



8 March 2026

Statement on International Women's Day 2026

The International Women's Day 2026 theme "Rights. Justice. Action. For All Women and Girls" is a call to move beyond laws on paper towards real, enforceable change. It demands an end to impunity and consistent accountability for perpetrators, and it requires that survivors are heard with urgency and respect, that legal aid and support systems are accessible, that institutions are strengthened, and that bias is confronted wherever decisions are made.

This year's International Women's Day comes at a defining moment for women's rights. Across Asia and beyond, women have never been closer to equality in principle, yet progress remains uneven and easily reversed. Despite legal protections on paper, weak enforcement, entrenched patriarchal norms, and systemic bias continue to undermine women's rights in many countries. Social attitudes often intersect with legal and institutional gaps, leaving many women without justice even where laws exist.

Barriers are also deeply rooted. Women who seek accountability frequently face fear of retaliation, stigma, disbelief, and significant economic obstacles. Even where legislation addresses violence, justice systems are too often slow, costly, and unresponsive to survivors' needs. For those who experience intersecting forms of discrimination, including migrant women, women with disabilities, women living in poverty, women of diverse sexual orientations or gender identities, and adolescent girls, these barriers are even greater. Such overlapping disadvantages intensify exclusion and make access to justice more difficult still.

It is only when commitments are translated into action that we can achieve progress and realise the goal of justice that women can access, navigate, and trust. Justice for women and girls means non-discrimination, gender equality, safety from harm, dignity in being heard and believed, meaningful remedies and support, and the prevention of further violence. When justice systems work for women, abuse is interrupted, accountability becomes tangible, and communities are stronger and safer.

The Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) calls on its member churches and councils, and ecumenical partners across Asia, to speak clearly and consistently against all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls, ensuring that our Christian witness is embodied not only in words but also in action.

Churches are called to listen to survivors with compassion, uphold their dignity, and walk alongside them in their pursuit of justice. CCA further recognises the urgent need for sustained advocacy to dismantle the practical, social, and systemic barriers that prevent women from accessing justice, including advocating for the full implementation of laws and for perpetrators to be held accountable without exception.

May this world be one where communities uphold rights, justice is truly accessible to all, and action is courageous and consistent, so that every woman and every girl may live in safety, dignity, and hope.

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