



**THE 45<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
OF ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**  
17-23 October 2024  
Vientiane, Lao PDR

*The Role of Parliaments in Enhancing Connectivity and  
Inclusive Growth of ASEAN*

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(Res.45GA/2024/WAIPA/02)

**RESOLUTION ON**  
**PROMOTING THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN  
AND CHILDREN IN THE ASEAN REGION**

*Sponsored by Viet Nam*

***The Forty-fifth AIPA General Assembly:***

***Recalling*** the legal obligations enshrined in key international treaties and instruments aimed at promoting gender equality, eliminating discrimination, and eradicating all forms of violence against women and children, notably the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), adopted in 1979, and its General Recommendations;

***Further recalling*** the enduring relevance of the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (DEVAW) adopted by the General Assembly in 1993; Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action of 1995; and reaffirming the shared commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of women as set forth in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly in Goal 5, which seeks to achieve gender equality and empower all women and children, and other relevant frameworks under the ASEAN Charter;

***Further recalling*** the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women in the ASEAN Region (Jakarta, 2004), the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and the Elimination of Violence Against Children in ASEAN (Bandar Seri Begawan, 2013) ASEAN Declaration on the Gender-Responsive Implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and Sustainable Development Goals (Manila, 2017), which underscores the necessity of a gender-responsive approach in addressing regional challenges, and reflects the region's unified commitment to preventing and responding to violence against women and children;

***Affirming*** previous resolutions of the AIPA, including but not limited to AIPA Resolution No. [Res.35GA/2014/WAIPA/01](#) on Strengthening Efforts in the Prevention of All Forms

of Discrimination and Violence Against Women and Children in ASEAN; [Res.36GA/2015/WAIPA/02](#) on Promoting A Culture of Respect and the Rights of Women and Children Towards Inclusiveness; [Res.36GA/2015/WAIPA/03](#) on Strengthening Legal Framework To Eliminate Violence Against Women and Children in ASEAN; [Res.40GA/2019/WAIPA/01](#) on Promoting Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women in ASEAN; [Res.43GA/2022/WAIPA/02](#) on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment For A Sustainable, Inclusive And Resilient COVID-19 Recovery; and [Res.44GA/2023/WAIPA/02](#) on Enhancing ASEAN Resilience Through Women Leadership and Gender-Responsive Parliaments;

**Recognising** that violence against women and children constitutes one of the most pervasive human rights violations, manifesting in various forms, including domestic violence, sexual harassment, human trafficking, cyber violence and other harmful practices such as, child and forced marriage, which continue to impede the realisation of women's full participation in economic, political, and social life, thereby hindering the achievement of sustainable development and social cohesion within the ASEAN region;

**Acknowledging** the severe and long-lasting consequences of violence in all its forms, not only for the physical, mental, emotional, and economic well-being of women and children but also for families, communities, and societies at large, leading to generational cycles of trauma, reduced economic productivity, and exacerbated inequalities;

**Further acknowledging** that the elimination of all forms of violence against women and children shall be a central pillar of ASEAN's efforts to promote human rights, sustainable development, and regional integration, recognising that the protection of women and children from violence is essential in realising the ASEAN Community Vision of a rules-based, people-centred, and inclusive community that leaves no one behind;

**Emphasising** the importance of enhanced collaboration among ASEAN Member States, AIPA Member Parliaments, and relevant stakeholders, including mass organisations, civil society organisations, international agencies, and the private sector, to share knowledge, best practices, and resources in the formulation, implementation, and monitoring of policies and laws designed to prevent and combat violence against women and children;

**Reaffirming** ASEAN's steadfast commitment to upholding international human rights standards in protecting women and children from all forms of violence and creating a secure, equitable, and enabling environment where women and children can thrive, free from fear and harm.

