



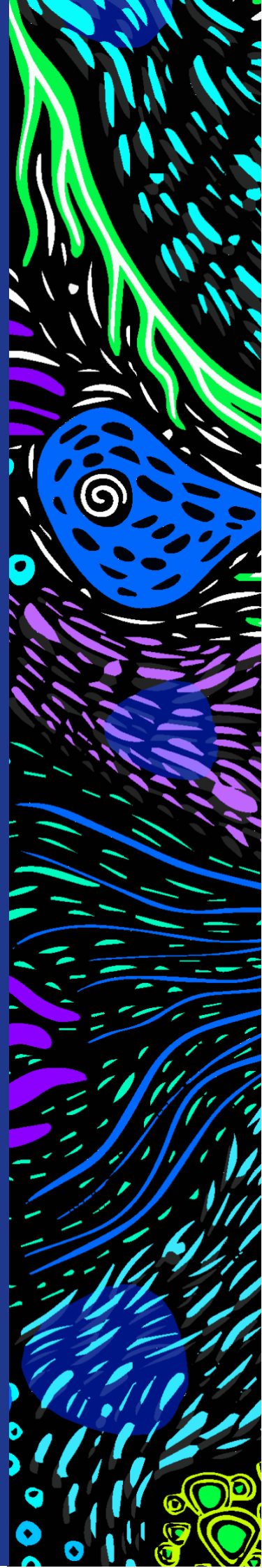
CEVAW

ARC Centre of Excellence for the
Elimination of Violence Against Women

JUSTICE DENIED: FIGHTING WIDESPREAD IMPUNITY FOR CONFLICT-RELATED SEXUAL VIOLENCE (CRSV)

2–3 JUNE 2025

CONFERENCE REPORT





Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

Conference Report: Justice Denied: Fighting Widespread Impunity for Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV)

Traditional Custodians

CEVAW and AIIA Victoria acknowledge and pay respect to the Traditional Owners and Elders past and present of the lands on which our conference will take place upon - the peoples of the Kulin Nation. Their cultures and customs have nurtured and continue to nurture these lands, skies and waters. We extend our respects to all Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, and other Indigenous peoples around the world.

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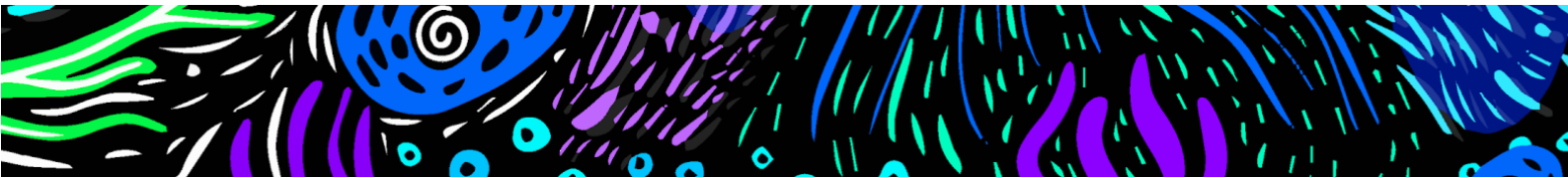
CEVAW

ARC Centre of Excellence for the
Elimination of Violence Against Women

The Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (CEVAW) aims to transform our understanding of gender-based violence by examining the structural drivers that cause and compound violence, while pioneering evidence-based approaches to improve policy and practice across Australia and the Indo-Pacific. The Centre mobilises survivor-centric and Indigenous methodologies, interdisciplinary collaborations, and Indo-Pacific partnerships to deliver scalable solutions across legal, security, economic, health, and political systems.

