The FLP programme further revised and updated its flagship FLTP Manual to reflect current resources, materials and capacity building needs of women human rights advocates. The updated manual incorporated lessons learnt from previous FLTP approaches, introduced participatory learning methods, and adopted disability-friendly approaches.

The Information and Communications team produced an enhanced Digital Security module which was used to train members, partners, allies and Secretariat staff to adapt to working digitally during the COVID-19 restrictions.





# PROVIDED ADVOCACY SPACE AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR FEMINIST ACTIVISM

Despite the significant challenges COVID-19 pandemic brought forward, especially in democratising political advocacy spaces at regional and global levels, APWLD in collaboration with our members, partners and strategic allies were able to influence laws, policies and discourse at multiple levels based on feminist evidence and solutions.

We resourced and supported over **28 grassroots feminist women's rights activists from 14 countries** to engage in **17 high level advocacy spaces**. In total **we secured 34 speaking opportunities** for our members and partners as panellists or interventions from the floor. Our positions and demands on Development Justice were reflected in several key outcome documents of the UN, including the report of the UN Working Group on discrimination against women in law and in practice on Women's human rights in the changing world of work, and report of the APFSD 2020 which included APWLD's recommendations for gender-sensitive approaches to COVID-19 responses and the need for improved social protection and food sovereignty for small-scale farmers in addressing the crisis.

Our members and partners created and engaged with their governments and policy makers that resulted in the improvement on the legal protection of health workers in Thailand; over 70 women were acquiring jobs through the rural employment guarantee scheme in India; consultation with parliamentarians on the draft bill on home-based worker's rights in Pakistan;

and the signing of the 13 Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBA) between the government and employers/ private sectors in Bangladesh.

APWLD campaigns, advocacy and urgent action responses were **covered in 116 articles in 92 news outlets from across the globe**, including prominent media outlets like Reuters, Al-Jazeera, South China Morning Post, Bangkok Post, Prachatai, Bulatlat and Fiji Times.





# STRENGTHENED FEMINIST, CROSS-CONSTITUENCY MOVEMENT BUILDING


APWLD fostered connections and linkages, and provided concrete opportunities for the most marginalised women to influence and hold institutions accountable. As women strengthened their capacity to understand and analyse the interconnected systems of oppressions, they became more motivated to engage in collective, cross-movement solidarity actions.



Our programmes, especially through Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR) work, fostered the emergence of strong local women’s groups, leading to the formation of 62 new local feminist groups and new alliances. Grassroots women activists are leading cross constituencies collaboration and solidarity connecting the movements of women, environmental justice, youth, indigenous peoples as well as identifying strategic allies at various levels of government and national networks.

Our Women’s Global Strike mobilised 198 organisations and their movements from over 60 countries and territories, along with over 200 individuals to endorse and participate in the WGS campaign. Despite the restrictions on public gatherings due to the pandemic, shrinking civic space and state repression, around five million women in all their diversities participated in over 50 offline and online strike actions in Africa, Asia, Europe, Middle East, North America, South America and the Pacific. These actions highlighted the injustices women are facing, and the demand for structural changes to advance women’s human rights.





**SHIFTING POWER THROUGH  
GRASSROOTS FEMINIST ORGANISING  
AND MOVEMENT BUILDING**

**WOMEN'S GLOBAL STRIKE  
(WGS) CAMPAIGN**

**SUPPORTING WOMEN HUMAN  
RIGHT DEFENDERS (WHRDS)**

**THE RESILIENCE OF GRASSROOTS  
COMMUNITIES AND APWLD  
AMIDST COVID-19**

# **STORY HIGHLIGHTS**



# SHIFTING POWER THROUGH GRASSROOTS FEMINIST ORGANISING AND MOVEMENT-BUILDING

Our collaborative work with members and partners during the pandemic revealed that the same set of neoliberal policies and systems is leading the effect of what started as a public health crisis to a domino effect of interconnected economic, social and political crises with the most marginalised communities being hit the hardest.

Governments' failures, or complete inability, in mitigating the spread of the virus, and their militaristic responses to the pandemic in the region have severely affected women and their

fundamental rights to food, land, resources, decent work as well as civil and political freedoms. Land and resource-grabbing did not cease despite the pandemic, despite the possible causal link between the widespread hunger during the pandemic and the extractive development plundering. There is no shortage of stories where rural and indigenous women lost their access to lands and traditional livelihoods, forced to migrate and engage in low-paying, informal and insecure forms of work elsewhere — the very sort of work that was easily lost when the pandemic hit.

Taking an intersectional approach and with a feminist critique of the dominant neoliberal approach to development, our members and partner organisations utilised FPAR tools to build the capacities of grassroots women in documenting their struggles. The evidence generated from the FPAR, SDGs Monitoring and Womanifesto process is being used to amplify the voices of grassroots women and their communities, as well as foster movement

building, solidarity and collective actions to pursue Development Justice — a transformative and redistributive framework that aims to reduce inequalities of wealth, power and resources between countries, between rich and poor, and between men and women.







In **Pakistan**, our Land FPAR partner is challenging patriarchal discriminatory laws and practices that prevent the enjoyment of women's human rights through organising women in the community for the first time. A significant milestone was reached when Roots for Equity was able to form a Women Action Core Group within the Pakistan Kissan Mazdoor Tehreek (PKMT), a national movement of small and landless farmers advocating for food sovereignty, in a country where the participation of women in community affairs is particularly limited. The Women Action Core Group members of PKMT demanded to have their own programmes and activities under the PKMT umbrella and have been regularly attending the PKMT district meetings to take part in decision-making.

In the **Philippines**, Kilusan ng Manggagawang Kababaihan (KMK), or the Movement of Women Workers used a Womanifesto as a tool to organise women workers in Valenzuela City in Metro Manila. Deriving from the lived experiences of women workers, their Womanifesto was consolidated into a campaign for better working conditions, just wages, security of tenure and an end to discrimination and gender-based violence in the workplace. KMK collaborated with other women's movements and larger labour rights movements to advance the agenda of their Womanifesto. Their collective advocacy led to the drafting and tabling of the Paid Pandemic Leave Bill by the Gabriela Women's Party, a political party representing women that was born out of the strong grassroots women's movement in the Philippines. Among the demands of the women workers are the enactment of the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OSHA) and the Extended Maternity Benefit Act. The House Committee on Labour and Employment approved the bill in December 2020.



In **Indonesia**, after a major success in Banda Aceh, our partner, FKM-BKA YWU successfully pushed for the implementation of Musrena (a bottom-up process of planning local government programmes and budgets that focuses on the needs of women and children) in Pidie district. This means they managed to expand the impact of their work in other districts, building from their works and lessons learnt in the previous round of FDJ subgrant. Through a series of capacity building activities organised by our FDJ partners, Pidie local governments gained more knowledge on gender responsive planning and budgeting, as well as built women's action plans. The Women Disability constituency in Aceh also secured meetings with Pidie: Development Planning Agency, Women Empowerment and Children Protection Agency, Social Service Agency, Village Empowerment Agency and one of the legislative members in Pidie. Through these advocacy activities, Pidie local government agreed to: (1) provide 'safe house' for the survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuse in Pidie through regional medium-term development plan in 2021 and (2) lobby for the implementation of women action plan forum in Pidie despite crisis situation.



In **Bangladesh**, our Labour FPAR partner Awaj Foundation succeeded in securing commitments of 'mixed' unions to have at least 80 per cent of women sit in their strategic leadership positions. Such institutional change within the union is crucial in challenging the traditional patriarchal practices in male-dominated unions and shifting the decision-making power toward women workers. The women-led unions in Bangladesh, including Awaj Foundation, submitted their union agenda as their collective demands. As a result, 13 proposals in the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) were signed between the government and the private sector, which included clauses for a 7-10 per cent yearly salary increment and the establishment of union offices. Furthermore, the women workers' demands for nursery rooms, health camp and daycare centre were also approved as well as the establishment of an internal anti-harassment committee to address, respond and prevent gender-based violence in the workplace.



## WOMEN'S GLOBAL STRIKE (WGS) CAMPAIGN





**‘WE WANT ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT MODELS THAT CENTER PEOPLE AND THE PLANET, UPHOLD HUMAN RIGHTS, FOOD SOVEREIGNTY AND CLIMATE JUSTICE. WE WANT DECENT WORK AND LIVING WAGES FOR ALL WOMEN. WE WANT UNPAID CARE WORK TO BE FAIRLY RECOGNISED, REDUCED AND REDISTRIBUTED. WE WANT GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE TO END. WE WANT CORPORATE ABUSE TO STOP. WE DEMAND JUST ACCESS TO RESOURCES, POWER AND OPPORTUNITIES. WE DEMAND THAT OUR VOICES BE HEARD, HEEDED AND PROTECTED. WE WANT SYSTEMIC CHANGE, AND WE WANT IT NOW!’**

**-WOMEN’S GLOBAL STRIKE POLITICAL STATEMENT**



The 8th March 2020 marked a milestone in the herstory of the global women’s movement as women from all over the world joined the Women’s Global Strike (WGS) to show the world that ‘if women stop, the world stops!’

The WGS campaign was officially launched on 1st May 2019 with a call for women all over the world to withdraw their labour from formal, care and/or other forms of work and organise a rally or a meeting on 8th March 2020. It was envisaged as a decentralised campaign, allowing for flexibility and adaptability to local, national and regional contexts and to recognising diverse intersectional women’s priorities, demands, capacities and resources.



198 ORGANISATIONS FROM OVER 60 COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES, ALONG WITH OVER 200 INDIVIDUALS ENDORSED AND PARTICIPATED IN THE WGS CAMPAIGN.

Notwithstanding the many restrictions on public gatherings due to the pandemic, shrinking civic space and state repression, around five million women in all their diversities participated in over 50 offline and online strike actions in Africa, Asia, Europe, Middle East, North America, South America and the Pacific. These actions highlighted the injustices women are facing and the demand for structural changes to advance women’s human rights and Development Justice.

Our messages from the strike actions were amplified with our wide communications reach and media impact all over the world. APWLD’s communications work in managing media and social media outreach for the campaign amplified the demands of various movements that were part of the campaign using various tools and

resources. We produced 12 videos, three press releases and a newsletter to increase our online presence. The campaign was covered in 56 media outlets across the globe including outlets like Al Jazeera.

THE CAMPAIGN HAD 108.3K IMPRESSIONS ON TWITTER, 27.5K REACH ON FACEBOOK AND 1,033 FOLLOWERS ON INSTAGRAM,

demonstrating the power, solidarity and determination of feminist women’s movements for a structural change.

The WGS campaign created a space for local demands to be elevated and for advocacy priorities to be put forward for public discussion in many regions of the world. For instance, the National Union of Domestic Employees (NUDE) from Trinidad and Tobago, through the campaign advocated for the implementation of recommendations issued by the CEDAW Committee regarding the recognition of domestic workers’ rights. The Fiji Women’s Rights Movement (FWRM) interwove the WGS messages into their access to justice advocacy that highlighted violence against women and girls that is prevalent in Fiji. Peasant women from the Philippines connected the strong anti-neoliberal analysis and demands of the WGS to advance their ongoing campaign to repeal the rice liberalisation law that has severely affected the local agricultural sector and further pushed peasant women into poverty. Democracy & Workers’ Rights Center (DWRC) in Palestine shared that a women’s gathering took place in Gaza, in front of Rafah’s municipality where women discussed their issues and held slogans

with their political demands, including fair working conditions and elimination of discrimination and harassment in workplaces. Participants also highlighted how the many connections and alliances enriched their movement’s agendas and an opportunity to put on the table issues not discussed before. The wide media coverages illustrate how the WGS was a vehicle to put women’s issues and voices under the spotlight and how feminist organisations and movements gained visibility and political weight.

The Women’s Global Strike is a demonstration of women’s collective power to demand transformative shifts in the current power relations in order that women and girls in all their diversity have power to make decisions over their own bodies, labour, resources and the future of their communities and the planet. The campaign has highlighted that transformational change will not come from political or economic elites but through an organised collective action of feminist and peoples’ movements.





# SUPPORTING WOMEN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS (WHRDs)

The significant roles and contribution of women human rights defenders as the frontline holders to realise women's human rights and a democratic and peaceful society has always been at the core of APWLD's feminist movement building work. In 2020, since the COVID-19 pandemic began, the region has seen increased autocratic governance, suppression of peoples'

freedom of assembly and expression, targeted attacks and crackdown on women human rights defenders, land rights activists, labour and democracy movements in particular. We continued our support to WHRDs and their organisations while putting efforts to establish more coordinated support to WHRDs and their networks in our future work.







## The Philippines

In 2019, the Human Rights Council adopted a resolution that mandates the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to develop a report on the human rights situation in the Philippines. APWLD continued to support Tanggol Bayi (Defend Women) to strengthen and amplify the collective voice of WHRDs to influence the international and national human rights monitoring processes. Some of the key efforts include supporting the submission to the UN Human Rights bodies and lobbying activities with the representatives of the member states calling for justice and accountability on the current situation against Filipino WHRDs such as killings, enforced disappearances, arrests and detention.

The persistent documentation, strategic advocacy and mobilising work of Tanggol Bayi and Karapatan, together with grassroots WHRDs in the Philippines, was successful in influencing the report of the UN High Commission on Human Rights, including the call for an independent international investigation. Yet, the challenges continue, including the subsequent resolution of Human Rights Council, which was significantly watered down to focus on 'technical cooperation' between the government of the Philippines and the UN instead of international investigation; and targeted threats and reprisals against WHRDs, including against Cristina Palabay, WHRD and APWLD member who led the engagement at the UN Human Rights Council.

APWLD co-organised a Global Day of Action for the Philippines to mobilise international solidarity support and actions to stop the killings and for the UN to commence an independent investigation of the human rights situations in the Philippines. The statement issued at the event was signed by 365 organisations and 1,063 individuals from 69 countries.



## Thailand

In solidarity with the peaceful protesters for participatory democracy in Thailand, APWLD issued a [sign-on statement](#). Many of the protests that gathered tens of thousands of people across Thailand have been led by young women leaders and women human rights defenders. The statement called on the Thai government to fulfil human rights obligations as a responsible UN member state that ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and respect the rights of all persons, including young people and children, to participation, peaceful assembly and freedom of expression, including in peaceful protest.

The sign-on statement mobilised support from 210 civil society organisations and individuals, urging the government of Thailand to immediately repeal the state of emergency, restore participatory democracy in the country, stop attacks against and criminalisation of peaceful protesters, and refrain from any use of force and violence against them. The global civil society also demanded release of all pro-democracy protesters who have been arrested during the peaceful protests, including young high school students, university students and women human rights defenders.



# THE RESILIENCE OF GRASSROOTS COMMUNITIES AND APWLD AMIDST COVID-19

APWLD as a feminist membership-driven network has been closely working with our members and partners to understand and document the experiences of women as well as to devise effective feminist responses to not only survive the consequences of COVID-19 but to envision a new social contract based on human rights principles and led by feminist and peoples' movements.

In order to understand the realities, struggles and act of organising of women in the COVID-19 crisis, APWLD conducted a survey among our members in March 2020. The survey revealed that the most marginalised groups are the hardest hit by the crisis, losing livelihoods, starvation and deeper poverty. The survey also revealed that women and girls are facing increased care and domestic work burden as well as domestic violence. With the overwhelmed public health systems in the region, APWLD members and partners had been providing vital support to local communities, including information distribution, direct relief packages and innovative solutions such as neighbourhood resource exchange systems. Further, restrictions on mobility and looming recession posed unprecedented challenges for peoples' movements across the region. This survey provided APWLD a clear guidance on possible priorities for APWLD's Feminist Response to the COVID-19 crisis.