**Hereby resolves to:**

**Strongly urge** AIPA Member Parliaments to improve and monitor the implementation of comprehensive legal and policy frameworks and measures aimed at preventing and eliminating all forms of violence against women and children, and ensuring that these frameworks are in full compliance with States' international human rights obligations

that encompass preventative, protective, and punitive measures to address both individual perpetrators and structural factors that contribute to violence;

**Further urge** ASEAN Member States to allocate adequate financial, human, and technical resources to support the full and effective implementation of laws and policies aimed at preventing and eliminating all forms of violence against women and children, to ensure that no woman or child is left unprotected;

**Encourage** AIPA Member Parliaments to develop and implement robust and culturally sensitive public awareness campaigns with the engagement of a wide range of societal actors, emphasising the importance of gender equality and highlight the detrimental effects of gender-based violence on individuals, families, and communities;

**Call upon** AIPA Member Parliaments to actively involve men and boys as key partners in preventing and eliminating violence against women and children, recognising that men and boys play a crucial role in challenging harmful gender norms, promoting positive masculinities, and advocating for respectful and non-violent relationships;

**Recommend** that AIPA Member Parliaments enhance regional and international cooperation in addressing violence against women and children, through exchange of best practices, and technical assistance, as well as strengthening of data collection and research, and capacity-building initiatives. ASEAN should also seek to strengthen partnerships with relevant international organisations, such as UN Women, UNICEF, and the World Health Organization, to provide comprehensive support to victims of violence, including medical, legal, psychosocial services and access to safe spaces, particularly for women and children who are migrants, refugees, displaced, abandoned, stateless or at risk of statelessness, as well as those from vulnerable communities, or experiencing similar conditions prejudicial to their best interests;

**Encourage** AIPA Member Parliaments to work closely with ASEAN Member States in promoting the use of technology and innovation to combat violence against women and children.

Adopted on the twenty-first day of October 2024 in Vientiane, Lao PDR.



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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

**RESOLUTION ON PROMOTING THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE  
AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN THE ASEAN REGION**

In the context of violence against women and children being a pervasive global issue, affecting millions of individuals worldwide, addressing this problem is of utmost urgency. Despite efforts at national, international, and regional levels to combat this scourge, violence against women and children persists, causing profound and long-lasting consequences. ASEAN has demonstrated a strong commitment to protecting and advancing the rights of women and children by adopting significant conventions and declarations. However, the practical implementation of these commitments continues to face considerable challenges. The elimination of violence against women and children is a critical objective within the framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender equality, which calls for collective action by all countries, including ASEAN Member States.

Although there has been progress and increased efforts in recent years, the prevalence of violence against women and children in ASEAN remains high. Common forms of violence include domestic violence, sexual violence, human trafficking, child marriage, and other manifestations of gender-based violence. These forms of violence result in serious physical, mental, and economic harm to women and children, while also negatively impacting families, communities, and the sustainable development of the ASEAN region. Addressing the issue of violence against women and children in ASEAN faces multiple challenges, including:

- The persistence of harmful gender stereotypes and social norms.
- The absence of adequate and effective legal frameworks.
- Insufficient comprehensive support services for victims.
- A lack of awareness at the individual, family, and community levels.

Recognising that violence against women and children constitutes a severe violation of human rights and obstructs the sustainable development of ASEAN countries, there is an

urgent need for closer cooperation among ASEAN Member States to enhance each nation's capacity to comprehensively and effectively address this issue.

Against this backdrop, Viet Nam proposes the adoption of the resolution titled "Promoting the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Children in the ASEAN Region." The primary goal of this resolution is to encourage ASEAN Member States to strengthen preventive and responsive measures to combat violence against women and children, ensuring they have access to safe, equal, and violence-free living environments. The resolution also underscores the importance of regional and international cooperation in addressing this issue, particularly with regard to the protection of migrant women and children within ASEAN.

The resolution "Promoting the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Children in the ASEAN Region" represents a significant step forward in addressing violence against women and children in the region. By fulfilling the commitments outlined in this resolution, ASEAN Member States will ensure the equal rights of women and children, promote gender equality, and contribute to building a safe, equitable, and prosperous ASEAN community for all.