Participating Organisations

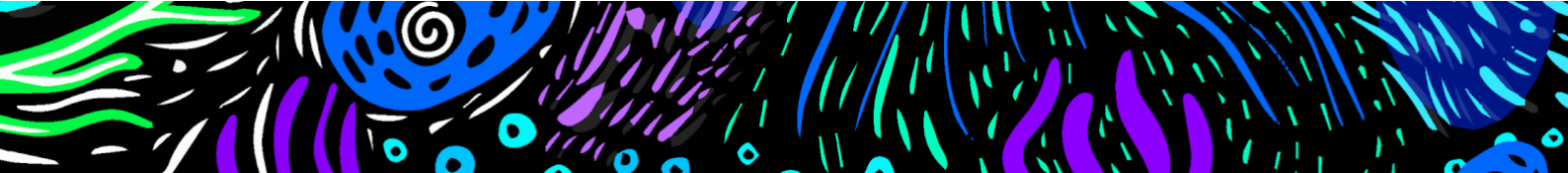
	We would like to thank the Conference co-host, Australian Institute of International Affairs - Victoria for their organisational, financial and in-kind support.
 Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	We would like to thank the Australian Government – Department of Foreign Affairs providing significant financial support to facilitate conference attendance and travel for Indo-Pacific speakers and representatives.



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Executive Summary

Why Justice Denied?

Sexual and gender-based violence against civilians is becoming more prevalent as a tool of warfare, not less. Almost twenty-five years after the adoption of UNSCR 1325, which established the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda and more than a decade after the Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative (PSVI) was introduced by the United Kingdom, there is greater awareness of the egregious nature and impacts of this violence. But impunity remains high in the growing number of fragile and conflict settings globally.

The *Justice Denied: Fighting Widespread Impunity for Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV)* conference aimed to foster interdisciplinary dialogue and critical reflection on the current state of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) in the Indo-Pacific region, including fragile situations and all forms of sexual and gender-based violence. It showcased cutting-edge research, discussed policy solutions and shared diverse experiences of CRSV within the region.

Recognising the available tools and training, such as the Murad Code, the International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict, and the International Alliance on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict, the conference examined the relevance and applicability of these tools and training for conflict and fragile situations across the Indo-Pacific. CRSV destroys the lives of individuals, families, communities and whole societies, it prolongs conflict and sets back post-conflict recovery. The conference examined the international consensus forged in state commitments to the PSVI and the WPS agenda, through National Action Plans and Regional Action Plans, to prohibit sexual violence in conflict and overcome the challenges of ending impunity in the Indo-Pacific context. The conference addressed diverse conflicts, including coups, terrorism, protracted civil conflict, local conflicts, sieges, ethnic cleansing, and gender apartheid to explore patterns of violence and understand why impunity for CRSV is widely accepted by many with authority to end it, especially states and non-state armed groups, across the Indo-Pacific.

Why the Indo-Pacific?

The Indo-Pacific is an under-examined site of CRSV. In the past two decades alone, acts of sexual and gender-based violence has occurred in the Indo-Pacific in association with warfare (Afghanistan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste), protracted conflict (Afghanistan and Myanmar), political fragility (Nepal, India and Pakistan), violent extremism (the Philippines), inter-group violence (Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands), and crimes against humanity (North Korea), to name a few. There is a legacy of learning and lived experience of CRSV from prior conflicts in the region, including Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, and Vietnam.

Labelling politically motivated sexual and gender-based violence crimes in the region can be controversial. Not all states recognise these crimes in their country as CRSV. Calling out these crimes may implicate powerful actors. There are regional and international concerns that labelling all situations in the region as CRSV heightens political tensions, undermines survivor-centred approaches, and constrain locally appropriate responses. However, for civil society groups, rights defenders, and communities, these crimes are occurring in conflict conditions where the violence serves as “message crimes” to populations, where accessing safe

survivor-centred care is impossible, where first responders are at risk of retaliatory violence and the risk of stigma and further harm to survivors' cultures of silence.

More than 200 experts, advocates, survivors, and policymakers gathered in Melbourne, Australia for *Justice Denied*, the first international conference of its kind to be held in Australia dedicated exclusively to this urgent human rights crisis.