**'FEMINIST RESPONSE TO COVID-19 SHOULD TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION OR MAP OUT THE MOST "VULNERABLE" OR MOST AFFECTED COMMUNITIES DOUBLY IMPACTED BY THE CRISIS, ON TOP OF WHAT THEY HAVE BEEN EXPERIENCING BECAUSE OF NEOLIBERALISATION, FUNDAMENTALISM AND MILITARISATION. IT SHOULD LOOK AT THE NEEDS OF WOMEN, THEIR FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES IN A COMPREHENSIVE MANNER, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME BASED ON SCIENTIFIC ANALYSES AND SOLUTIONS. THERE IS A NEED FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC WIDE ADVOCACY FOR GENERAL AND SPECIFIC DEMANDS, AND WE SHOULD IMPLEMENT THEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE - TO NOT ONLY FOSTER SOLIDARITY - BUT ALSO TO UPLIFT THE MORALE OF WOMEN REGION-WIDE WHO MAY FEEL ISOLATION AND HELPLESSNESS, DUE TO THE NARRATIVES OF GOVERNMENTS AND CORPORATIONS.'**

**- CRISTINA PALABAY, THE PHILIPPINES**



Discussions with APWLD members and partners have resulted in the formation of a COVID-19 Response Team with ten cross programme members to respond, and the following strategies and priorities on APWLD's COVID-19 response:



### AMPLIFYING GRASSROOTS VOICES THROUGH CREATIVE COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS:

As a response to the urgent need for women's stories, new ways of feminist organising and women's agency to be visible in the public domain, including mainstream and social media as well as among the general public discourse. This initiative starts with a flagship project of 'Feminist COVID-19 Story Book' using illustrations and infographics (than heavy texts) based on the documented stories of women migrants, workers, indigenous women, land rights defenders, climate activists and their communities. APWLD worked with our grassroots members and sub-grant partners to collect the stories of women and their communities.



### 'FEMINIST RAPID RESPONSE RESEARCH (FRRR)':

Participatory documentation of intersectional feminist realities of issues and resistance in the time of COVID-19: APWLD worked with six women's organisations from six countries to document women's stories, generate feminist and gender-responsive policy recommendations as well as provide rapid direct support to their communities through Feminist Rapid Response Research (FRRR). FRRR adopts the principles and key methodologies of Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR) to allow women to document their realities during the COVID-19 crisis and collectively strategise for new ways of feminist organising.



### COVID-19 POLICY MONITORING AND ANALYSIS:

We established a database on COVID-19 response policies (with Asia-Pacific focus) and will continue producing multi-country policy analysis/briefers and a regional-level policy framework paper to guide APWLD members and partners' advocacy work.



### DIGITAL TOOLS:

To adapt to the reality of working in the digital space during the pandemic, APWLD developed an extensive module on digital security and built the capacity of 430 members, partners and allies on digital security, digital advocacy and media advocacy. These skills were useful in keeping up the momentum of our work through digital engagement during the pandemic.

Our grassroots members and partners across Asia and the Pacific have demonstrated incredible determination, courage and persistence in facing the multiple crises exacerbated by the pandemic. Despite the limited capacities and the existing digital divide, we worked quickly to re-adjust the ways of our collaborative work and sustained the momentum of the movement through online and digital advocacy.

Positive Teens from **Kyrgyzstan** collected and provided personal hygiene and protection equipment and facilitated the delivery of food packages and hygiene supplies to women and children living with HIV/AIDS.

In the **Philippines**, Sabokahan Unity of Lumad Women organised meetings in the evacuation sites to educate the people about COVID-19, sewed face masks for the whole community and created committees for sanitation to ensure people were washing their hands and social distancing.

Aastha Parivaar in **India** mobilised their allies to demand relief package for the sex workers amid the pandemic. The Supreme Court of India responded by ordering the states and union territories to supply dry rations and relief kits to sex workers who were identified by the National AIDS Control Organisation, and ordered the district legal authorities to forgo the requirement to show the identity documents like ration cards for sex workers to receive relief.

The National Indigenous Women's Forum (NIWF) in **Nepal** distributed relief support to 317 indigenous persons who lost their livelihoods due to the lockdown. Further, they negotiated for the welfare of laid-off employees of establishments that had shut down. Through NIWF's efforts, two Chepang indigenous women who lost their jobs at a slipper factory received salaries for three months.

Sisterhood Network from **Nagaland** worked with other allies such as the Nagaland Alliance for Children and Women Rights (NACWR) to intervene to settle cases of domestic violence, which saw a general increase around the world during the lockdowns.





# PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

**BREAKING OUT OF MARGINALISATION  
(BOOM) PROGRAMME**

**CLIMATE JUSTICE  
(CJ) PROGRAMME**

**LABOUR PROGRAMME: WOMEN  
ORGANISING WORKERS (WOW)**

**MIGRATION PROGRAMME: UNITED  
AND ACT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (MUAH)**

**5. WOMEN INTERROGATING TRADE  
AND CORPORATE HEGEMONY  
(WITCH) PROGRAMME**

**6. WOMEN IN POWER  
(WIP) PROGRAMME**

**7. FEMINIST LAW AND PRACTICE  
(FLP) PROGRAMME**

**8. FEMINIST DEVELOPMENT  
JUSTICE (FDJ) PROGRAMME**

**9. GROUNDING THE GLOBAL  
(GG) PROGRAMME**





## BREAKING OUT OF MARGINALISATION (BOOM) PROGRAMME

Notwithstanding the unprecedented crisis posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the BOOM programme strengthened its work with rural, indigenous, migrant, urban poor women and their communities through the FPAR on women's land rights (Land FPAR) and the FPAR in Central Asia (Central Asia FPAR). Our partners remained persistent in continuing their work to challenge the systemic structures of inequality, and exposed how the pandemic—and the socioeconomic crisis that it brought about— is yet another manifestation and consequence of the nexus of globalisation, fundamentalisms, militarism and patriarchy that adversely affect RIMUP women's lives.



# CAPACITY BUILDING

All of our FPAR partners have unanimously agreed that their FPAR activities have greatly contributed to developing awareness, skills, confidence and leadership of women in their communities. We are inspired by the stories of several partners, describing how women ‘improved their self-esteem’ or ‘gained confidence’ through participation in the FPAR activities.

**‘WOMEN ARE NOW FULLY INDEPENDENT IN ORGANISING THEIR OWN EVENTS, MOBILISING FROM HOUSE-TO-HOUSE IN THEIR RESPECTIVE VILLAGES INVITING WOMEN TO JOIN IN THEIR PROGRAMME, TAKING CARE OF LOGISTIC DETAILS, PREPARING THE AGENDA, AND DEVELOPING THEIR OWN INTERVENTIONS.’**

**- ROOTS FOR EQUITY, PAKISTAN**

**‘WOMEN LEADERS ‘ARE NOW MORE CONFIDENT WITH INFORMATION AND KNOW-HOW. IN SOME CASES, THEY FACILITATE THE COURTYARD SESSIONS WITH THEIR EXPERIENCES AND EVIDENCE... MALE MEMBERS IN THE COMMUNITY ARE ALREADY POINTING TO THEM AS FUTURE LEADERS.’**

**- BADABON SANGHO, BANGLADESH**

Positive Teens, our partner organisation in **Kyrgyzstan**, shared how women living with HIV/ AIDS became more aware and empowered to address the issue of stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS in rural areas.



In **Tajikistan**, where partner organisation LIGA is attempting to address entrenched attitude to early marriage, the women leaders became the source of knowledge and empowerment for local women to unite and take action against early marriage and violence against women.

Through FPAR, many women in their communities have been transformed and recognised as fully-formed leaders, organisers and campaigners.

Similarly in **Kyrgyzstan**, our partner JIPAR shared that women are not ‘shy to speak’ or ‘find reasons to refuse’ meetings with deputies or politicians anymore. Based on their FPAR work and findings, women leaders initiated and actively engaged in a meeting with the Ombudsman of Kyrgyzstan to present their situations and recommendations. This political dialogue is generating a positive commitment on the provision of land to women from the State Land Redistribution Reserve Fund (SLRRF) on equal terms with men.



## PRODUCTION OF NEW KNOWLEDGE TOOLS AND RESOURCES

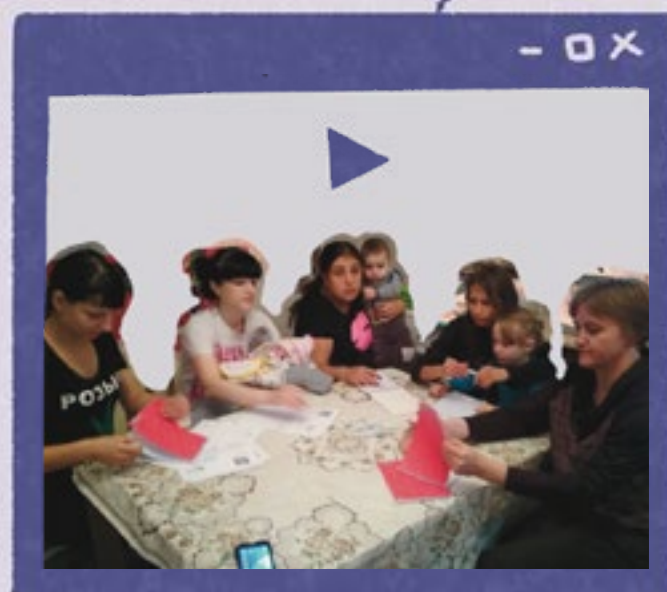
Based on the documentation, data and findings from the FPAR processes, our FPAR partners have produced new knowledge tools and resources to support their strategic advocacy and mobilising initiatives.

In **Pakistan**, Roots for Equity developed a position paper on the situation of landless women, produced a resource book as well as a digital diary on 'Lives and Livelihoods of Landless Women', which included case studies of lives of women agricultural workers in various districts of Sindh. The young women produced a video documentary titled 'Women's Voices for Change' projecting the need for and achievements gained from organising and mobilising women in PKMT. The video documentary, also translated into Urdu, was screened at the PKMT annual conference to help recognise the leadership and contribution of young women in the movement.

In **Kazakhstan**, Moy Dom produced video messages of young mothers addressed to the public on the inadequacy of maternity leave payments to provide a decent living for their children, booklets on women's rights, and diaries of income and expenditure by young mothers in the community. The diary was used as evidence during the political debates raising the issue of current inadequate subsidies for young families.

In **Nepal**, NIWF produced a video documentary on FPAR and a position paper depicting the stories of the indigenous Majhi women's struggles in defending their ancestral land from the planned mega hydropower plant. Using these advocacy tools, the women's groups were able to obtain commitment from female parliamentarians to bring up the issue in the parliament house.

WOMEN'S VOICES  
FOR CHANGE

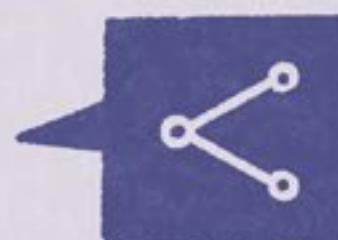


In **Tajikistan**, LIGA developed booklets on harmful early marriages which often result in violence against women, as well as media products for broadcasting on radio and publication in the local newspaper. They also created a CD compiling cases of six women who married between the ages of 15 and 17, and distributed it across the country's districts as a part of their advocacy campaign to end child marriage.



In **Kyrgyzstan**, JIPAR's media advocacy led to the publishing of three newspaper articles on the struggle of women for land rights in national and regional newspapers. Central Asia FPAR partners Women Support Centre (WSC) and Nurzholber also developed booklets on the impact of migration on women's health and the returnee migrant-mothers' rights to a decent child allowance.

In **Cambodia**, CVS developed a case study and posters on the social, economic and environmental impact of hydropower, which were translated into Khmer and submitted to the Ministry of Mines and Energy.





# ADVOCACY AGAINST LAND AND RESOURCE GRABBING

## Advocacy at the local and national levels

The Land FPAR culminated in its advocacy phase in 2020, and partners have achieved some significant wins to realise women's right to land and women's leadership generating meaningful changes in awareness, attitudes and practices within their communities.

In **Kyrgyzstan**, JIPAR's advocacy led to the Ombudsman of Kyrgyzstan to include the recommendations from the landless women in its 2021 report, 'On the human rights and freedoms in the Kyrgyz Republic'. The report specifically talks about the recommendation for women to be provided land from the State Land Redistribution Reserve Fund (SLRRF) on equal terms with men and through open consideration. Prior to this, JIPAR had facilitated public hearings on land rights at the community level as well as meetings with deputies, social workers and representatives of the land commission, in which women spoke about their right to land from the SLRRF. Journalists who covered these activities published three articles on the struggle of women for land rights in the national newspaper 'Kyrgyz Tuusu' and regional newspapers 'AgroNews' and 'Chui News', generating public information on the situation of women's land rights.

In the **Philippines**, the Lumad women's FPAR work led to influencing a member of the parliament (Congresswoman Eufemia Cullamat) to propose a bill to declare Pantaron Range a national park and for Pulangi River to become a protected watershed. The bill contained languages directly drawn from Sabokhan's campaign language and FPAR research.



In **Bangladesh**, Badabon Sangho's work led to wider awareness at the local level on women's land rights. There are documented changes in the attitude and behaviour of land officials, particularly in recognising succession certificates in the registration of inherited lands, more responsive to women's ownership and the accuracy of registration.

In **Cambodia**, the Cambodian Volunteers for Society (CVS) received a positive response from a representative of the Ministry of Mines and Energy upon sharing their advocacy materials, who encouraged the organisation to continue its work for indigenous rights and livelihoods.

**"WE WILL EMBRACE OUR VICTORY BUT [WILL] CONTINUE TO PUSH BACK FOR OUR RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND GENUINE LAND JUSTICE AND PROTECTION, WHICH IS TO LEAVE THE LAND IN THE HANDS OF ITS PEOPLE."**

**- SABOKHAN'S STATEMENT**

## Advocacy at the regional and international levels

In 2020, the BOOM programme opened a promising opportunity for the advocacy of women's human rights and Development Justice, through APWLD's participation in the Technical Task Team (TTT) on the formulation of the Terms of Reference (TORs) for the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition. We have participated in several meetings with the Women's Constituency, the Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) Secretariat, and the TTT together with the Committee on World Food Security(CFS) Secretariat and the Co-Chairs of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG); as well as provided our inputs to the TORs on the recognition of women's access to and control over land and resources as women's human rights and inclusion of agroecological practices of women, which shall be endorsed to the CFS Plenary in February 2021.



## MOVEMENT BUILDING

Grassroots women activists organising work through FPAR has led to a powerful formation of new women's groups/networks.

In **Bangladesh**, our Land FPAR partner Badabon Sangho facilitated the formation of a women fisherfolk association among communities at the belt of the Bay of Bengal with a membership of 44; and a women's land rights network comprising 14 women's rights organisations. The organised women leaders successfully halted a land-grab attempt by a private company on one of their members' land.

In **Kyrgyzstan**, JIPAR led the creation of a local women's network strengthening solidarity among the women. For instance, the women would work in the fields in place of another who was unable to work, and helped counteract existing negative gender stereotypes against divorced, widowed, migrant and former refugee women. The network was also able to meet with candidates from local parties during the country's parliamentary elections to influence their positions on women's right to land.

The FPAR in **Cambodia** helped organise a group of 14 young women from two communes. These young women activists actively engaged in raising awareness on the potential impacts of the hydropower project on women, regularly attended meetings with the community council and campaigned for alternative energy solutions. Similarly, the National Indigenous Women's Forum (NIWF) in Nepal formed two women's groups in Kunuari and Bhatauli villages in Ramechaap, which convene regular monthly meetings to discuss their agenda.



The Central Asia FPAR has laid the foundation for movement-building and solidarity across the sub-region. In **Kazakhstan**, Moy Dom formed a group of over-20 young women activists advocating for adequate government support and subsidy from local authorities. Other partners have also formed groups comprising diverse constituencies of women migrants, women living with HIV/AIDS (Kyrgyzstan); unemployed, rural, urban poor women and survivors/victims of harmful early marriage (Uzbekistan and Tajikistan).

