

Christian Conference of Asia  
Ecumenical Women's Action Against Violence (EWAAV)

**Asia Regional Consultation on  
'Gender-Based Violence and Forced Migration of Women:  
Towards Strengthening Gender Justice Advocacy'**

19-21 November | Bangkok, Thailand

**Communiqué**

We, the 34 delegates from across Asia representing the EWAAV networks of Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) member churches with different languages, cultures, and traditions, unite in this significant consultation, amplifying our voices in the pursuit of Gender Justice.

During this three-day consultation, participants came together to address the significant and pervasive issue of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and the challenges associated with women's forced migration globally. The event featured a series of discussions and workshops aimed at hearing stories and experiences from different contexts that will help us find and develop strategies for more inclusive, collaborative, and transformative actions that will proactively address the complexities of Gender-Based Violence.

As women from the Asia region, we have been blessed with a remarkable opportunity to come together through the CCA's Regional Consultation on 'Gender-Based Violence and Forced Migration of Women: Towards Attaining Gender Justice advocacy.' In the face of numerous challenges, we unite as strong and compassionate women, ready to engage deeply, ask difficult questions, and share our various experiences. Together, we entrust our journey to God, seeking God's guidance as we support one another in fellowship and worship. This shared commitment is a testament to our resilience and dedication to advancing gender justice for women.

**We urge our sisters:**

- To cultivate a spirit of enabling, empowering, and compassion towards all individuals, particularly those who are marginalised and facing adversity in a world marked by inequality.
- To take a stand for justice and equality with the courage and determination exemplified by those who have historically challenged injustices. We are proud of these heirs of the first responders to the risen Christ, the women witness of Jesus overcoming fatal violence.
- To educate and equip themselves with the knowledge and tools to develop a critical awareness of all forms of gender-based violence and inequality faced by displaced individuals, particularly women and girls. This could include learning about the causes and effects of GBV, as well as policies that support survivors.
- To collaborate with other women's groups, social activists and various NGOs to take a leading role in addressing the issues of gender-based violence and forced migration of women, contributing to social change and development.

- To empower others and their communities to advocate for the rights and safety of women, with a focus on gender-based violence and forced migration faced by women and girls in these situations. ‘Empowered Women Empower Women!’
- To extend an open invitation to all male members in our community to engage in the discourse on gender justice. We believe that by doing so, they will gain a deeper understanding of the destructive power of patriarchy and its impact on the entire community. Furthermore, we hope that they will be able to transform their biases and stereotypes about masculinity and participate in the process of forming a healthy, gender-just society.
- To believe that God is in charge of everything!

### **We urge the churches:**

- To develop critical awareness of the patriarchal perspectives and gender stereotypes embedded in theological languages and interpretations, as well as in the general system of the church. We urge church leaders to raise awareness among the church communities regarding the issues and challenges posed by gender-based violence and injustices through church policies, programs, and publications.
- To encourage a spirituality that fosters action, inspires aspiration, and challenges dominance.
- To continue biblical and theological research and education to clearly articulate the call for gender justice and prompt action.
- To prioritise discussions on gender-based violence and forced migration of women, ensuring inclusivity to reach individuals who may not be aware of its implications.
- To offer age-appropriate awareness training and programs against GBV and for gender justice and human rights.
- To establish and support committees dedicated to taking action on gender-based violence within the church community. Survivors of any form of gender-based violence should be supported with holistic care, which could include (but not limited to) trauma management, legal/social service, prayer groups, assistance in providing medical care, and linking overseas migrant workers with their families.
- To secure and expand the participation of women in every sphere where decisions are made, that their unique experiences are included to ensure that the body of Christ is in a continued healthy condition.
- To collaborate with stakeholders e.g., government, NGOs, social movements and faith-based organisations to advocate for the implementation of effective policies on gender-based violence and forced migration of women.

### **We urge CCA member churches and related ecumenical organisations:**

- To raise awareness about the prevalence and impact of gender-based violence and forced migration on women. This can be achieved through digital platforms, educational programs and community discussions that address these issues in a sensitive and informed manner, and by conducting surveys on gender-based violence in Asian churches.
- To create safe spaces within communities to support victims and survivors of GBV and forced migration. Providing resources, counselling, and support services can empower individuals and help them rebuild their lives.
- To advocate for policies that protect the rights of women and address the root causes of GBV and forced migration by collaborating with local and national governments to help ensure that effective measures are implemented.

- To build partnerships with other organisations, including NGOs and governmental bodies, to strengthen efforts to combat these issues. Collaborative initiatives can enhance the reach and effectiveness of programs aimed at supporting affected women.
- To emphasise gender justice within theological discussions and church teachings can help shift cultural attitudes that perpetuate violence and discrimination against women. Encouraging dialogue on these topics can foster a more equitable environment.
- To provide training for church leaders, members, and community advocates on the dynamics of GBV and the challenges faced by migrant women and their families, which can equip them to respond effectively and compassionately.

Addressing GBV and forced migration of women requires a collective commitment from all sectors of society, including faith communities. By taking proactive steps and fostering a culture of education, support, understanding and justice, we can contribute to the prevention and causes of GBV and forced migration of women, as well as the healing and empowerment of those affected.

As delegates, we are committed to advancing women's empowerment and strengthening our advocacy for gender equality. We believe in the power of collaboration between men and women to drive meaningful change. By working together, involving individuals, organisations, communities, churches, national governments, and international partners we can see a pathway to build a more equitable society and address the patriarchal structures that perpetuate gender-based violence.