Hosted by the ARC Centre of Excellence for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (CEVAW) in partnership with the Australian Institute of International Affairs Victoria (AIIV), the two-day conference marked a critical turning point in the global response to CRSV, particularly in underrepresented regions such as the Indo-Pacific.

The conference emphasised placing survivors and their communities at the centre of justice conversations, and that survivor agency and dignity must guide all legal, political, and social responses.

Presenters from grassroots organisations, survivor-centred justice alliances, and international organisations shared hard-won lessons from countries where justice remains elusive, as well as stories of perseverance, solidarity, healing, and survivor-led change.

Representing voices across the globe

The conference brought together speakers from across the region and the globe, with a strong emphasis on expert voices and lived experience from conflict-affected situations. Countries represented included:

Myanmar, Afghanistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Kosovo, Cambodia, India, Ukraine, Norway, Belgium, USA, UK, Nigeria, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Fiji and Australia.

A number of these countries continue to face systemic barriers to document and report CRSV as well as pursuing justice for victim-survivors, ranging from political silencing and resource limitations to cultural and institutional impunity. The conference served as a rare and powerful space for cross-border solidarity and learning.



Conference Proceedings:

Day 1 – Monday 2 June 2025

CEVAW Director Opening – Professor Jacqui True



“This conference seeks to change the situation of justice-denied by bringing forth the voices of survivors, survivor advocacy and survivor-centred research from the Indo Pacific region that are under-appreciated and recognised in the global agenda.”

– Professor Jacqui True

Professor Jacqui True opened the conference expressing the hope that this meeting will bring renewed action to end impunity for conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence (CRSGBV). She noted that it was the first international conference to be convened in Australia on CRSGBV – and first conference with a focus on the Indo-Pacific region. She acknowledged 2025 as the year we commemorate 25 years of UNSCR 1325, which established the Women, Peace and Security agenda. For the first time in international law and policy, 1325 recognised the distinct impacts of conflict on women and men. However, despite the commitments in this hard-won international agenda – SGBV against all groups is rapidly rising in conflicts

and fragile situations across our region and world. Professor True invited everyone's contributions and that they would be brought together in a conference statement, outlining the next steps and actions needed to end impunity for CRSGBV.

Recorded Message: Baroness Arminka Helic



“CRSV often ends up as ‘an uncomfortable footnote’... we must move beyond performative sympathy to real solutions.”

– Baroness Arminka Helic

Baroness Arminka Helic delivered a powerful and impassioned speech highlighting the urgent need for action to address this critical issue. She emphasized that sexual violence in conflict is not an incidental or inevitable consequence of war, but rather a deliberate strategy used to degrade, humiliate, and destroy individuals and communities. The Baroness outlined the progress made through landmark

tribunals, UN Security Council resolutions, and initiatives like the Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative (PSVI), which she co-founded.

However, she also acknowledged that the crisis is worsening, with sexual violence on the rise globally, including in Asia and the Pacific. She called for a stronger international response, including the establishment of an independent, apolitical International Commission on Sexual Violence in Conflict to ensure rapid and effective support for survivors. She emphasized the importance of addressing the root causes of sexual violence and ensuring that survivors' voices remain central to all efforts to combat this devastating issue.

Keynote: Professor Kim Thuy Seelinger JD – Washington University at St Louis

- Moderator: The Honourable Justice Lesley Taylor



“Often, justice delayed is justice denied. The challenge is to keep CRSV prosecution moving forward while ensuring we don’t harm survivors in the process.”
– Professor Kim Thuy Seelinger