In the **Philippines**, through utilising FPAR tools, Sabokahan strengthened their communities through educating and empowering them, and connected with other networks who are also experiencing landlessness, displacement, denial of social services, economic exploitation, policing and state violence. Since the launch of the Save Pantaron campaign in 2019, has forged alliances with “more than” 50 women's rights groups, indigenous and environmental justice networks, education and children's rights groups, human rights organisations, university departments, media and international academics. During the time, Sabokahan was also awarded a Gawad Bayani ng Kalikasan (Award for Environmental Warrior) by the Center for Environmental Concerns in the Philippines in September 2020 for their work in defending Pantaron Range and Pulangi River.



# CLIMATE JUSTICE (CJ) PROGRAMME

The COVID-19 pandemic negatively affected the FPAR partners' work to evaluate and influence country-specific climate change actions critically. Partners had difficulty accessing their communities for several months due to movement restrictions, natural disasters including super cyclones as well as the threat from a timber company against grassroots women because of their FPAR documentation work. Despite these multiple crises, our FPAR partners and their communities were determined to continue their FPAR and activism, and we are proud to share their journey in pursuit of feminist climate justice.





## CAPACITY BUILDING

The programme supported grassroots women organisations to develop feminist climate solutions through Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR). The FPAR journey has increased women's and their communities' collective understanding on climate change, climate justice, women's human rights and Development Justice. Through the process, women's extensive traditional knowledge to adapt to climate change was recognised and celebrated. CJ FPAR partners worked together with 1,000 grassroots women across nine countries to increase women's knowledge, ownership and leadership in shaping feminist climate justice agenda and solutions.

**"THE WOMEN CAME TO UNDERSTAND WHAT CLIMATE CHANGE / CLIMATE JUSTICE IS, AND HOW IT IMPACTS THEIR LIVES AND HOW IT CONNECTS TO THEIR LIVES. THEY WERE OBSERVING IMPACTS ON AGRICULTURE AND LIVELIHOODS."**

**NEADS, INDIA**

**"BY ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING IN CJ-FPAR ACTIVITIES SUCH AS MEETINGS, TRAINING AND WORKSHOPS, WOMEN ARE EQUIPPED WITH NECESSARY SKILLS AND A LARGE AMOUNT OF KNOWLEDGE ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND CLIMATE JUSTICE, THUS, THEY BECOME MORE CONFIDENT. A NOTEWORTHY OBSERVATION OF THEIR CONFIDENCE IS THAT THEY ARE NOW READY TO PRESENT IN PUBLIC AND SHARE WHAT THEY HAVE LEARNT AND EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS CONFIDENTLY IN MEETINGS."**

**ADC, VIETNAM.**

**"THE DISCUSSION DURING THE FPAR PROCESS MADE MANY WOMEN REALISE THAT RESISTANCE IS THE ONLY WAY TO SURVIVE... THE WOMEN REALISE THAT THEY NEED TO TAKE A PROACTIVE APPROACH IN NEGOTIATING SUPPORT SERVICES AND ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES."**

**MALEYA FOUNDATION, BANGLADESH**

## PRODUCTION OF NEW KNOWLEDGE TOOLS AND RESOURCES

Documenting women's stories, experiences and struggles for climate justice through FPAR has inspired diverse groups advocating for economic and environmental justice. Our collective stories and analysis were published by strategic allies including ESCR-Net, Cimpatco Studios (USA), Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung, Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and Oxfam GB and Routledge, shaping the discourse of feminist climate justice activism globally, including in the region.



# ADVOCACY FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE LED BY GRASSROOTS WOMEN’S MOVEMENTS

Using their FPAR findings, our FPAR partners actively participated and voiced their positions at multiple advocacy spaces. They were able to influence national budgets and policies aligned to feminist climate demands, forming cooperatives and women leading in community adaptation and resilience initiatives. Women’s knowledge on climate justice and leadership is recognised, changing the gendered power relation in public space and decision making processes.

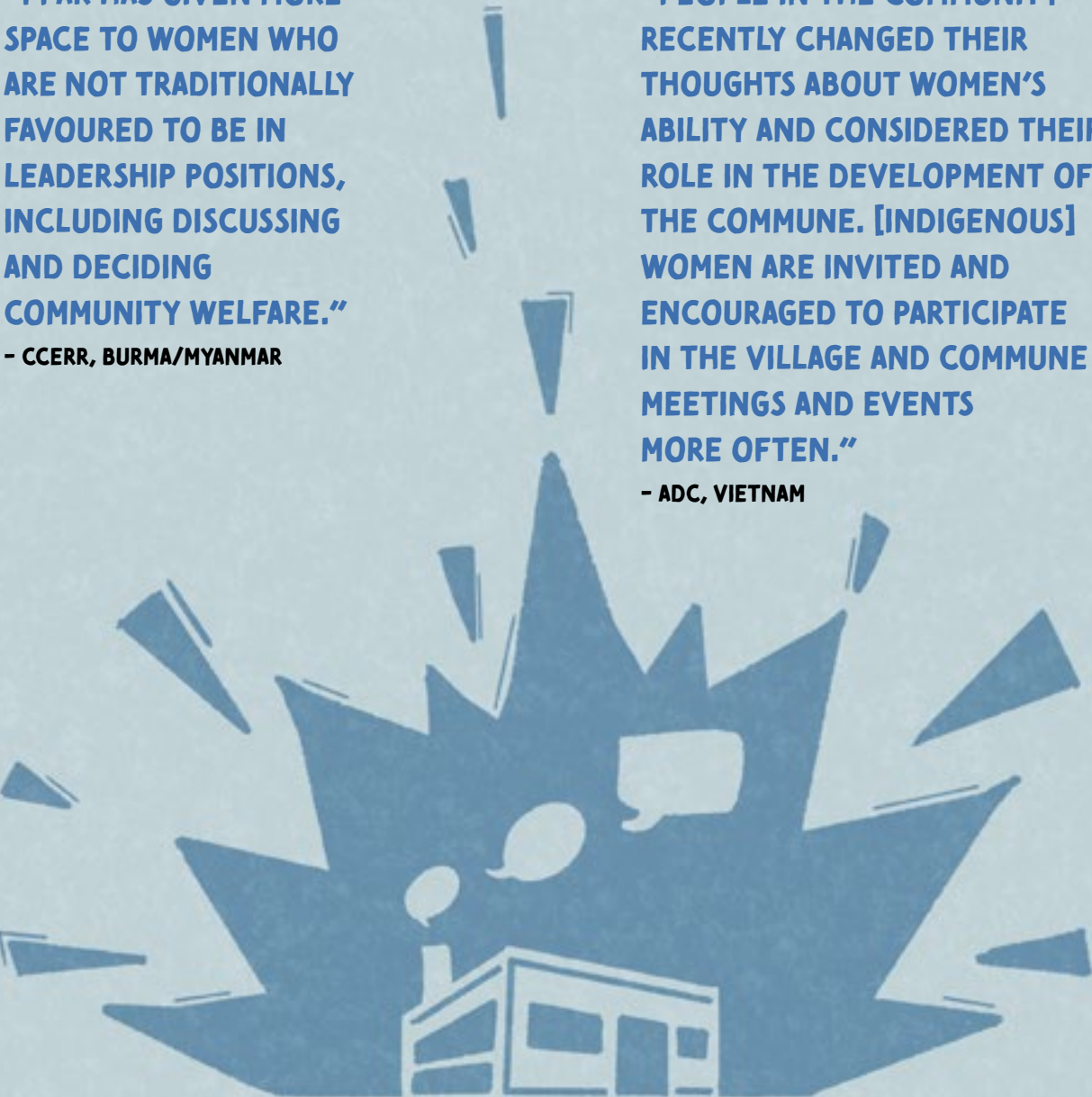
For instance, there is growing evidence of male leaders in Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Pakistan and Vietnam actively encouraging women’s participation in local-level decision-making spaces, as well as listening to and supporting their demands.

“FPAR HAS GIVEN MORE SPACE TO WOMEN WHO ARE NOT TRADITIONALLY FAVOURED TO BE IN LEADERSHIP POSITIONS, INCLUDING DISCUSSING AND DECIDING COMMUNITY WELFARE.”

- CCERR, BURMA/MYANMAR

“PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY RECENTLY CHANGED THEIR THOUGHTS ABOUT WOMEN’S ABILITY AND CONSIDERED THEIR ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMMUNE. [INDIGENOUS] WOMEN ARE INVITED AND ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE VILLAGE AND COMMUNE MEETINGS AND EVENTS MORE OFTEN.”

- ADC, VIETNAM



In most of the participating countries, women are actively involved in climate-related policy development such as agricultural adaptation and disaster management. They were able to secure meetings to dialogue with local and national level government authorities and policy makers, including Members of Parliaments with their feminist climate justice agenda.



In **India**, the CJ-FPAR led to Assamese women’s active participation in local government welfare processes such as seed distribution, monetary support for the girl child and to amplify their voices in village development plans. Their advocacy efforts resulted in the establishment of a yarn bank and weaving collectives for women to increase their income with government’s support. Women are now invited to public Panchayat hearings to give their inputs on climate policies.

In **Cambodia**, Punong women successfully lobbied the government to build roads, reopen a health centre and school, pay teachers, and secure clean water supply to the climate-affected community.

In **Pakistan**, government officials committed to holding local industries accountable to act more responsibly to reduce emissions and curb pollution.



In **Nepal**, women successfully advocated for local governments to set up Natural Resources Management Committees to make action plans for local climate change issues. Those Committees are composed of 45 per cent women members. Women’s advocacy also successfully secured local government’s budget allocations for environmental projects.

In **Burma/Myanmar**, Hakha Tha Nu Bu women used media and theatre to promote their plight, resulting in local and State authorities being inclusive of their needs in national climate policies. The State provided women a piece of land to build an office to continue their work.



## MOVEMENT BUILDING

Through the CJ-FPAR, diverse 50 new women's groups and networks for climate justice were formed, including a forest user women's group, a women-led natural resource committee, women's weaving groups, local women's action groups for climate change adaptation and advocacy, and regional feminist advocacy networks. The women's groups engage in grassroots feminist climate justice activism, and provide solidarity, a platform for advocacy and a safe environment to learn and share. Local women's groups are now connecting with other movements to build support, solidarity and collective actions for climate justice and women's human rights.

In **Cambodia**, Highlanders Association (HA) formed a women's group with Punong women affected by climate-induced displacement, three collective farms and two indigenous women's networks. The women's group, with their FPAR findings, supported indigenous women in other villages to resist future planned dam developments and demand participation in decision-making spaces.

In **Burma/Myanmar**, the Community Care for Emergency Response and Rehabilitation (CCERR) established a network of Hakha Tha Nu Bu women with more than 400 members, with seven active leaders and 17 other women involved in communication and mobilisation.

In **Pakistan**, five women's groups (one for each village involved in the FPAR) comprising 13-15 women aged 18-60 have been formed as a result of the FPAR who actively engage in climate justice advocacy work. A district feminist forum has also been formed as a collective organising platform to directly engage with the government and hold polluting industries accountable.

Our partner in **Nepal**, formed six new women's groups with women from indigenous, Dalit and marginalised communities, increasing the organisation's overall network to 21 women's groups working together in the CJ-FPAR.

In **India**, the FPAR led by the North East Affected Area Development Society (NEADS) led to the formation of 12 weaving groups in the community; and, a Women's Federation at state level with 13 district level groups to discuss women's human rights and needs.



# LABOUR PROGRAMME: WOMEN ORGANISING WORKERS (WOW)

The COVID-19 crisis significantly affected grassroots women workers in the region, most of whom are employed in the informal sector. The programme partners also experienced union busting and arrest of women union leaders and women human rights defenders due to their work demanding decent work and union organising.

Despite the challenges, our Labour FPAR partners continued their activism in building women's leadership in the union, organising women workers for their human rights and collective actions.

Our FPAR partner in Cambodia, IDEA, organised a series of training workshops for women street vendors at Phsar Deomkor market in Phnom Penh. The women street vendors increased their capacity to understand and advocate for universal social protection, including claiming their access to the health equity cards.

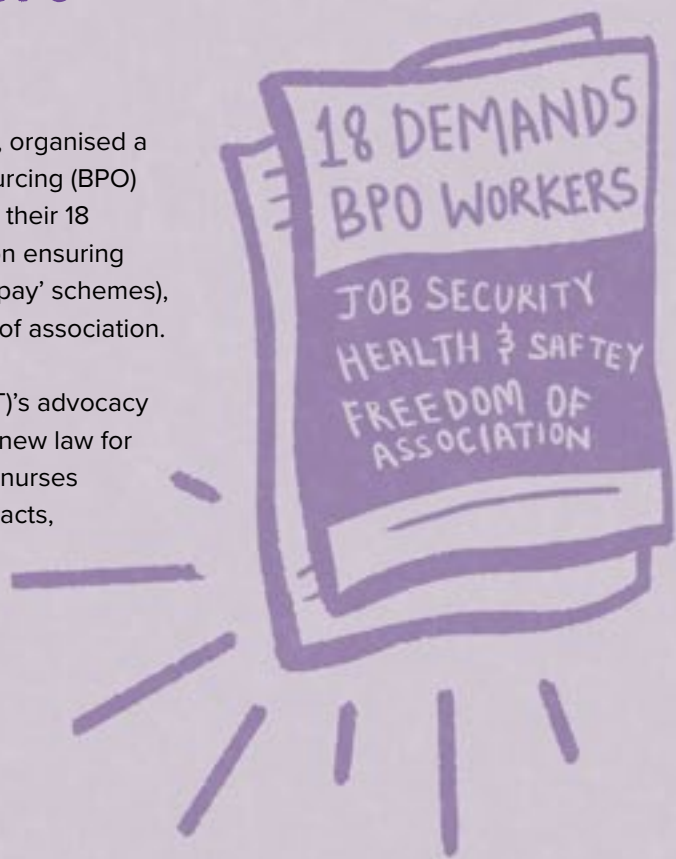




# ADVOCACY FOR WOMEN'S LABOUR RIGHTS

Our Labour FPAR partner in the Philippines, BIEN, organised a social dialogue with the Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) companies and government agencies, to present their 18 demands in the context of COVID-19, especially on ensuring workers' job security (e.g. objecting 'no work, no pay' schemes), health and safety and workers' rights to freedom of association.

In **Thailand**, the Nurse Union of Thailand (NUOT)'s advocacy work achieved stronger legal protection through new law for health workers, including wage increase, shifting nurses from contractual to permanent employment contracts, compensation in case of injuries, sickness, disabilities and death related to work.



In **Cambodia**, most street vendors who migrated from rural areas do not have a national identity card/registration. Consequently, they are viewed as ineligible to access the government services such as formal loans from the bank or access to free healthcare and medical treatment for work-related accidents. IDEA's FPAR advocacy work contributed to raising these issues with respective government authorities, and they continue to advocate for free health cards for women street vendors.

## Decent Work campaign for women workers during COVID-19

The COVID-19 crisis has increased the precariousness of women workers in both formal and informal sectors. In many cases, during the crises, employment contracts were terminated without any compensation/severance pay, significantly increasing the rate of unemployment in general but more sharply for women who are first to lose their job in time of crisis. For instance, in the Solomon Islands, 55 per cent of companies laid off or planned to lay off workers, with 34 per cent of them dismissing more than 40 per cent of their workforce.

The Labour programme, together with Migration and Feminist Development Justice programmes, co-organised a webinar, 'Ensuring Decent Work for All Women Workers During COVID-19' on International Decent Work's Day. The webinar provided a space for Labour FPAR partners to share the stories of women workers and their struggles, and generated solidarity support to recognise 'decent work and a living wage' as a feminist agenda.

# MOVEMENT BUILDING

Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, there was growing evidence of governments using the pandemic as an excuse to regressively amend their labour law to attract more Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs) over peoples' well being and human rights; and repress union organising/actions. At the national level, workers organised to fight back against union attacks and legislative reforms that would cut back workers' protection.

In **Indonesia**, the Omnibus Law on Job Creation No.11/2020 was passed, seriously undermining workers' rights and environmental regulation. APWLD supported Indonesia's feminist and labour movement through releasing a solidarity statement urging the Indonesian government to repeal the Omnibus Law and stop the violence against the protesters. Our members supported the unions in filing a collective action to the Constitutional Court to repeal the Omnibus Law. The judiciary process at the Constitutional Court is still ongoing.

