



Christian Conference of Asia

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CCA's Statement on International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women

Systematic and widespread violence against women and girls is an extreme crime against human rights. Women and girls experience brutal violence in physical, psychological, sexual, and economic forms at home and in public spaces - on the streets, at schools, and in the workplaces. The perpetrators on many occasions are not just strangers, but intimate partners and close relatives as well. The high rate of violence against women and girls is just the tip of the iceberg, worst during and after the COVID -19 pandemic. In unreachable and isolated areas, victims are terrorized and forced by perpetrators to be passive or silent. It is unfortunate that Asia is becoming a hotspot for the high prevalence of violence against women and girls.

Every year, on 25th November, concerned people and groups commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women — a 16-day period of activism leading up to International Human Rights Day on 10th December. The United Nations Secretary-General and UN Women launched the campaign in 2008, calling for "global action to increase awareness, promote advocacy, and create opportunities for discussion on challenges and solutions."

The theme of this year's campaign is 'UNITE! Activism to End Violence Against Women and Girls,' which aims to mobilize all peoples to take on roles as activists to prevent violence against women, to stand in solidarity with women's movements around the world and resist the invalidation of women's emancipation struggles, and, finally, to call for a world free of violence against women and girls. The campaign in 2022 also aims to combat rising anti-rights movements, which have resulted in the shrinking of free spaces and an increase in attacks on women's rights defenders, advocates, organizations, and on the feminist movement as a whole.

On this occasion of the commemoration of the International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women, the Christian Conference of Asia, joins with the rest of the global and Asian women's movements commemorating the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women-2022. The CCA has been consistently engaged in advocacy for combating violence against women through a special programme it has initiated, the Ecumenical Women's Action Against Violence (EWAAV). EWAAV promotes and emphasizes collaboration and networking among Asian churches and women's organizations so as to be in solidarity with each other in their struggle for combating violence against women and girls.

On this International Day for the ERAW 2022, the Christian Conference of Asia reiterates its commitment to join its member churches and ecumenical councils in advocating for women's rights and in combating all forms of violence and abuse against women and girls. The CCA urges its member constituencies to organise, strengthen, and institutionalise programmes and projects in churches and communities that will empower people at large in combating gender-based violence. As a fellowship of the Asian churches and ecumenical councils, CCA will continue to uphold the dignity of all God's creation, and calls upon all people of conscience to be united in ending violence against women and girls.'

Dr. Mathews George Chunakara

General Secretary, CCA