The justice ecosystem addressing conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) has evolved through frameworks like the UN Security Council Resolution on Women Peace and Security UNSCR 1325 (2000) and international tribunals including the International Criminal Tribunal on Rwanda (ICTR). Recently, important steps have been taken to expand recognition of victims to include men, boys, and children born of rape. However, chronic underreporting and lack of baseline data hinder progress measurement. A survivor-centered approach emphasizes that justice must go beyond courtrooms, to incorporate law reform, reparations, and essential services like shelter and psychosocial support. Institutions must balance expedience with survivors’ need for safety, time, and choice, and broaden evidentiary strategies to include cultural norms and disaggregated data. Operational challenges include limited investigative capacity, political will, and societal readiness, and survivors may prefer to prioritize symbolic and community-based justice over legal outcomes. Gender-responsive protocols and trauma-informed practices are essential, as survivors experience time and justice differently. Innovations in evidence collection and survivor support – such as safe spaces, trained personnel, and flexible legal processes – are key to meaningful accountability and healing.

Plenary I: The Fight Continues: Justice for CRSV on the 25th Anniversary of WPS

- Professor Elisabeth Jean Wood, Yale University, (CEVAW Partner Investigator)
- Leonésia Tecla da Silva, Southeast Asia Women Peace Mediators
- Dr Fiona Hukula, Gender Specialist, Pacific Islands Forum
- Professor Bina D’Costa, CEVAW Chief Investigator, Australian National University
- Moderator: Associate Professor Sally Moyle, CEVAW Advisory Council Chair



The plenary session explored evolving research and policy responses to conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) and gender-based violence (GBV), highlighting significant advancements in documenting and analysing patterns of CRSV, including variations in type, frequency, and targeting. Professor Elisabeth Wood emphasized the role of ideology and organizational policy in shaping these patterns, referencing recent scholarly work on CRSV and gender hierarchies; she called for deeper comparative analysis of gender norms and practices. Leonésia Tecla da Silva presented Timor Leste as a model for post-conflict reconciliation and gender equality, citing progress in legal reforms and political representation, while acknowledging ongoing challenges in justice access and recognition of women's contributions. Dr Fiona Hukula focused on Papua New Guinea, where tribal and election-related violence heightens risks for women and girls. Her talk underscored the importance of community-level mechanisms, such as village courts, and the need to integrate peace-building into CRSV prevention. Professor Bina D'Costa reflected on the history of how CRSV in Bangladesh, noting how its own historical experience of CRSV influenced the experience of the country's response to the Rohingya refugees fleeing the genocide in Myanmar in 2017. She noted progress in women's leadership and policy inclusion, but warned against replicating exclusionary hierarchies within Women, Peace and Security (WPS) movements which determines who is acknowledged as a CRSV survivor-victim.

Across all presentations, the session called for deeper integration of peace, justice, and gender-sensitive approaches in conflict response and prevention. This must be supported and coordinated at all levels because the international, regional and community movements support and hold to account national support.

Remarks: H.E. Vasyl Myroshnychenko, Ukrainian Ambassador to Australia



The Ambassador discussed the widespread use of sexual violence as a deliberate military strategy by Russian forces in the invasion of Ukraine. He described the systematic rape, torture, and murder of Ukrainian civilians, including women, children, and prisoners of war, as a tactic to terrorize and subjugate the Ukrainian people.

He noted that the scale of these atrocities is unprecedented, with an estimated 140,000 war crimes committed by Russia, many involving sexual violence. The Ambassador emphasized the importance of documenting and prosecuting these crimes in international courts and highlighted the challenges in doing so.

He called for accountability and justice for the victims, stating that appeasement of such horrific acts will only embolden further aggression and violence.

