

**REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON MEN AS PARTNERS TO END VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN (EVAW)**

Organized by

**the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, Royal Thai
Government, the UNIFEM East and Southeast Asia Regional Office,
Bangkok and the UNIFEM National Committees of Australia and Singapore
3-4 SEPTEMBER 2007, BANGKOK THAILAND**

**BANGKOK CONFERENCE STATEMENT ON
MEN AS PARTNERS TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

We, the representatives of Government, bilateral and multilateral organizations, non-government organizations, media, private sector, youth networks and spiritual leaders from Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Philippines, Timor Leste, Thailand, Vietnam, Mongolia, Australia and Singapore, participating in the Regional Conference on Men as Partners to End Violence Against Women (EVAW), having shared and explored experiences of institutional and individual efforts on the role of men and boys in addressing violence against women and the realization of women's human rights;

1. **Reaffirm** our commitment to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) 1979, the UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women 1993, the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action (BPFA) 1995; the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals 2000, and the UN Security Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, 2000;
2. **Acknowledge** that much progress has been made, especially at policy levels globally, regionally and nationally on ending violence against women ;
3. **Recognise** that progress on implementation and accountability on EVAW is hindered among other things by deeply embedded cultural values and social attitudes that objectify and alienate women and by failure to bring erring duty bearers and perpetrators to account;
4. **Recognise** that prevalent masculine norms connected to men's use of violence have harmful consequences for women and girls as well as boys and men themselves.
5. **Are convinced** that a pool of gender sensitive and strategically positioned men and boys as partners with women and girls, to end violence against

women is needed to close the gap between progress at the policy level, implementation and accountability;

6. **Acknowledge that boys and men are not a homogenous group** and that working with boys and men to prevent violence against women requires an understanding of their differing cultures, social positions, and experiences of violence.
7. **Abide by the principle of zero tolerance for violence against women and call upon governments, international organizations and civil society (NGOs, CBOs, religious groups, academe, media, corporate sector, etc.) to adopt a holistic, multi-sectoral approach to engage a critical mass of gender sensitive men and boys working together with women and girls in all sectors through:**
 - (a) **Transforming cultural attitudes and values** that discriminate against and violate women and all human beings, especially in the family setting.
 - (b) **Advocating with and strengthening the capacity of policy makers** on gender sensitive human rights standards to ensure that gender equality and women's rights perspectives are at the core of all policy, legislation and monitoring mechanisms, including indicators on men's and boys' engagement to end VAW;
 - (c) **Ensuring that policy commitments** on gender equality and women's rights, including violence against women are matched by adequate national budgets and overseas development assistance to ensure the realization of women's access to rights and entitlements;
 - (d) **Advocating with and strengthening the capacity of the police, judiciary, service providers** on gender sensitive human rights standards to ensure that implementation of policies and service provision ensures women's rights, and developing programmes for rehabilitation of offenders using a multi-sectoral coordination approach;
 - (e) **Developing gender sensitive education**, both formal and informal, in schools, communities, institutions of professional learning, young people's organizations, universities, institutions for civil and administrative services and institutions of professional learning, and encouraging young people to undertake programmes on gender equality, mutual respect, peace, democracy, justice and non-violence through their institutional fora;
 - (f) **Sensitizing mainstream and alternative media**, including at the highest levels, and working with the media as regular partners, to transform

traditional gender roles and trait stereotypes in the direction of gender equality, girls' and women's empowerment and non violent relationships between all human beings;

- (g) **Promoting a regional mass media campaign** on men and boys' responsiveness to gender equality and ending VAW using traditional as well as new forms of communication, including TV spots, music, text message campaigns, campaigns using role models, email dialogues, blogs and message boards, etc., highlighting boy's and men's caring, nurturing and non-violent attributes;
- (h) **Advocating with religious and community leaders** to actively promote their work, values and practice of non-discrimination to women and all human beings and to promote a culture of non-violence and peace;
- (i) **Engaging the corporate sector** as an important stakeholder and partner in innovative initiatives to end VAW and promote gender just institutional rules, procedures and cultures through their corporate social responsibility;
- (j) **Conducting research, documenting data and good practice** including by male advocates in different sectors to end discrimination and violence against women, and disseminating this and messages built on this documentation through different forms of the mainstream and alternate media.
- (k) **Mobilizing gender sensitive male advocates and networks together with women's groups** to work on issues of VAW, including setting up of website, sharing of good practices, news, sharing of information, education and communication (IEC) materials, e-discussion board, etc.

We express our appreciation to UNIFEM, for having facilitated and co-organized this Conference with the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, Thailand. We call upon UNIFEM to continue their support, to efforts especially on ending violence against women within the context of CEDAW, BPFA, the MDG, the UN Declaration on Ending Violence Against Women, and the Security Resolution Council 1325.

ADOPTED in Bangkok, on this Fourth day of September in year 2007