In **Cambodia**, our FPAR partner IDEA's advocacy efforts created public pressure for the government to stop evicting the women street vendors. As a response to the COVID-19 crisis, IDEA's advocacy point was added for the government to provide social protection to women street vendors, including the health equity cards. They also conducted strategic media advocacy to amplify the voice and demands of the women street vendors. Their consistent advocacy efforts contributed to

ensuring almost 10,000 vendors in Phsar Deomkor market maintaining their jobs now without a relocation/eviction. The campaign success resulted in an increased number of street vendors joining the unions. IDEA's work with women street vendors inspired other civil society organisations working on decent work and social protection, and mobilised solidarity support at several regional labour rights platforms.





# MIGRATION PROGRAMME: UNITED AND ACT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (MUAH)

The existing inequalities and challenges of the migrant women were further intensified by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. The policy discrimination toward women migrant workers became more apparent during the pandemic, as most migrant workers were excluded from the legal protection and social security schemes, as well as from receiving the benefits of national contingency plans.



Our FPAR partners were quick to respond to the changing situation due to the COVID-19 crisis, and worked at the forefront to attend to the needs of the community by identifying problems, collecting data and evidence, providing aid and substantive assistance.



With the ongoing lockdown and travel restrictions, most of the FPAR partners readjusted their plans for data collection and training from in-person to online medium. More regular calls with FPAR partners were organised to discuss challenges and ideas to overcome the challenges of working through digital media. The programme coordinated and assisted two FPAR partners to collect nine stories illustrating the challenges of migrant women at different points of their migration journey during the COVID-19 pandemic. This evidence-based documentation on the effect of the pandemic on grassroots migrant women helped APWLD to understand the complexity of the situation women migrants experience, and the deep structural injustice that reinforces forced migration and deepening inequalities.

Some of the partners were able to organise small group meetings with their community members, while some partners found it difficult to maintain contact with their research communities due to the limitation of internet access.



## CAPACITY BUILDING

Despite the difficulties induced by the pandemic, APWLD organised two regional FPAR trainings, building the capacity of our seven Migration FPAR partners from six countries for feminist structural analysis on the root causes of women's oppressions, migrant women's rights, feminism and Development Justice. The training provided the capacity for FPAR partners to work with their migrant communities to collect and document their stories for immediate policy advocacy as the migrants and their communities go through the severe consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**"MY KNOWLEDGE IS ELEVATED THROUGH THE TRAINING. I LEARNT THAT WHEN WE HANDLE CASES, WE SHOULD ALSO RAISE THE AWARENESS OF THE PEOPLE, CREATE JOINT-ORGANISATIONS CAMPAIGNS AND MOBILISE TO CAMPAIGN FOR MIGRANTS RIGHTS AND POLICY CHANGES. I ALSO LEARNT HOW TO SHARE THE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT MIGRANTS RIGHTS, AND MOBILISE THE COMMUNITY TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS BY THEMSELVES; IT IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT WHILE DOCUMENT CONFISCATION BY THE INDONESIAN EMPLOYMENT AGENCY IS STILL A COMMON PRACTICE."**

**PONIYATI, KABAR BUMI,  
CENTRAL JAVA, INDONESIA**



Our members and partners also demonstrated their capacity to organise their communities through collective actions, such as joining the Women's Global Strike campaign through their participation in creative activities at the local and national levels.





# ADVOCACY FOR MIGRANT RIGHTS

It was critically important to create strategic advocacy opportunities to amplify the experience and voices of migrant women in the context of COVID-19. As a part of these efforts, APWLD supported our members and partners to directly engage with the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women and raise the increasing cases of sexual and gender based violence against women migrant domestic workers. Our collaborative advocacy informed the UN Women regional office in Asia and the Pacific to prioritise the issues of migrant women’s access to economic stimulus packages, welfare and health services in its policy response.

At the national level, our migration FPAR partner, Aastha Parivaar in **India** was connected with the All India Network of Sex Workers through their FPAR work documenting the struggles and resistance of migrant sex workers. During the pandemic, sex workers in India lost their income and did not receive any support from the government. Aastha Parivaar and their allies mobilised to advocate and demand relief packages for sex workers amid the pandemic. They were able to generate the Supreme Court’s order to the states and union territories to supply dry rations and relief kits to sex workers, and ordered the district legal authorities to forgo the requirement to show the identity documents like ration cards for sex workers to receive relief.



## Decent Work campaign to support migrant women workers

In order to gather public support and attention to the rights of migrants, APWLD launched an online [petition](#), ‘Uphold Migrant Domestic Workers Rights During COVID-19 crisis’ on the International Domestic Workers Day.

**“LEARNING FROM THE EXPERIENCE OF MIGRANT DOMESTIC WORKER’S PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENT IN HONG KONG, THERE IS REALLY NO OTHER WAY BUT TO ORGANISE AND FIGHT BACK. OUR HISTORY TEACHES US THAT WE CAN EFFECTIVELY DEFEND OUR RIGHTS AND ACHIEVE MORE VICTORIES FROM OUR CAMPAIGNS WHEN WE ARE TIRELESSLY ORGANISING AND MOBILISING OUR RANKS.”**

**DOLORES BALLADARES-PELAEZ, ASIA PACIFIC MISSION FOR MIGRANTS**

## Access to Justice campaign and solidarity for Mary Jane Veloso

Migrant women’s access to justice has been identified as a critical issue that requires feminist movement’s understanding and response. APWLD, together with our members, has been advocating for the release of Mary Jane Veloso, a persecuted domestic worker from the Philippines in Indonesia for drug trafficking charges. On International Migrants Day, a web event was organised demanding justice for Mary Jane Veloso as well as lending solidarity support to Mary Jane and her family members. We also published an open letter to create public pressure on the governments of the Philippines and Indonesia to facilitate a fair legal procedure for Mary Jane and release her from imprisonment.

**“THE PHILIPPINES SUPREME COURT HAS ALREADY DECLARED MARY JANE A VICTIM OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING. EVERY DAY SHE CONTINUES TO BE IMPRISONED ON DEATH ROW, DENIED JUSTICE AND PROTECTION THAT VICTIMS OF EXPLOitation RIGHTFULLY DESERVE. THE WORLD HAS NOT FORGOTTEN MARY JANE AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO FIGHT FOR HER FREEDOM.”**  
**JOANNA CONCEPCION, MIGRANTE INTERNATIONAL**

APWLD’s Access to Justice campaign has been impactful in increasing public attention and awareness on the barriers and challenges faced by migrants in accessing justice as well as the systemic violation of their human rights.





# WOMEN INTERROGATING TRADE AND CORPORATE HEGEMONY (WITCH) PROGRAMME

The year 2020 witnessed further shrinking of democratic space in multilateral trade agreement negotiations. Despite the glaring evidence of how neoliberal policies have negatively impacted the rights, security and wellbeing of the peoples and communities in Asia and the Pacific region, especially in the COVID-19 context, 15 countries in Asia and the Pacific signed the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). The COVID-19 pandemic has shown the precariousness of global-value chain and multilateral trade systems as a whole. The current crisis further illustrates the importance of the call that the feminist's movement has been demanding – a feminist trade justice agenda that will remedy inequalities, ensure gender-responsive public services and infrastructure, promote and protect women's human rights.

Since 2019, APWLD has been working with four partner organisations from the Philippines, Pakistan and South Korea on Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR) on trade justice. Our participants have been working with their communities to document and analyse the impact of trade and investment regimes on women's human rights, as well as co-create community-owned solutions and demand for economic justice, and alternative trade models and systems.

While the critical importance of the partners' work has been even more visible given the interconnected crisis COVID-19 revealed, our partners had to defer some of their FPAR work because of the travel restrictions and the concerns about the high level of transmission and infection in their communities. Furthermore, in the Philippines and Pakistan, COVID response policies had been militarised with high levels of surveillance and stringent restrictions on community gatherings.





# CAPACITY BUILDING

In response to the challenges COVID-19 brought in our organising work, the programme prioritised strengthening the capacity of members and partners on trade, economic policy and women’s human rights through diverse online meetings and knowledge tools:

**Webinar on ‘Trading away women’s rights: How free trade has undermined women’s human rights both before and during this time of pandemic’, co-organised with Gender and Trade Coalition’s (GTC).**

The webinar explored various commitments under the BPfA that relate to trade and women’s rights and how they had been undermined by the current free trade paradigm, drawing on specific trade deals, contexts and regions as examples. The webinar highlighted how women’s rights organisations and feminist networks have been resisting and challenging harmful trade and investment deal; and indicated the priority of co-shaping a feminist trade justice agenda.



**Webinar on ‘What should feminists know about WTO amidst COVID-19?’**, exposing the WTO’s trade rules generated conditions that allowed for extreme levels of inequalities, and the current incapability of the governments to adequately respond to the pandemic.

Our FPAR partner in the **Philippines**, Gabriella Youth, works with the people of Tondo in Manila to demand adequate housing in the face of mass demolishment of their community and displacement. COVID response policies in the Philippines have been militarised with high levels of surveillance, and communities are left with the hard struggle to protect their daily survival. Our young woman researcher and mentor had to carefully consider their continuing FPAR work with the community women. The young woman researcher decided to stay with the community, who warmly welcomed her. Sometimes, when women are too tied up with household chores to join community meetings/conversations, the young woman researcher shares some of the housework before the meetings.

**“EVEN IN THE FACE OF THE PANDEMIC, THE AIM TO ENGAGE ADVOCACY SPACES IS NOT COMPROMISED. WHILE LOBBYING, PICKET DIALOGUES AND OTHER FORMS OF MOBILISATIONS WERE RESTRICTED DUE TO THE STRICT COMMUNITY QUARANTINE PROTOCOLS, THE LOCAL WOMEN LEADERS STILL ACTIVELY LOOKED FOR OPPORTUNITIES FOR POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT, ONE OF THEM BEING AN INFORMAL DISCUSSION WITH THE BARANGAY CHAIRWOMAN.”**

**-Vian Bautista, a young woman researcher from the Philippines**

In **Pakistan**, our partner Pakistan Kissan Mazdoor Tehreek (PKMT) has been closely monitoring the extensive commercialisation of the milk industry, particularly in the Punjab province and its impact on women as livestock caregivers, especially for milk collection. The mentor and young woman researcher have utilised and shared their knowledge and tools with the women in the community to understand the current and future threats of trade liberalisation to women and their livelihoods. In the face of hardships and potential loss of livelihood due to the implementation of pure food laws in the country, milk sellers are exploring ways to join or create a union.



The Women Studies and Resource Centre, our FPAR partner in the **Philippines** has been organising with women workers in Mindanao to hold corporations accountable to international labour and human rights norms and standards. Using the body clock exercise learnt in the second WITCH FPAR training, women union workers of SUMIFRU shared their experiences of working from 12 to 20 hours a day with little time left for families while never having been recognised as regular workers. Coronavirus has added other layers of hardship on these women, including the increase in care work, cost of living, stress and government’s repression.



As a part of the RCEP campaign in 2020, a [#NoRCEP](#) video was produced to explain RCEP and its impacts on women’s human rights. The video has been widely viewed and utilised as a public educational material by our members and partners.

**“BEHIND THE ALL-SMILEY FACES IS THE STRONG DETERMINATION TO FIGHT AGAINST UNFAIR LABOUR PRACTICES AND CONTRACTUALISATION. THEY CONTINUE TO STAND AND FIGHT NOT ONLY FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILIES BUT FOR ALL THE WORKERS.”**

**Wilmelyn d. Gambong, a young women researcher, the Philippines**



# ADVOCACY FOR TRADE JUSTICE

## Campaign against RCEP

APWLD in collaboration with No-RCEP civil society and trade union network continued our campaign against RCEP by co-organising a virtual press conference before the RCEP Ministerial Meeting on 18th June. We continued to issue press releases as strategic media advocacy to influence the public discourse and mobilise campaign actions to prevent the signing of the RCEP. Our media advocacy led to news coverage in 26 media outlets across the region and globe.

We also engaged members of parliaments, academia, representatives from cooperatives and civil society to listen to the diverse views and concerns over this mega trade deal, through organising a webinar, ‘RCEP and the Future of Developing Countries Amidst the Pandemic’.

Both events attracted thousands of participants and viewers, and invited critical sharing of peoples’ concerns, including its impacts on the poor and marginalised people, especially women during the pandemic.

The signing of the RCEP on 15th November 2020 signals the priority for economic profit over peoples by governments, escalating the need for collective and organised peoples’ resistance against the new generation of trade agreements and continuing our fight for feminist trade justice in the region and globally.



## Engagement with UNCTAD

In 2020, APWLD worked with allies and partners to develop a civil society strategy of engagement at the UNCTAD 15 conference in 2021. This conference bears critical importance as it will review the mandate of UNCTAD, and determine the body’s direction for the next four years. UNCTAD is the only multilateral agency that is critical of the current corporate-led development and trade model, and it is important for civil society to defend its original mandate and safeguard this space from neoliberal policies. We contributed to a consultation workshop with UNCTAD on Gender and Development Forum that will run in parallel with the UNCTAD conference in 2021.

# MOVEMENT BUILDING

## WITCH FPAR partners organising on the ground

Our FPAR partner in Pakistan Kissan Mazdoor Tehreek (PKMT)’s work with women in village Raees Baksh Lashari, district Tando Muhammad Khan, Sindh have made the rural women realise how they are disproportionately impacted by the interacting forces of neoliberal policies, feudal and patriarchal power structures and increasing environmental degradation, all of which contribute to gender-based violence, systemic discrimination, lack of control over productive resources and loss of livelihood. As a result, the rural women in these villages decided to start a collective process of forming an association to protect their rights against the corporate rule and interests.



Sisters Garden, our FPAR partner in South Korea, is organising women peasants in the Uiseong community to fight against different layers of oppression from a heavy patriarchal rural social structure. Although Sisters Garden started in 2009 as a food sovereignty group of the Korea Women Farmers’ Association (KWFA), the eco-friendly products from its members have faced several challenges to compete with an increasing number of cheap imported agricultural products. Through the FPAR process, the community members themselves have strengthened the interaction, trust, reciprocity and solidarity so that the members are motivated and active. The community is developing a knowledge hub on ecological farming as an alternative to the current conventional agricultural system. The activities include development of a system for exchanging labour coupons, collective production and exchanging of indigenous beans, and visiting the women peasants’ farm to learn to preserve indigenous seeds. The women began to organise themselves to pursue their common goals together.



# WOMEN IN POWER (WIP) PROGRAMME

The COVID-19 Pandemic has brought about an unprecedented change in every aspect of our lives, not the least in the political sphere. The immediate change has been suspension of multiple democratic principles and political rights as countries resorted to exceptional governance ostensibly to combat medical emergencies. However, these constitutional and legal exceptions continue to define a chilling new political normal where under garb of combatting the pandemic dissent is stifled, media is controlled, and extraordinary measures-- that extend far into the future--are enacted. Monitoring of government measures across 162 countries in research shows civil liberties are the worst affected across the world.

In the face of the rising authoritarianism and state repression, we have seen mass mobilisations in the region persist for months, from Shaheen Bagh in India to streets of Bangkok, Thailand and Hong Kong, China. These mass protests for peoples' sovereignty and participatory democracy are often led by the most marginalised and historically silenced sectors of the society. In the past decade, we have seen the ubiquity of large scale mass mobilisations across the globe. As governments across the region turn more authoritarian, there will be more violence against those claiming human rights, equality, accountability and redress of injustices--the fundamental principles of democracy.

This dual status was reflected in our partners' work--state repression on WHRDs, particularly those belonging to marginalised groups continuing to increase steadily. And yet the members and partners continued in their resistance, in their advocacy amidst the worsening pandemic crises, and rose up to demand their rights.

While the pandemic and lockdowns dealt a severe blow to the growing momentum of democracy movements across the region, the work of our partners as part of the first ever Womanifesto cycle speaks for itself. The partners with their communities have created locally rooted robust feminist movements with emerging political leadership at the local level.