Plenary II: The State of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in the Indo-Pacific: Perspectives and Insights

- Artemis Akbary, Founder and Executive Director, Afghan LGBTIQ+ Organisation
- Moon Nay Li, Women's League of Burma
- Bhavani Fonseka, Centre for Policy Alternatives
- Queenie Tomaro, Mindanao State University – Iligan Institute of Technology and Executive Member, Young Women Leaders for Peace – Philippines
- Moderator: Professor Sara Davies, Deputy Director CEVAW



The session brought together speakers from diverse conflict-affected contexts to highlight the pervasive issue of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV), systemic impunity, and the resilience of survivors and civil society actors. Artemis Akbary addressed the Taliban's gender apartheid regime, which systematically deprives women and LGBTIQ+ individuals of fundamental rights. Despite international legal efforts, such as the ICC's decision to prosecute Taliban crimes, political interests within bodies like the UN Security Council hinder meaningful action in Afghanistan. Domestic silence and stigma further marginalize survivors, while civil society efforts are constrained by Taliban restrictions and reduced funding. Moon Nay Li discussed similar patterns of CRSV perpetrated by military actors in Myanmar, with survivors denied justice and human rights defenders facing threats. While the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda is adopted internationally, local implementation remains weak. Mobile safe houses and informal justice mechanisms are used to protect and support survivors, but impunity persists due to continued military support by governments. Bhavani Fonseka highlighted the ongoing challenges in holding perpetrators accountable for CRSV crimes due to weak legal frameworks and institutional systems. Although documentation efforts have led to some recognition and sanctions (e.g., travel bans) in Sri Lanka from crimes in 2008 and 2009, only a few cases have reached court. Survivors' voices must be central, and informal mechanisms – especially women-led community initiatives – play a critical role in resisting militarisation and impunity. Queenie Pearl Tomaro addressed CRSV within the broader context of colonial violence and institutional collapse in post-conflict Mindanao, the Philippines. Community and religious leaders are involved in referral systems for CRSV victim-survivors, but informal justice often prioritizes harmony over accountability. ASEAN's non-interference principle and fragmented regional approaches hinder cross-border CRSV responses. Women-led early warning systems exist but lack institutional support.

The key recommendation from the panel was that to ensure justice for survivors of CRSV, it is vital to address impunity by strengthening accountability mechanisms and actively partnering with civil society and community-based organisations. Impunity for CRSV persists due to political inaction, ineffective formal justice systems, and societal norms, which stigmatised gender-based violence and minority groups. These issues undermine accountability and allow continuum of violence to persist.

Side Event: Bridging the Gap: CRSV Research into Policy and Practice - A Roundtable Discussion led by the Gender Violence Research and Collaboration Network

- Sabrina Page, University of Edinburgh

Bridging the Gap: CRSV Research into Policy and Practice

Key Takeaways From Our Round Table Event

- 1 Aligning Research with Broader Societal and Development Goals**

It is important to embed CRSV research within wider social, humanitarian and development contexts. Bridging into policy and practice isn't just about institutional uptake - it must resonate with societal values and real-world challenges beyond academic or security discourses. This requires making research accessible and relevant to a range of communities and sectors, including humanities and development practitioners.
- 2 Disconnect Between Sectors**

A significant gap exists between academics, practitioners, and policy actors. This siloed working structure hampers collaboration and delays the translation of research into actional strategies.
- 3 Ethical and Context-Sensitive Approaches Are Essential**

Discussion emphasised the importance of using methodologies - like ethnographic approaches - that are sensitive to power dynamics, trauma, and cultural context.
- 4 Bridging Research and Practice Requires Time and Resources**

Beyond funding, limited time and human resources were flagged as major constraints. Both researchers and practitioners face competing demands, making it difficult to engage deeply with each other's work. Efforts to translate CRSV research into action need to be adequately resourced and realistic about the capacities of all stakeholders involved.
- 5 Language and Communication Must be Inclusive**

Research findings often remain inaccessible due to dense academic language or format. Making research digestible- clear, concise, and tailored to practitioners and policymakers- is crucial for practical impact. Better communication also includes understanding and using terminology that resonates with diverse stakeholders.
- 6 Capacity Building and Training Gaps**

There is a lack of training and capacity among stakeholders to engage with CRSV research meaningfully. Building mutual understanding and shared competencies across sectors is key to effective collaboration.