In **India**, our partner organisation Astitva reported that women and girls are raising their voice against restrictions on women's mobility, right to freely choose partners and claiming their fundamental human rights and freedoms. This was unthinkable in rural Muzaffarnagar when the Womanifesto work began.

In **Mongolia**, Odonchimeg. B, a local community leader, an active participant in the Womanifesto decided to run for the seat in the community local governing body, Citizen's Representative Committee. She felt empowered by her knowledge and leadership skills obtained through the Womanifesto advocacy work and was confident and committed to make a difference in women's rights and well-being in her community. Her campaign priorities were based on the Womanifesto developed collectively by the community with our partner organisation Dem-Oloft, including gender equality, poverty of women and girls, equal access to healthcare, education and decent work.

## PRODUCTION OF NEW KNOWLEDGE TOOLS AND RESOURCES

Through the political organising of women and their constituents, our partners have developed a number of new tools and resources to advance women's political agenda and leadership in its implementation.

In **India**, our Womanifesto partner organisation Astitva developed pamphlets in local languages on the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and carried out a number of programmes to build solidarity among the affected Muslim communities and other rural communities, forging a women-led movement that challenged the constitutionality of CAA. A couple of video materials were developed documenting the consequences of CAA as well as the leadership of Muslim women organising democratic movement against CAA.

In **Pakistan**, our Womanifesto partner organisation, Da Hawwa Lur and their community were severely affected by COVID-19. Despite the challenge, based on the extensive survey, they produced comprehensive documentation on the impact of COVID-19 on rural women and trans\*women of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. They also made a film capturing the reality of economic exploitation that home-based workers and trans\*women experience in this remote, heavily militarised province of Pakistan. The film was used to advocate for the passing of the new law ensuring the rights of the home-based workers.



In **Nepal**, our partner Blind Women's Association created innovative community materials to advocate for the rights of Women With Disabilities, such as radio plays, jingles and films. The radio plays and jingles helped reach out to members of the community; while the film was used as an advocacy tool with policy makers and other women's movements in the country, leading to a number of local media channels and newspapers covering the issues of WWDs. This in turn, has further sensitised the communities.



**“WHEN WE FIRST VISITED THE COMMUNITIES TO MEET THE WWDs, THE FAMILIES AND LARGER COMMUNITY WERE VERY SKEPTICAL ABOUT US AND OFTEN FEARED THAT WE WERE INVOLVED IN SOMETHING HARMFUL LIKE TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN. BUT GRADUALLY THROUGH OUR CONTINUED AND SUSTAINED ENGAGEMENT, THE FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES BECAME SENSITISED TO THE NEEDS OF THE WWDs”.**

**- ANJU DHITAL, COMMUNITY ORGANISER, NEPAL**

Our partner Kilusan ng Manggagawang Kababaihan(KMK) in the **Philippines** held consultations with workers to collect information on how the pandemic was affecting women workers' rights. The information and testimonies gathered through these consultations and meetings formed the basis for the Paid Pandemic Leave Bill filed in Congress by Gabriela Women's Party. While the government provided minimal information on COVID-19, KMK continued to work in the communities with the women workers to provide accurate and substantive information about the pandemic through pamphlets, fliers and other information material.



## COURAGEOUS ACTIONS, DEFENDING WOMEN'S POLITICAL AGENDA

In **India**, when local government authorities refused to issue job cards to women under the 100 days' rural employment guarantee scheme, over 70 women started a continuous campaign, picketing the local authorities till they were issued with the job cards. The officials initially said that they issue job cards to only men, although this is illegal as per the policy. However, the women rallied, persisted and ultimately reclaimed their rights.

**"I USED TO BE VERY AFRAID IN THE PRESENCE OF MEN, ALWAYS FELT NERVOUS WHEN TALKING TO THEM, SO [TILL] NOW I COULDN'T IMAGINE MYSELF WALKING WITH OUR COLLECTIVE AND ASSERTING MY RIGHTS. TRULY, I AM A CHANGED PERSON NOW. SPECIAL THANKS TO KAVITA (COMMUNITY ORGANISER) AND MY FRIENDS FOR KEEPING MY CONFIDENCE UP."**

**- SANGEETA, WOMANIFESTO COMMUNITY WHO ALSO PARTICIPATED IN THE PROTEST**

In **Pakistan**, home-based workers worked together with women members of parliaments from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provincial Assembly to draft a home-based workers bill, recognising home-based workers as workers and providing legal protection and higher living wages.



Throughout the pandemic, our partner KMK in the **Philippines** continued to mobilise workers who were facing unprecedented difficulties due to the pandemic and the refusal of employers to provide safe working conditions. Since the lockdowns, KMK continued to build momentum online and by networking with larger women's movements and trade unions to guarantee women workers' rights. In December 2020, their sustained advocacy and lobbying resulted in the approval of the Paid Pandemic Leave Bill by the parliamentary committee on Labour and Employment. The measure seeks 14 days paid leave at full pay for COVID-exposed workers, and a maximum of 60 days paid leave at 80 per cent pay for floating workers affected by the pandemic.

## MOVEMENT BUILDING

Through the Womanifesto processes, our partners continued to strengthen grassroots women's democratic movements.



In **Nepal**, in the Madhesh region across three districts, five committees were formed consisting of WWDs who emerged as leaders in their communities. They are actively working to build the awareness of families, community leaders and local government authorities on the issues, voices and leadership of WWDs. However, COVID-19 Pandemic made face to face meetings an impossibility.

In the **Philippines**, the women workers' movement grew by 300 members who were not previously unionised, and became a part of the KMK or the Movement of Women Workers. It speaks to the resilience and determination of KMK that they continued to organise workers despite harsh lockdown measures and the economic crisis. The earlier wins KMK was able to collectively achieve with the passage of the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OSHA) and the Extended Maternity Benefit Act almost became nullified as employers violated provisions for workers rights with the pandemic induced economic crisis as an excuse. Currently, the KMK is working to closely monitor the operationalisation of these new policies, in addition to continuing engagement with government agencies and implementing bodies.



# FEMINIST LAW AND PRACTICE (FLP) PROGRAMME

2020 was a challenging year for the FLP Programme due to the pandemic and travel restrictions all over the world. However, the pandemic challenges also pushed us to think out of the box and try out new methods for carrying out the activities. For instance, we conducted our National FLTP Partners' Assessment meeting with the national partners to gather their reflections via an online meeting.

The National FLTP continues to be effective in building the capacity of participants on feminist perspectives on the law. Among the topics that stood out across the National FLTPs are intersectionality, substance-structure-culture, and SOGIE. In Malaysia, for instance, some participants of the training were able to integrate FLTP concepts in their work.

In **Pakistan**, one key contribution of the training was the mobilisation of participants in the AURAT March Movement. The training also contributed to strengthening existing networks and information activism.

Likewise, in **Bangladesh**, the discussion on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression (SOGIE) has been particularly impactful as it allowed participants who previously had difficulty in wrapping their heads around the topic to build solidarity with transgender participants. From this experience, it can be noted that having a diverse, intersectional range of participants — in particular, giving space for transgender participants to share their experiences — has made possible a deeper conversation about the topic.

CONNECTING  
FLTPs  
...



**"LEARNING ABOUT INTERSECTIONALITY AND FEMINISM WAS AN EYE-OPENER FOR THE NATIONAL FLTP PARTICIPANTS. THE DISCUSSION ON SOGIE WAS A BIG THEME IN THE TRAINING, AS SOME PARTICIPANTS HAD DIFFICULTY IN WRAPPING THEIR HEADS AROUND THE CONCEPT AND HAD NOT ENGAGED WITH TRANSGENDER INDIVIDUALS UNTIL THEN. BUT AS THE TRAINING PROGRESSED, THEY WERE ABLE TO BUILD SOLIDARITY WITH THE TRANSGENDER PARTICIPANTS."**

**- BANGLADESH LEGAL AID AND SERVICES TRUST (BLAST)**



ONLINE



OPEN CHAT



# PRODUCTION OF NEW KNOWLEDGE TOOLS AND RESOURCES

## Brief on Amicus Curiae

Building on our experience of developing the Amicus Curiae in support of land and women human rights defenders (L/WHRDs) in the Ban Sapwai community in Thailand in the previous years, we published a brief on Amicus Curiae. The brief provides a guidance on amicus curiae can be used as a tool to advance feminist progressive jurisprudence and court decisions. The brief also provides information on the process of putting together an Amicus Curiae and encourages the use of the Amicus Curiae as a strategic litigation tool to create a positive change.



## Revision of the FLTP manual

We revised the FLTP Manual to ensure that the manual reflects the needs and realities of women in our changing context in Asia and the Pacific region. The various FLTP training sessions in the manual were updated to reflect current resources and materials, and capacity building needs of women human rights defenders. The participatory learning and methodologies from our FPAR approach were also adopted in the revised manual. In revising the manual, we ensured to incorporate the lessons learnt since the last update, as well as introduced disability friendly approaches in conducting the training.

# MOVEMENT BUILDING: THE CASE OF BAN SAPWAI IN THAILAND

The Ban Sapwai movement emerged when Ban Sapwai villagers in Chaiphum province, Thailand, faced abusive judicial harassment with the charges of forest intrusion. The legal charges were based on the military orders as part of the Thai Government's 'forest reclamation' policy.

The policy was adopted through military orders to expand the forest area, which threatened thousands of villages across the country, including Ban Sapwai. The implementation of the policy reflects the false and neoliberal climate solution as only two per cent of the cases have been filed/pursued against large business and investors, while thousands of villagers, including the land and women human rights defenders (L/WHRDs) from Ban Sapwai who have been living in those lands for generations, are under the threat of forced eviction, loss of livelihood as well as judicial harassment and persecution.

Since 2019, APWLD has supported the case of Ban Sapwai village in Thailand through urgent responses and various advocacy strategies such as Trial observation, community members visits and consultations with stakeholders.

In 2020, as part of the legal strategy, APWLD and Protection International (PI) submitted a joint Amicus Curiae brief to the Supreme Court of Thailand. The brief called for the Supreme Court's attention to the international human rights obligation of the Thai Government to protect land and women human rights defenders and end judicial harassment and persecution against L/WHRDs. In addition, WHRDs from the Southern Peasant Federation of Thailand and International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) representatives joined hands with us to make a submission to the Office of the President of the Supreme Court, Thailand.

Our advocacy and solidarity efforts are seeing some positive developments. The Government of Thailand indicated a possible review of the policy's application, and the consequences of the policy on the peoples such as displacement of communities. Furthermore, the Ministry of Forest visited the communities of Sai Thong National Park, including Ban Sapwai community, sharing the Government's intention to conduct a new survey to avoid the displacement of the communities who have been residing in forest areas for a long time. These indications strongly suggest that the land and women human rights defenders' struggles and movement in Thailand are gaining momentum and support while the pressure on the Thai Government is increasing, pushing it to consider the serious consequences of the policy on communities' human rights, dignity and well-being.





REDISTRIBUTIVE JUSTICE

ACCOUNTABILITY TO PEOPLES

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE!

SOCIAL &  
GENDER  
JUSTICE

ECONOMIC  
JUSTICE

DEVELOPMENT JUSTICE

## FEMINIST DEVELOPMENT JUSTICE (FDJ) PROGRAMME

The year 2020 was challenging particularly for regional and global engagements as most meetings were held online without considering the time difference of regions. Online engagement in these regional and global forums required even more active coordination and support to grassroots and national members and partners. Despite the limitations, APWLD continued to push for more open and meaningful spaces for grassroots engagements at subregional, regional and global levels to sustain our demands for Development Justice. Our commitment to bringing progressive voices in challenging new faces of neoliberal capitalism, fundamentalisms, militarism and patriarchy remained high as ever.

In 2020, the FDJ programme took the lead in different platforms and fora to ensure the collective civil society call in addressing systemic barriers to women's human rights and Development Justice. Our work with national and grassroots members/partners to critically monitor the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) implementation continued with coordinated advocacy of existing partners as well as the new partners from nine countries from nine countries for capacity building and data collection.



# CAPACITY BUILDING

We built the capacity of 18 FDJ partners from nine countries to critically understand SDGs, conduct feminist research and documentation, and advocate for women’s human rights and Development Justice.

With the increased capacity, knowledge and leadership, our partners actively engaged in producing collective statements, videos and Peoples’ Development Justice reports to influence their country’s VNR process, and mobilise intersectional collaboration and movement building. For instance, in **Mongolia**, our FDJ partner Center for Human Rights and Development (CHRD) led a national level CSOs network on SDGs and developed collective position papers, statements and social media advocacy. Similarly, in **Kyrgyzstan**, our member Rural Women’s Association “Alga”, as a part of the Civil society Platform, actively led the consultations to develop the civil society statement on the VNR, and delivered an intervention during the HLPF sessions. Furthermore, 14 members and partners were selected to make a collective intervention during the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) sessions.

The programme also contributed to increasing the awareness of nearly 800 individuals or organisations on Feminist Development Justice and our critical analysis on SDGs by actively organising and leading civil society in UN spaces, including the UN75 discussions.



# PRODUCTION OF NEW KNOWLEDGE TOOLS AND RESOURCES

To facilitate online training workshops, we prioritised developing digital versions of our various participatory capacity building and knowledge tools.

“THE METHODS ARE SO INTERACTIVE AND PARTICIPATORY, I DIDN’T FEEL THAT WE ARE DOING IT ONLINE, I FELT THAT WE ARE IN THE PLACE TOGETHER – CREATING, BUILDING, SHARING, AND SHAPING.”

– PARTICIPANT, FDJ 1ST REGIONAL TRAINING



Coordinated efforts led to the production of knowledge and campaign materials, including the translation of our Development Justice Video 2.0 into seven different languages (Indonesian Bahasa, Russian, Vietnamese, Bangla, Nepalese, Chinese and Spanish). We also produced infographics, videos, press releases and Twitter engagement for strategic digital and media advocacy during the HLPF.

Our Women 2030 Global Shadow Report: Gender Equality on the Ground, co-published by the Women2030 partners, captures the inspiring and diverse range of work of women critically monitoring SDGs, using it as a tool to hold governments accountable and organise feminist solidarity actions with other movements to advance women’s human rights and Development Justice. It is the only global level feminist analysis and story telling of women’s experiences on monitoring the governments’ SDGs commitment.

APWLD also led and contributed to 17 global and regional statements, submissions and position papers to advance shared civil society positions and analysis on SDGs implementation and its governance review.



# MONITORING THE SDGS IMPLEMENTATION

Our FDJ partners were able to launch advocacy opportunities and engage with government representatives and policy makers, and took the lead in pushing progressive laws and policies at local and national levels.

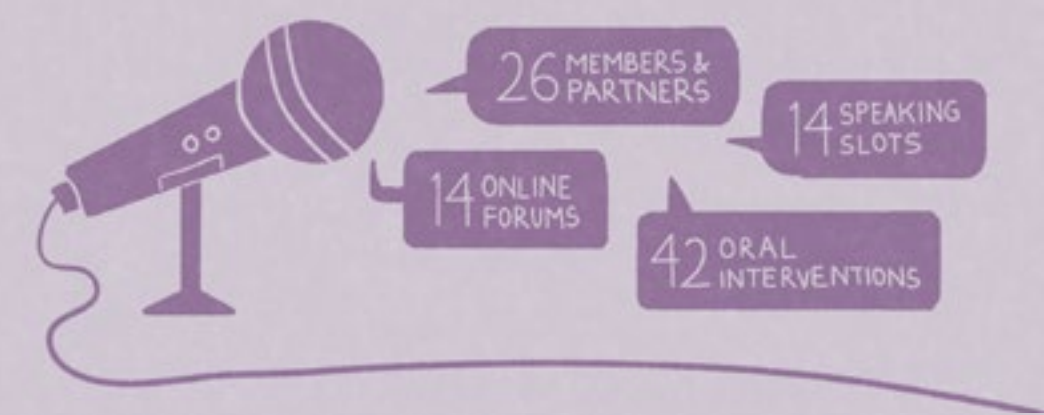


In **Mongolia**, local women pushed for the formalisation of their SDGs monitoring working group through the Decree of Local Governor. Our partner, CHRD led the Mongolia CSOs Network on SDGs to utilise the parliamentary election to advocate for the insertion of SDGs monitoring in the Political Parties’ Action Plans. Advocacy was conducted through the submission of a position paper, publishing newspaper articles, live videos, posters and active social media campaigns generating public attention and interest.