This side event featured a roundtable discussion that brought together researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to explore how innovative research agendas can bridge the gap between Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV) research and its translation into policy and practice. The session will provide a platform for interactive, solution-driven dialogue, with the aim of identifying ways to strengthen the evidence base for CRSV prevention and drive institutional reforms. Participants will engage in discussions on how research can inform effective responses to CRSV, improve access to justice for survivors, and enhance frontline interventions. The roundtable shared insights, challenges, and practical solutions for integrating research into policy and practice. The roundtable format will encourage active participation and knowledge exchange, advancing the understanding of how research can be directly applied to improve CRSV prevention and response efforts.

Concurrent Session 1.1: Impunity and Silence: The Struggle of Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in Myanmar

- Hnin Shwe Zin Hlaing, Head of Policy Advocacy, Gender Equality Network
- Okkar Shein, Head of Program, Gender Equality Network
- Ja Seng Ing, Consultant Researcher, International Commission for Jurists
- Hnin Win Aung, International Commission of Jurists
- Moderator: Associate Professor Nick Cheesman, Myanmar Research Centre, Australian National University

Myanmar has witnessed decades of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV), systematically perpetrated by the successive Myanmar military with impunity, particularly against ethnic minorities. Following the military's attempted coup in 2021, CRSV has escalated to alarming levels, with junta-sponsored sexual violence reported in detention centres, interrogation camps, and conflict zones. Additionally, various forms of CRSV have been increasingly documented among resistance armed forces opposing the junta. The pervasive use of CRSV by the military junta is a direct consequence of entrenched impunity, where security forces mandated to protect civilians have instead been primary perpetrators. Despite extensive documentation of atrocities by civil societies, the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission, and the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar, justice mechanisms remain weak, fragmented, and inaccessible to survivors. This roundtable explored the justice mechanisms available for CRSV survivors in Myanmar and analysed their limitations including the challenges in seeking justice in the areas controlled by the junta, ethnic resistance organizations, and other resistance organizations. It discussed how women's rights organizations are navigating systems to support the survivors and document CRSV cases amidst the conflict, restricted resources, and shrinking space to function. Additionally, it explored the potential role of international courts, universal jurisdiction cases, and UN-led investigative mechanisms in holding perpetrators accountable and ensuring justice for survivors.

The session concluded with a series of urgent recommendations aimed at strengthening justice and accountability in Myanmar. The roundtable called for direct support to local organisations and urged the international community to listen to survivors and grassroots voices. A stronger, intersectional survivor-centred approach is needed to ensure justice reflects the lived realities and needs of those most affected. They emphasized the importance of denying legitimacy to the military junta. Regional and international efforts need to amplify survivor voices, advance legal accountability, and mobilize international action to address the entrenched impunity for CRSV in Myanmar. Specific measures such as an arms embargo and sanctions on jet fuel were proposed to halt airstrikes targeting civilians, particularly children. Collaboration with the National Unity Government (NUG) and the National Unity Consultative Council (NUCC) was highlighted as essential, alongside calls to reform or expand the mandate of the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM).

Concurrent Session 1.2: State-sanctioned Cultural Impunity: Accountability for Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV) in Afghanistan (Hybrid Delivery)

- Dr Sima Samar, Human Rights Advocate (Pre-recorded Video)
- Dr Farkhondeh Akbari, CEVAW Research Fellow, Monash University
- Fereshta Abbasi, Human Rights Watch (Virtual)
- Artemis Akbary, Founder and Executive Director, Afghan LGBTIQ+ Organisation
- Moderator: Dr Niamatullah Ibrahim, Senior Researcher, University of Melbourne

This panel brought together leading human rights practitioners and experts with lived experience from Afghanistan to confront the entrenched impunity surrounding conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence (CRSGBV) in the country. From the targeted abuse of women in public spaces to the systemic silencing of LGBTQ individuals and survivors of CRSGBV, the panel explored the multiple, intersecting layers of violence sustained by both state actors and societal norms. Cultural and political structures that have normalised impunity for sexual violence in the context of war, authoritarianism and patriarchy were interrogated. The panel discussion critically evaluated cultural-relativist approaches often employed by international and local actors and how they reinforce silence and impunity. Such approaches fail to challenge the patriarchal foundations of Afghan society and the international system alike and therefore, to prevent CRSGBV.