In **Indonesia**, after a major success in Banda Aceh, our partner, FKM-BKA YWU successfully pushed for the implementation of Musrena (a bottom up process of planning local government programmes and budgets that focuses on the needs of women and children) in Pidie district. This means they managed to expand the influence of their work in other districts. Through a series of capacity building activities organised by our FDJ partners, Pidie local governments gained more knowledge on gender responsive planning and budgeting, as well as established women’s action plans. The Women with Disability constituency in Aceh secured meetings with several government authorities and policy makers, including Pidie: Development Planning Agency, Women Empowerment and Children Protection Agency, Social Service Agency, Village Empowerment Agency and one of the legislative members in Pidie. Through these advocacy activities, Pidie local government agreed to: (1) provide ‘safe house’ for the survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuse in Pidie through regional medium-term development plan in 2021; and (2) lobby for the implementation of women’s action plan forum in Pidie.

# Influencing global narratives

APWLD and partners continued in grounding the global discussion in addressing systemic barriers to women’s human rights and Development Justice, as well as advocating for genuine pro-peoples and pro-women multilateralism.



We supported 26 members and partners to actively engage in 14 different online forums on sustainable development at subregional, regional and global levels. APWLD together with APRCEM secured 14 speaking slots as panellists in the formal sessions of the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) and High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), and made 42 oral interventions. Our collective demands and advocacy were reflected in key outcome documents of those regional and global sustainable development processes, including:

Pyeongchang Peace Forum 2020 messages included APWLD’s languages and positions on multilateralism that committed to

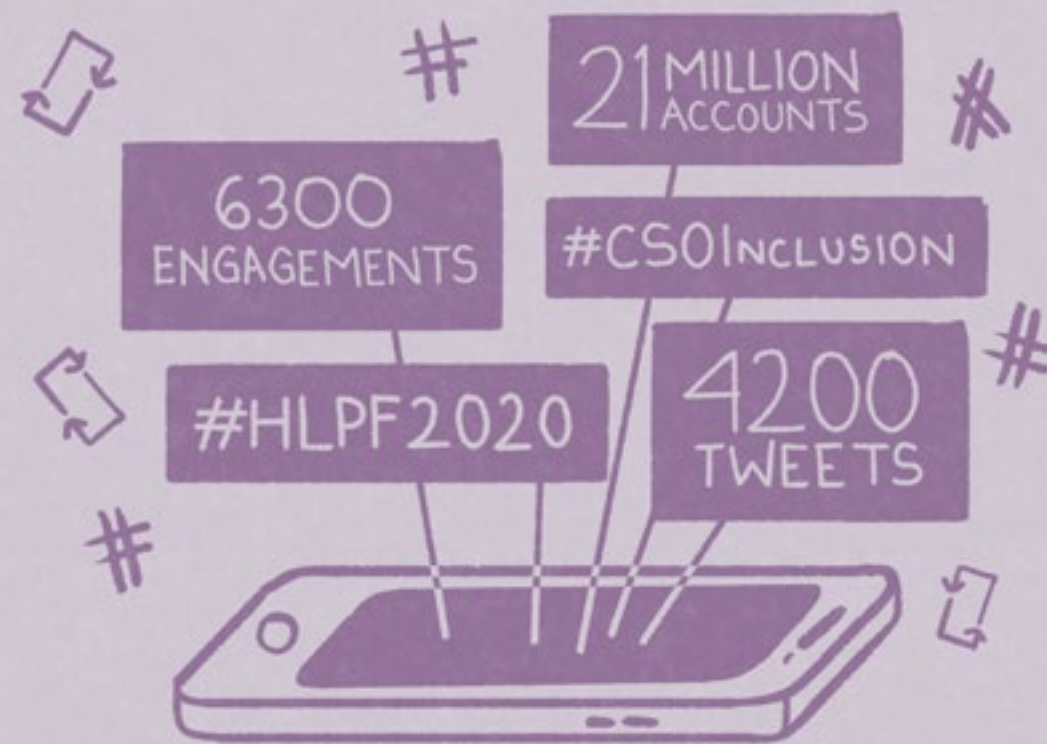
- (1) reducing inequalities of wealth, power and resources,
- (2) state obligation to promote, protect and fulfil women’s human rights,
- (3) extraterritorial human rights obligations of states and non-state actors and
- (4) reconfiguration of the current global governance architecture that reinforces patriarchy, militarism, financialisations, undemocratic governance and criminalisation of dissent.

## THE OUTCOME DOCUMENT OF APFSD 2020 INCLUDED THE NEED TO HAVE:

- 1) GENDER-RESPONSIVE APPROACHES ON COVID-19 RESPONSES AND MUST ADDRESS STIGMATISATION AND DISCRIMINATORY NORMS AND PRACTICES AGAINST WOMEN, INCLUDING UNPAID CARE WORK,**
- 2) THE IMPORTANCE OF LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION AND THE NEED TO PRIORITISE THE WELL-BEING OF SMALL FOOD FARMERS, INCLUDING WOMEN FARMERS, AND ENSURING SOCIAL SAFETY NETS, INSURANCE AND SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS FOR ALL, INCLUDING LANDLESS FARMERS,**
- 3) A CALL FOR STRONGER LINKS BETWEEN THE REGIONAL AND GLOBAL PROCESSES FOR REVIEWING THE 2030 AGENDA, IN PARTICULAR THROUGH THE VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS.**



APWLD's leadership in both in the Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (APRCM) and Women Major Group (WMG) resulted in a more progressive narrative of Major Groups and Other Stakeholder (MGoS) HLPF Coordination Mechanism, particularly in rejecting the cluster-siloed approach of HLPF and demanding a more systemic annual review. Through a series of meetings with member states on HLPF Review, we built a strong alliance with the Government of Mexico and Argentina. APRCEM organised two Twitter storms, one in cooperation with WMG and one with the whole Major Groups and Other Stakeholders. We believe our first Twitter storm with a message for member states to "break the silence procedure" to push for a more holistic approach of SDGs monitoring might have contributed to the G77's decision to break the silence on ECOSOC/HLPF Review resolution, giving us a much needed time frame to continue our advocacy on this issue. On 16 July, the collective MGoS Twitter storm, reached a potential of 21 million Twitter accounts, with 4,200 tweets and 6,300 engagements, with the #HLPF2020 and #CSOInclusion hashtags.



Growing leadership role of APWLD

APWLD's leadership in coordinating diverse civil society and movements with sharp and grounded feminist analysis has been well recognised by allies and UN agencies. We successfully coordinated and produced strong collective civil society inputs to influence the HLPF's Ministerial Declaration addressing the structural causes of injustice and inequalities, the specific impact of COVID-19 on women and policy recommendations. We were increasingly requested to speak on behalf of collective civil society platforms/engagement mechanisms, including the occasions when we represented Major Groups and Other Stakeholders (MGoS) to the HLPF's Ministerial Declaration. We were also selected to speak on behalf of WMG in response to the UN75 Zero Draft during the informal consultation with Member States. Our engagement influenced the statement on the Declaration for the Commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the UN, underlining women's unpaid care work, decent work and living wage, and women human rights defenders.

MOVEMENT BUILDING

APWLD and partners closely worked with other movements and fostered feminist solidarity for Development Justice.

In Aceh, **Indonesia**, grassroots women and women with disabilities began to care and help each other to advocate Musrena(Council Action Plan for Women and Child), a bottom up process of planning local government programmes and budgets that focuses on the needs of women and children. In addition, they started to monitor and evaluate the programmes related to their needs in each Regional Work Unit of Pidie.

In the **Philippines**, using its People's Development Justice Report, CWR worked with different women's organisations to conduct online and community discussions, and produce position papers and press releases.

In **Thailand**, the participatory process brought the participating women and communities in the Deep South Thailand together and helped develop their awareness on the SDGs. They used the locally identified indicators to monitor SDGs implementation on the ground. Utilising the locally identified development justice indicators, women from the communities actively engaged in the national-level campaigns for SDGs implementation as well as with national and local governments. They are keeping track of the response to their concerns and needs.



Our partners and members connected their advocacy demands with our solidarity call for Women's Global Strike. They organised creative solidarity actions, rallies, mobilisations and campaign materials, including street rally in the **Philippines**, Women Global Strike concert in Fiji, cross-movement Women Global Strike discussion led by women disability constituency in Banda Aceh, Indonesia, WGS event at schools in Nepal, and 'No to Covid and Debt! Women Fight for System Change' online rally, in Southern Thailand.



# GROUNDING THE GLOBAL (GG) PROGRAMME

**Grounding the Global (GG) programme seeks to ensure that regional and international mechanisms and processes are accessible to, informed by and accountable to grassroots women's groups in the region.**

The COVID-19 pandemic posed a significant challenge on our regional and global level advocacy and our coordination work, especially with travel restrictions. Our members and partners have been busy with local response work and dealing with challenges themselves, with less time to engage externally, resulting in limited responses to advocacy opportunities internationally. CSW64 was curtailed and postponed, with little space of engagement for non-NY-based organisations.

Moreover, securing meaningful engagement to influence regional and global policy spaces was a key challenge given the time difference between global meetings taking place in New York/Geneva and the people living in Asia and

the Pacific. The digital divide and timely access to information with all UN meetings going online also added a systemic challenge for any meaningful engagement of grassroots women's rights activists in Asia and the Pacific.

As a response, the Grounding the Global (GG) programme prioritised organising direct engagement with UN mandate holders; strengthening capacities of women's rights organisations to not only inform the international processes of ground realities, but also to translate those progressive international norms into local/national level implementation through advocacy campaigns and production of knowledge materials.

The GG programme harnessed the effectiveness of small, confidential meetings in our past experience of organising consultations, and made it possible by putting together online meetings between APWLD grassroots members/partners and the UN human rights mandate holders.







## 9 JUNE:

**CONSULTATION WITH THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE SITUATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (SRVAW), ITS CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES**



## 10 JUNE:

**CONSULTATION WITH THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION**



## 23 JULY AND 14 AUGUST:

**CONSULTATION WITH THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS**

These consultation spaces increased opportunities for grassroots women to influence UN processes, standards and norms and utilise them in their national advocacy work for women's rights. Our members appreciated the opportunities to directly engage with mandate holders.

**"I THOUGHT THIS WAS A VERY USEFUL EXERCISE! PERHAPS WHEN UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS MAKE RELEVANT CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS, WE CAN REPEAT THIS EXERCISE."**

**- YU REN CHUNG, WOMEN'S AID ORGANISATION, MALAYSIA**

Following our online consultations with the UN Special Rapporteurs, three of our members made their own submissions to the Special Rapporteur on VAW on the situation of human rights defenders.

## PRODUCTION OF NEW KNOWLEDGE TOOLS AND RESOURCES

In preparation for the CSW64, APWLD significantly contributed to the [Feminist Declaration on Beijing + 25](#) in collaboration with the Women's Rights Caucus. The Feminist Declaration has been used by progressive, feminist and women's organisations to achieve accountability to the commitments made in the Beijing documents through multiple occasions, including the virtual multi-stakeholder hearing in preparation of the General Assembly high-level meeting on Beijing+25 'Accelerating the Realization of Gender Equality and the Empowerment of all Women and Girls' (21 July) and the Virtual Expert Group Meeting on Implementing Beijing+25 Commitments in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic (15-16 September). We also produced the [Beijing + 25 regional submission](#).



These resources contributed to increased evidence, data and tools concerning specified women's rights issues available to UN mandate holders or processes and civil society.

## ADVOCACY

### *Solidarity for embattled WHRDs in the Philippines*

Our ongoing support to Philippines civil society and women human rights defenders enabled the release of the report of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet regarding the dismal human rights situation in the Philippines.



APWLD and Tanggol Bayi held meetings with 14 human rights organisations around the 43rd HRC session, facilitated the physical and virtual participation of WHRDs from the Philippines in the 43rd, 44th and 45th HRC sessions, including supporting the preparation of oral statements for the UN HRC process, and submitted a report in response to the List of Issues in the ICCPR review.

We co-organised online campaign events with our members including Tanggol Bayi, to call for a stop to the killings in the Philippines and demand for an independent investigation on the situation of human rights in the Philippines.



# INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

In 2020, our Information and Communications work faced extra challenges due to the sudden need to scale up online work to cope with the COVID-19 challenges. The existing digital divide, limited capacities and development of digital fatigue were all particularly challenging in working with our grassroots partners, allies through online medium. To address these challenges, the Information and Communications team scaled up its capacity building efforts in addition to supporting the digital work of the programmes.

We strengthened various programmes' communications advocacy for campaigns such as the Women's Global Strike (WGS), domestic workers campaign, Decent Work campaign, access to justice campaign for Mary Jane Veloso and urgent action responses to protect women human rights defenders and their communities in the Philippines, Thailand, India, Indonesia and Malaysia.



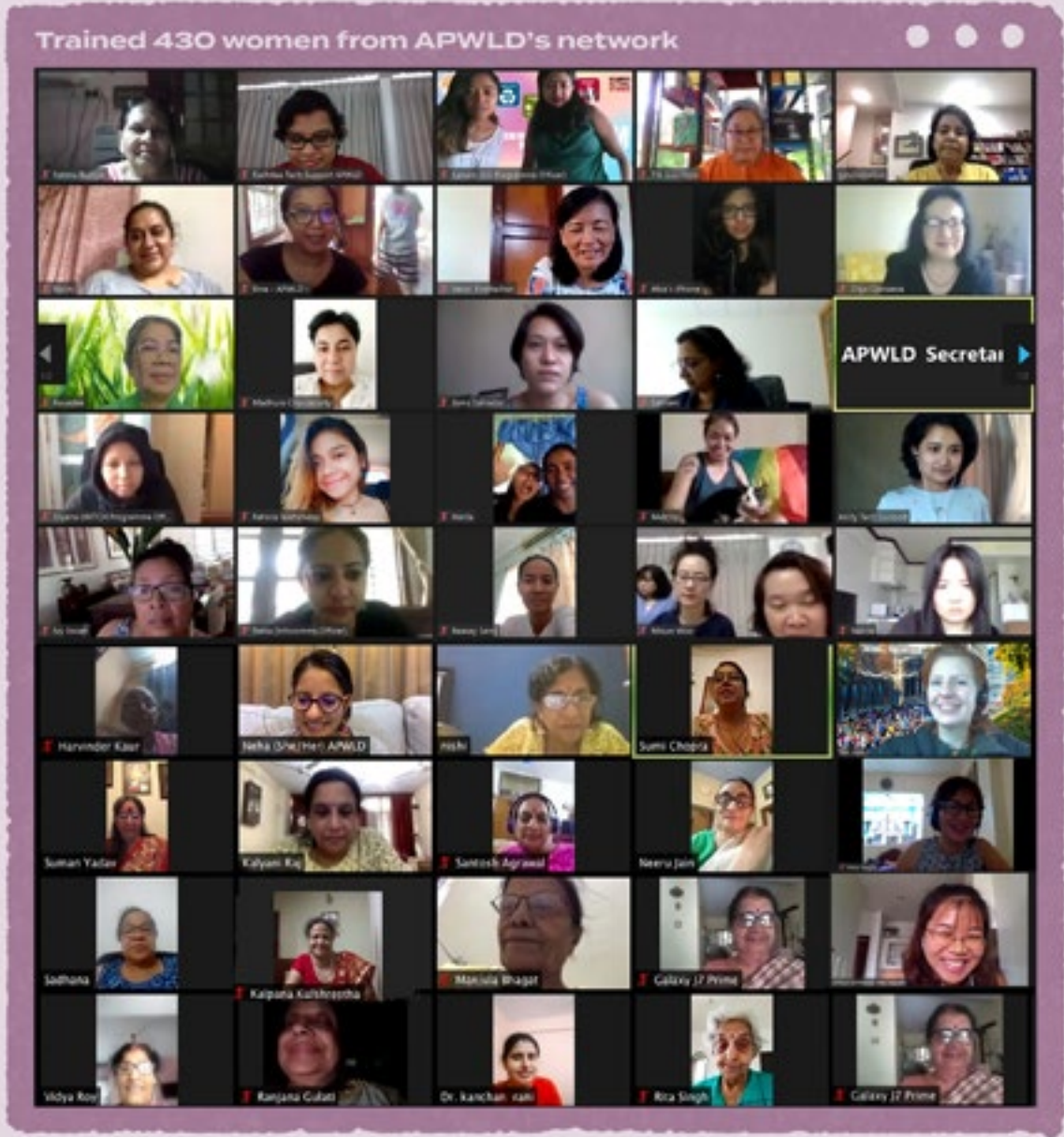
APWLD ✓ @apwld

We also launched a media fellowship on 'Gendered Impacts of COVID-19' to support alumni media fellows from Sri Lanka, Vietnam and the Philippines to investigate the impacts of COVID-19 in the region.



# CAPACITY BUILDING

In 2020, the Information and Communications team played a significant role in building the capacity of the APWLD secretariat, members, partners and allies in using digital tools and resources to adapt to working online due to the pandemic related restrictions on movements. Through organising a series of seven online workshops, we trained 430 women from APWLD’s network covering Asia, the Pacific, Africa, Latin America and Europe on virtual platforms, digital security, digital communications tools and media advocacy. Enhanced Digital Security Module was developed for capacity building of APWLD’s members, partners, allies and Secretariat staff. The Information and Communications team also built its capacity on digital rights and digital justice by attending training, workshops and online events, as well as consultation by UN Special Rapporteurs on Privacy and Freedom of Expression. This has helped inform our work on digital justice moving forward in 2021.



# PRODUCTION OF NEW KNOWLEDGE TOOLS AND RESOURCES

As part of urgent action response and cross programme collaboration, APWLD produced seven press releases, ten statements and six letters.

Our campaigns, advocacy and urgent action responses were covered in 116 articles in 92 news outlets from across the globe, including prominent media outlets like Reuters, Al-Jazeera, South China Morning Post, Bangkok Post, Prachatai, Bulatlat and Fiji Times.





# DIGITAL ADVOCACY

## High Level Political Forum (HLPF)

Since HLPF and other global advocacy spaces went virtual, APWLD developed and executed an extensive digital advocacy plan for HLPF to ensure our members’ voice was heard and amplified in UN’s virtual platform as well as on social media channels when space for interventions was denied.

### WE PRODUCED:

8 VIDEOS

18 INFOGRAPHICS

1 PRESS RELEASE  
FEATURING  
OUR MEMBERS’  
POSITIONS  
AND VIEWS.

APWLD @apwld

15 TWITTER THREADS

CO-AUTHORED A PRESS RELEASE  
WITH WOMEN MAJOR GROUP (WMG)

5,000+ VIEWERS

130+ REACTIONS

170+ SHARES

PRODUCED A GLOBAL VIRAL VIDEO DEMANDING UN TO HEAR CONCERNS OF FEMINIST MOVEMENTS.

## No RCEP campaign

In 2020, we continued the No RCEP campaign. We held a virtual press conference on the impact of this mega FTA on women and communities in the region and issued several press releases throughout the year. When it became clear that governments would go ahead and sign the FTA, we created a video, and intensified our media advocacy and social media advocacy to ramp up the pressure. Our media advocacy led to news coverage in 26 media outlets across the region and globe. Our member’s interview in Reuters was shared by many media outlets in the region. We also received media requests from ABC Australia and Nikkei Japan, and we directly connected them with our members. Our video on [No RCEP](#) received 100 views on Youtube in the first 24 hours. The video had 1.3 K impressions on Facebook. While the FTA was signed in November 2020, our advocacy continued to challenge the ratification of the RCEP.



100 VIEWS ON  
YOUTUBE IN  
THE FIRST  
24 HOURS



1.3 K IMPRESSIONS  
ON FACEBOOK



# INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING AND SUSTAINABILITY

2020 was for APWLD to consolidate, transform and strengthen our institutional sustainability. With the unprecedented level of challenges that the COVID-19 crisis brought to us, all our nine programmes and cross-cutting initiatives had to several times assess and re-strategise our programme work and budget in a way that is supportive, considerate, relevant and meaningful to APWLD's grassroots members, partners and their communities. We have intensified our support to our members and partners to build their digital capacity as well as strengthen collective digital security, turned our programme methods and tools to be accessible online and participatory and created our urgent response work to address the consequences of COVID-19 and its inter-related structural inequalities on women by creating two streams of work: policy monitoring and feminist organising and documentation. As a membership-driven network, APWLD has embarked on a process to engage our members and strategic allies to establish our next five year strategic plans through sub-regional convenings to culminate in the General Assembly in 2021.

In 2020, we welcomed four new members from four countries (Bangladesh, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia and the Philippines), making APWLD's membership to 252 member organisations and advocates from 29 countries across Asia and the Pacific. Our nine Programme Organising Committees and three Activity Organising Committees remained active to guide APWLD's work most relevant to our grassroots movements in the time of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, especially grounded in the lived realities of grassroots communities and their powerful organising.

In November 2020, APWLD's Regional Council made an important decision to approve a hybrid model of working arrangement for APWLD's Secretariat as a sustainable way to address current and possible challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic to APWLD. The hybrid model was founded on the sustainability of APWLD that included securing the safety and wellbeing of APWLD Secretariat staff members. The hybrid model will be in full implementation as of 1st December 2021 with, in principle, only the staff members with legal and statutory obligations to work from the registered offices of APWLD in Chiang Mai, Thailand or in Penang/Malaysia while all other staff members work from their respective home countries. Recruitment for some more positions is underway, while our current Secretariat is made up of 26 skilled and committed staff members from 13 countries across Asia and the Pacific.





# TRIBUTE FOR VIRADA SOMSWASDI

(1947-2020)



Virada Somsawasdi at first Asia Pacific Feminist Forum in 2011

Tribute for Virada Somsawasdi (1947-2020), one of the founding members of APWLD, passed away on 29th March 2020 late at night. Virada had a great feminist vision that shaped our work as APWLD, enabled APWLD Secretariat to find home in Chiang Mai, Thailand more than 20 years ago and served as former Thai Association President. We mourn this great loss to feminist and women's movements, but resolve to carry the torch to continue an APWLD journey Virada started for a brave and just feminist future. Virada was a dedicated feminist academic, lawyer and activist from Thailand who was involved in the women's movement for over four decades. After completing her LL.B. degree from Chulalongkorn University and an LL.M. from Cornell University, USA, she started teaching law at Chiang Mai University in 1973 when the student movement for democracy was strong in Thailand. While working as an associate professor of law, she established the Women's Studies Centre at Chiang Mai University in 1986. Her teaching subjects included Family Law, Feminist Jurisprudence, Law and Society, Women's Movement, Sex Crimes and Women's Human Rights. Virada worked relentlessly to raise the status of women in Thailand. She served as the president of the Foundation for Women, Law and Rural Development and sat on the board of the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women Asia Pacific and Worldwide Association of Women's Studies. She wrote and edited many books and articles in the areas of trafficking in women, sexual exploitation of women, pornography, gender and aids, family law, domestic violence, feminist jurisprudence, women's human rights and women's movements. She was a recipient of the 'Woman of Courage' award by the US Department of State, and various other prestigious national awards in recognition of her contribution in gender equality work, including 'Woman of the Year' by the prime minister's office, Thailand in 2002.



# FINANCIAL NARRATIVE

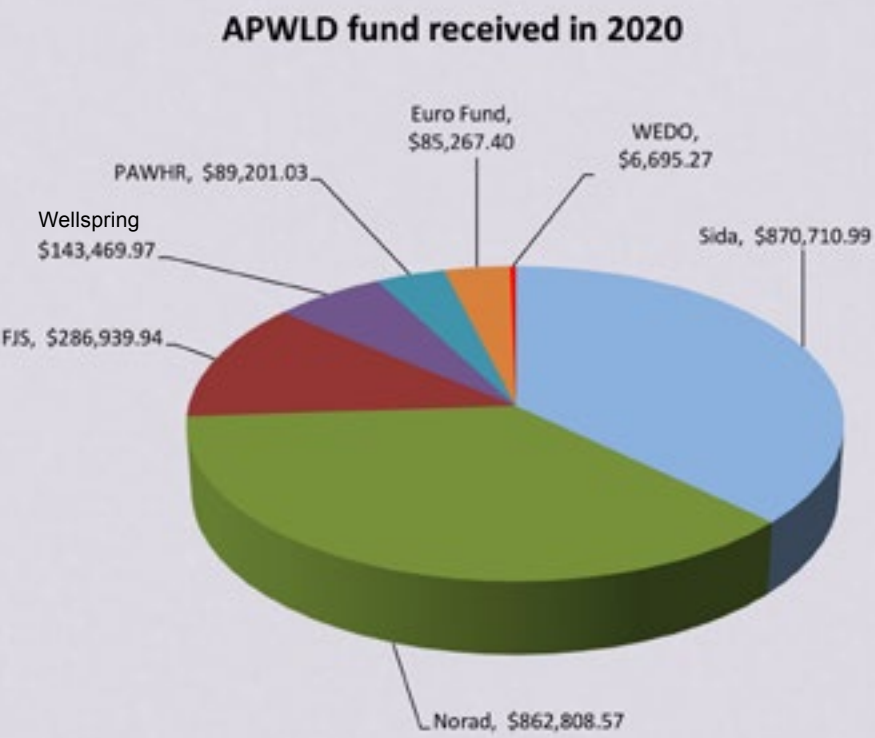
In 2020, APWLD received grants totalling USD 2,345,093.17. Our expenditure for the year was USD 1,409,193.86, which was approximately significantly lower than the previous years due to the COVID-19 pandemic consequences including travel restrictions and ‘reduced’ virtual meeting costs. In 2020, we had to review and reorganise our work plan and budget while closely monitoring the situation of our members and partners as well as nimbly responding to the changing arrangements for regional and global-level advocacy work. One significant learning was that the expenditure does not always adequately reflect ongoing and growing APWLD’s work.

In 2020, we continued to receive core multi-year funding support from Sweden (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency - Sida), Foundation for a Just Society, and multi-year programme support from Norway (Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation - Norad). We also appreciate the continued support from Wellspring for our regional and global advocacy work, and from the European Union for our work on sustainable development, particularly the Feminist Development Justice programme. The flexibility, trust and solidarity support from our funders were so important as we thrive through the multiple challenges COVID-19 brought to us, especially as we work with our grassroots members, sub-grant partners and their communities. We are prepared in accordance with Thai and International Financial Reporting Standards for non-publicly accountable entities, as well as the terms and conditions of our donor contracts. The APWLD auditor is also requested to undertake management auditing to ensure continual improvement of our finance, accounting, and systems management.

Programme costs for the year constituted around 76 per cent total costs, which is significantly lower than our usual expenditure trend (e.g. over 80 per cent programme costs) due to the travel restrictions which significantly affected our regional and global level advocacy, ‘reduced’ cost in organising meetings virtually and the fact that large part of our programme activities had to be rescheduled to later 2020-early 2021. Institutional development costs, which includes network support, non-programme resources, publications and materials, member governance meetings and staff development constituted nearly ten per cent, and administration increased high to nearly 15 per cent to support increased requirements when staff travel for their visa renewal.

In 2020, our work and support to our members and partners through sub-grants continued yet with delay due to movement and travel restrictions from local to global levels. We provided direct support to 59 (out of them, 23 are new partners) women’s rights organisations and their communities. Feminist Participatory Action Research sub-grants were utilised in five programmes (Breaking out of Marginalisation, Climate Justice, Women Interrogating Trade and Corporate Hegemony, Labour and Migration), Womanifesto sub-grants in Women in Power programme and SDGs monitoring in Feminist Development Justice programme.

Our financial accounts have been audited and approved by NB Accounting, who have reported that our accounts are prepared in accordance with Thai and International Financial Reporting Standards for non-publicly accountable entities, as well as the terms and conditions of our donor contracts. The APWLD auditor is also requested to undertake management auditing to ensure continual improvement of our finance, accounting and systems management.



| ASIA PACIFIC FORUM ON WOMEN, LAW AND DEVELOPMENT<br>Chiang Mai, Thailand<br>Fund receipts in 2020 |    |              |
|---|----|--------------|
| Balance forward from 2019   | \$ | 1,686,229.93 |
| Fund received in 2020   |    |              |
| Sida  | \$ | 870,710.99   |
| Norad   | \$ | 862,808.57   |
| FJS   | \$ | 286,939.94   |
| Wellspring  | \$ | 143,469.97   |
| PAWHR   | \$ | 89,201.03    |
| Euro Fund   | \$ | 85,267.40    |
| WEDO  | \$ | 6,695.27     |
| Total funds in 2020   | \$ | 2,345,093.17 |
| Total funds available   | \$ | 4,031,323.10 |
| Others Income   |    |              |
| - Bank interest   | \$ | 4,806.12     |
| - Miscellaneous income  | \$ | 69,196.55    |
| Total receipt   | \$ | 4,105,325.77 |

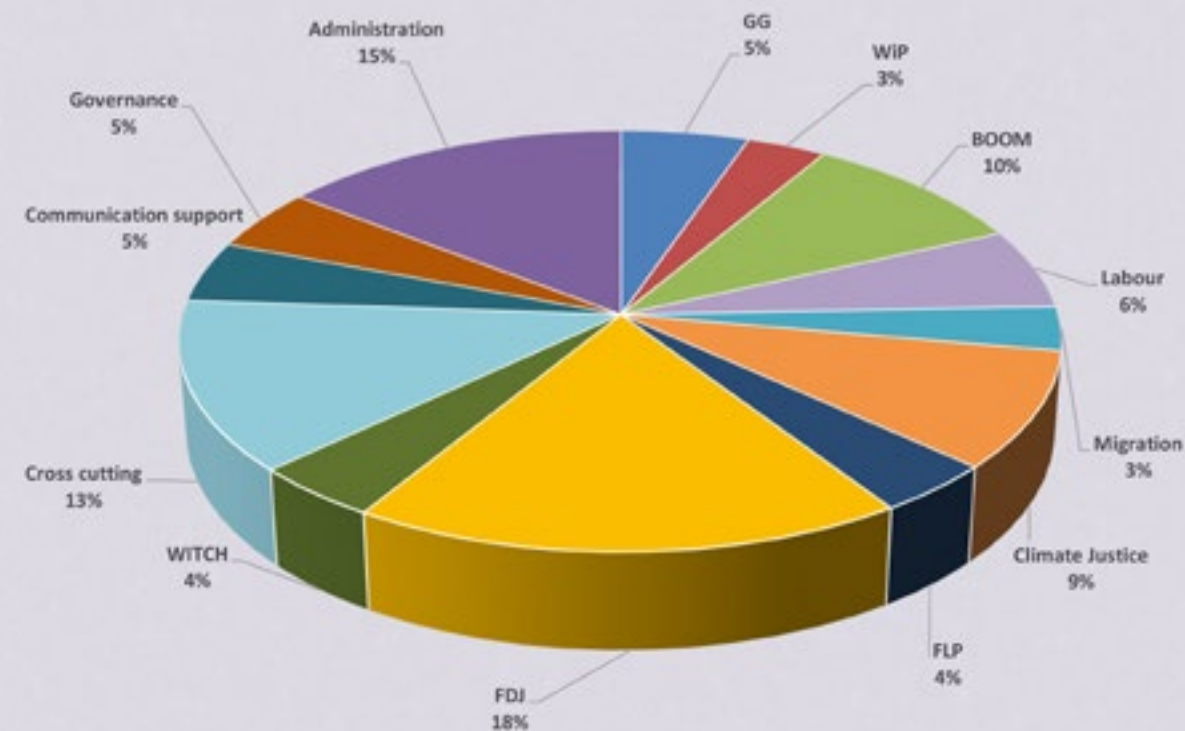
(a) Average rate of exchange : USD1 = Baht 31.47



ASIA PACIFIC FORUM ON WOMEN, LAW AND DEVELOPMENT  
Chiangmai, Thailand  
Expenditure in 2020

| Title   | Budget Used (USD) |
|---|-------------------|
| <b>GROUNDING THE GLOBAL (GG) -International Mechanism</b> | <b>47,055.35</b>  |
| - Capacity Building                                       | 5,299.18          |
| - Advocacy, Mobilisation and Policy Intervention          | 5,594.18          |
| - Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation                     | 3,000.23          |
| - Secretariat costs                                       | 2,010.12          |
| - Programme Implementation costs                          | 31,151.66         |
| <b>GROUNDING THE GLOBAL (GG) - Regional Mechanism</b>     | <b>27,343.93</b>  |
| - Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation                     | 3,000.23          |
| - Secretariat costs                                       | 1,487.18          |
| - Programme Implementation costs                          | 22,856.52         |
| <b>WOMEN IN POWER (WIP)</b>                               | <b>46,438.02</b>  |
| - Knowledge, Resource and Tools                           | 2,383.86          |
| - Advocacy, Mobilisation and Policy Intervention          | 381.32            |
| - Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation                     | 3,000.23          |
| - Secretariat costs                                       | 1,145.64          |
| - Programme Implementation costs                          | 39,526.97         |
| <b>BREAKING OUT OF THE MAGINALISATION (BOM)</b>           | <b>136,243.91</b> |
| - Capacity and Development                                | 7,000.00          |
| - Knowledge, Resource and Tools                           | 30,939.84         |
| - Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation                     | 6,124.50          |
| - Secretariat costs                                       | 1,113.86          |
| - Programme Implementation costs                          | 91,065.71         |
| <b>LABOUR -WOMEN ORGANISING WORKERS (WOW)</b>             | <b>86,647.63</b>  |
| - Knowledge, Resource and Tools                           | 52,918.79         |
| - Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation                     | 3,000.23          |
| - Secretariat costs                                       | 1,260.03          |
| - Programme Implementation costs                          | 29,468.58         |
| <b>MIGRATION</b>  | <b>47,286.47</b>  |
| - Knowledge, Resource and Tools                           | 15,488.91         |
| - Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation                     | 3,000.23          |
| - Secretariat costs                                       | 1,186.95          |
| - Programme Implementation costs                          | 27,610.38         |
| <b>CLIMATE JUSTICE</b>                                    | <b>126,915.37</b> |
| - Capacity and Development                                | 30,442.44         |
| - Knowledge, Resource and Tools                           | 36,345.55         |
| - Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation                     | 10,501.94         |
| - Secretariat costs                                       | 1,113.86          |
| - Programme Implementation costs                          | 48,511.58         |
| <b>FEMINIST LAW &amp; PRACTICE (FLP)</b>                  | <b>55,659.46</b>  |
| - Knowledge, Resource and Tools                           | 2,065.92          |
| - Advocacy, Mobilisation and Policy Intervention          | 1,541.10          |
| - Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation                     | 3,000.23          |
| - Secretariat costs                                       | 1,272.30          |
| - Programme Implementation costs                          | 47,779.91         |
| <b>FEMINIST DEVELOPMENT JUSTICE</b>                       | <b>254,492.92</b> |
| - Capacity and Development                                | 8,826.16          |
| - Knowledge, Resource and Tools                           | 1,694.82          |
| - Advocacy, Mobilisation and Policy Intervention          | 146,757.02        |
| - Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation                     | 3,000.23          |
| - Secretariat costs                                       | 1,621.19          |
| - Programme Implementation costs                          | 92,393.50         |
| <b>MACROECONOMICS AND TRADE - WOMEN'S ECONOMIC POWER</b>  | <b>59,550.96</b>  |
| - Knowledge, Resource and Tools                           | 14,515.71         |
| - Advocacy, Mobilisation and Policy Intervention          | 414.87            |
| - Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation                     | 3,000.23          |
| - Secretariat costs                                       | 1,370.85          |
| - Programme Implementation costs                          | 40,249.30         |

APWLD Expenditure for 2020



| Title  | Budget Used (USD)      |
|--|------------------------|
| <b>CROSS CUTTING INITIATIVES</b>                 | <b>184,653.22</b>      |
| - Capacity and Development                       | 19,043.31              |
| - Knowledge, Resource and Tools                  | 30,484.44              |
| - Advocacy, Mobilisation and Policy Intervention | 20,392.62              |
| - COVID-19 Response (documentation & advocacy)   | 38,262.04              |
| - Consortium partners meeting                    | 64,091.00              |
| - Programme Implementation costs                 | 12,399.81              |
| <b>Sub-total A</b>                               | <b>1,072,287.24</b>    |
| <b>Institutional Development</b>                 |                        |
| - Resource Development and Publications          | 65,492.24              |
| - Network consolidation                          | 1,056.00               |
| - Governance/Management Meetings                 | 12,029.28              |
| - Staff Development                              | 15,949.28              |
| - Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation            | 37,738.85              |
| <b>Sub-total B</b>                               | <b>132,265.65</b>      |
| <b>Administration</b>                            | <b>204,630.97</b>      |
| <b>Total Expenditure 2020</b>                    | <b>\$ 1,409,183.86</b> |



# OUR DONORS IN 2020





# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| January 10-13      | APRCM Strategic Meeting  |
| January 21-22      | Annual Planning Meeting (APM)  |
| January 27-28      | Asia CSOs Financing for Development Meeting                                      |
| January 30 - 31    | Programme and Management Committee Meeting (P&M)                                 |
| February 10-11     | JELi community visit   |
| February 12-14     | FDJ Training with CHRD, Mongolia   |
| February 17-18     | CJ FPAR Final Reflection Meeting, Batch 2, 2017-2019                             |
| February 19        | Amicus Curiae Brief Submission for Ban Sapwai Community                          |
| February 19-24     | CJ FPAR 2nd Regional Training  |
| February 22        | Chaing Mai Pride   |
| March 8            | Women's Global Strike  |
| March 31           | UN Women Regional Office, ESCAP and Beijing+25<br>CSO Steering Committee         |
| March 30 - April 8 | HLPF 2020 and 6 entry points of GSDR   |
| April 15           | UN Women Regional Office and CSOs from Asia and the Pacific                      |
| May 1              | Webinar on May Day 'The Impact of COVID-19<br>on migrants in Hong Kong and Macau |
| May 15 and 29      | Programme and Management Committee Meeting (P&M)                                 |
| May 20             | UN Women Executive Director and Women's Rights Caucus Meeting                    |



|            |  |
|------------|--|
| June 1-11  | <b>52nd Sessions of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies. Bonn, Germany</b>  |
| June 5-6   | <b>Gender and Trade Coalition Webinar</b>  |
| June 8-12  | <b>Expert Mechanism on Reights of Indigenous People (EMRIP)</b>  |
| June 16    | <b>Digital advocacy of campaign on International Domestic Workers Day</b>  |
| June 9     | <b>Online consultation with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of violence against women</b>                    |
| June 10    | <b>Consultation with the Special Rapporteur on freedom of assembly and association</b>                               |
| June 10-11 | <b>Regional Council (On-line) Meeting</b>  |
| June 16    | <b>Uphold Migrant Domestic Workers Rights During COVID-19 crisis for International Domestic Workers Day campaign</b> |
| June 18    | <b>Webinar: “What Should Feminists Know About WTO Amidst COVID-19 Pandemic”</b>                                      |
| June 18    | <b>Coordination with RCEP CSOs</b>   |
| June 23-25 | <b>GCF 26th Board meeting</b>  |
| June 26    | <b>Webinar: #NoLockdownOnRights: UN Human Rights Report on the Philippines and Trends Amid the Pandemic</b>          |

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| July 7-16          | <b>High Level Political Forum, New York</b>  |
| July 29 and 31     | <b>HLPF Debriefing Calls</b>   |
| July 23, August 14 | <b>Consultation with Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders</b>   |
| July 23            | <b>Communication Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Building Workshop with Nepal Members</b> |

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| August 9                | <b>Digital Campaign on Indigenous Peoples Day</b>           |
| August 13-14            | <b>Programme and Management Committee Meeting (P&amp;M)</b> |
| August 17-26            | <b>Civil Society Capacity Building on SDG in Asia</b>       |
| August 20 - September 4 | <b>1st Regional Training on FDJ Monitoring</b>              |

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| September 3     | <b>FLTP National Partners’ Assessment Meeting</b>  |
| September 8     | <b>Online Communication Capacity Building Workshop with All India Women’s Conference</b>               |
| September 14    | <b>Global day of action on the Philippines at the 45th Session of the Human Rights Council</b>         |
| September 16-18 | <b>3rd Social Enterprise Advocacy and Leveraging (SEAL) Asia Conference and ISEA Regional Assembly</b> |
| September 23    | <b>UN YA Platform Webinar on Climate Justice, Economic Justice &amp; Racial Inequity</b>               |
| September 30    | <b>Disability Constituency Strategic Meeting Webinar</b>   |
| September 30    | <b>Digital Security Capacity Building Workshop with All India Women’s Conference</b>                   |

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| October 7         | <b>Webinar: “Women Workers Lead Campaign for Decent Work”</b>                            |
| October 11        | <b>Webinar: “Uphold Women Migrant Workers Rights During COVID-19”</b>                    |
| October 15        | <b>Rural Women’s Day Campaign</b>  |
| October 21-23     | <b>GCF 27th Board meeting</b>  |
| October 27-28     | <b>Programme and Management Committee (P&amp;M)</b>                                      |
| October 8, 22, 29 | <b>3 part communication and storytelling workshop with Women and Gender Constituency</b> |

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|----------------|---|
| November 4     | <b>Webinar: “RCEP and the Future of Developing Countries Amidst the Pandemic”</b> |
| November 5     | <b>Programme and Management Committee (P&amp;M)</b>                               |
| November 10-14 | <b>#NoRCEP Digital Campaign</b>   |
| November 13    | <b>Launch of No RCEP Video</b>  |
| November 18-19 | <b>Regional Council Meeting</b>   |

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| December 2-3 | <b>Roundtable on Feminist Regional Climate Justice</b> |
| December 11  | <b>Programme and Management Committee (P&amp;M)</b>    |
| December 18  | <b>International Migrants Day Campaign</b>             |



REGIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS 2017–2020

|                           |  |                 |
|---------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Abia Akram                | National Forum of Women with Disabilities (NFWWD)              | Pakistan        |
| Azra Sayeed               | ROOTS for Equity   | Pakistan        |
| Cristina Palabay          | Tanggol Bayi   | the Philippines |
| Fatima Burnad             | Society for Rural Education and Development                    | India           |
| Joan M Salvador (Joms)    | Gabriella  | the Philippines |
| Govind Kelkar             | -  | India           |
| Eni Lestari               | Association of Indonesian Migrant Workers, Hong Kong (ATKI-HK) | Hong Kong       |
| Helda Khasmy              | SERUNI (Indonesian Women Union)                                | Indonesia       |
| Maliwan Senawong          | Thai Association   | Thailand        |
| Mijoo Kim                 | -  | Korea           |
| Nalini Singh              | Fiji Women’s Rights Movement                                   | Fiji            |
| ‘Ofa Guttenbiel Likiliki  | Tonga Women’s Crisis Centre                                    | Tonga           |
| Olga Djanaeva             | Rural women’s association “Alga”                               | Kyrgyzstan      |
| Raushan Nauryzbayeva      | Public Foundation “Development of Civil Society” in Kazakhstan | Kazakhstan      |
| Ravadee Prasertcharoensuk | Sustainable Development Foundation (SDF)                       | Thailand        |
| Renu Rajbhandhari         | Women’s Rehabilitation Center (WOREC)                          | Nepal           |
| Shireen Huq               | Naripokkho   | Bangladesh      |
| Reasey Seng               | SILAKA   | Cambodia        |
| Titi Soentoro             | Aksi! for gender, social and ecological justice                | Indonesia       |
| Tran Thi Thanh Toan       | Centre for Sustainable Rural Development (SRD)                 | Vietnam         |
| Yasso Kanti Bhattachan    | National Indigenous Women Forum (NIWF)                         | Nepal           |
| Misun Woo                 | Ex-Officio   |                 |

PROGRAMME AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (P&M) MEMBERS

|                             |                 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Govind Kelkar               | India           |
| Matcha Phorn-in (outgoing)  | Thailand        |
| Maliwan Senawong (incoming) | Thailand        |
| Joan M Salvador (Joms)      | the Philippines |
| Titi Soentoro               | Indonesia       |
| Reasey Seng                 | Cambodia        |
| Ivy Josiah                  | Ex-Officio      |
| Misun Woo                   | Ex-Officio      |

OUR SECRETARIAT

|   |
|---|
| Misun Woo – Regional Coordinator  |
| Aizhamal Bakashova – Sub-Grant Coordinator  |
| Marion G. Cabrera – Executive and Human Resources Officer   |
| Sancheeta Ghosh – Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Officer   |
| Sadia Afrin Khan – Programme Officer (Feminist Law and Practice)  |
| Adity Karki – Programme Associate, outgoing (Feminist Law and Practice)   |
| Wannapong Nhuun Yodmuang – Programme Associate, incoming (Feminist Law and Practice, Grounding the Global)                    |
| Wardarina – Programme Officer (Feminist Development Justice)  |
| Ranjana Giri– Programme Associate (Feminist Development Justice)  |
| Marjo Busto – Programme Officer (Breaking Out of Marginalisation)   |
| Patricia Wattimena – Programme Associate (Breaking Out of Marginalisation and Climate Justice)                                |
| Nazira Torobaeva – Central Asia Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR) coordinator                                     |
| Shoira Olimova – Central Asia Feminist Participatory Action Research Associate  |
| Diyana Yahaya – Programme Officer, outgoing (Women Interrogating Trade & Corporate Hegemony)                                  |
| Hien Nguyen – Programme Officer, incoming (Women Interrogating Trade & Corporate Hegemony)                                    |
| Ya Gan (Yasmin) – Programme Associate (Women Interrogating Trade & Corporate Hegemony) / Coordinator (COVID-19 Response Team) |
| Kavita Naidu – Programme Officer (Climate Justice)  |
| Madhura Chakraborty – Programme Officer (Women in Power)  |
| Ka Mei Lau – Programme Officer (Migration)  |
| Andi Cipta Asmawaty – Programme Officer (Labour)  |
| Risca Dwi Ambarsari – Programme Associate (Migration & Labour)  |
| Sanam Amin – Programme Officer, outgoing (Grounding the Global)   |
| Anjalee Karunaratne – Programme Officer, incoming (Grounding the Global)  |
| Neha Gupta – Information and Communications Officer   |
| Rachitaa Gupta – Information and Communications Associate   |
| Trimita Chakma – outgoing, Research and Publication Officer   |
| Ting Guo – incoming, Research and Publications Officer  |
| Kristine Valerio – Research and Publications Associate  |
| Kornvika Paoprathum – Finance Officer   |
| Chatchanok Anjanbhati – Finance Associate   |
| Raktai Damrongmanee – Finance Associate   |
| Visalinee Phuntip – outgoing, Liaison and Admin Officer   |
| Phantiwa Da Cruz Fernandes – incoming, Liaison and Admin Officer  |
| Thanyarat Khrueawongkaew – Liaison Associate  |
| Satnam Kaur – Finance and Admin Officer   |
| Anisha Luintel – South-South Fellow (Women in Power)  |
| Monisha Devi Singh – South-South Fellow (Grounding the Global)  |





# APWLD

## ASIA PACIFIC FORUM ON WOMEN, LAW AND DEVELOPMENT

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189/3 Changklan Road  
Amphoe Muang  
Chiang Mai 50100 THAILAND

Phone : (66)53 284527,284856

Fax:(66) 53280847

Email address: [apwld@apwld.org](mailto:apwld@apwld.org)

Website: <http://www.apwld.org>



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