The absence of documentation of SGBV in Afghanistan is not accidental and is entangled in political objectives: Documentation from human rights organisations, CSOs and international organisations is often limited or even not published. One key recommendation from this session was the critical need to systematically document SGBV against women, girls and LGBTIQ+ communities in order to promote accountability and justice in Afghanistan, and for us as researchers, activists, CSOs to contribute to this work.

Plenary III: Survivor-Centred Approaches to Addressing CRSV: From Knowledge to Action

- Dr Susan Risal, Chief Executive Officer, Nagarik Aawaz
- Lilly BeSoer, Executive Director, Voice for Change
- Hitomi Fujimoto, Policy and Advocacy Officer for Asia, Global Survivors Fund
- Moderator: Dr Phyu Phyu Oo, CEVAW Research Fellow, Griffith University



The plenary session explored grassroots responses to conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) and the critical role of survivor-led initiatives in Nepal, Papua New Guinea (PNG), and broader regional contexts. Dr Susan Risal presented the work of Nagarik Aawaj in Nepal, which provides safe spaces, medical and psychological support for survivors. Despite the prevalence of CRSV during the Nepalese conflict, it remains unacknowledged in formal peace processes, with both the Maoist movement and the state denying its occurrence. Survivors face deep societal stigma, and patriarchal norms often prevent women from receiving support, even from their own families. Lilly BeSoer, Voices for Change, highlighted the situation in Papua New Guinea, where tribal and resource-based conflicts have led to widespread sexual and gender-based violence, particularly against young women. Traditional peace mechanisms fail to address SGBV as related to conflict, and the absence of a Women, Peace and Security (WPS) framework exacerbates the issue. Her organisation, Voice for Change, provides rescue services, legal aid, and education, while working to localise the WPS agenda and train women as human rights defenders. However, efforts are hindered by budget cuts, limited legal infrastructure, and lack of institutional support. Hitomi Fujimoto, from the Global Survivor Fund, discussed their work to enhance access to reparations through the Fund, which prioritises survivor agency. Programmes are context-specific and include both individual and collective reparative measures such as recognition letters, livelihood support, and spiritual healing. Survivors are actively involved in project design and implementation, ensuring that their voices shape the response.

The session underscored the urgent need for survivor-centred justice, systemic reform to recognise conflict-related SGBV, and sustained support for grassroots organisations working to address CRSV and end impunity.

Keynote Address – Evening Reception: H.E. Stephanie Copus-Campbell AM, Australian Ambassador for Gender Equality

- MC: Professor Jacqui True, CEVAW Director
- Vote of Thanks: Dr Phyu Phyu Oo, CEVAW Research Fellow

“We have more women, for example, living within 50 kms of armed conflict than since the Second World War.”

– H.E. Stephanie Copus-Campbell

The evening reception featured a keynote address by Her Excellency Stephanie Copus Campbell AM GAICD, Australian Ambassador for Gender Equality. As one of her final public engagements in this role, Ambassador Copus Campbell reflected on her tenure and shared insights into advancing gender equality across the Indo-Pacific. Her remarks highlighted the importance of sustained advocacy, inclusive leadership, and survivor-centred approaches to addressing gender-based violence.



Conference Proceedings:

Day 2 – Tuesday 3 June 2025

Keynote: Caroline Martin, Sovereign Boonwurrung/Wemba Wemba Woman.

- Moderator: Dr Julie Ballangarry



Picture (L-R): Caroline Martin, Dr Julie Ballangarry, Dr Fiona Hukula

“These are structural indicators of a nation that has never reckoned with its war on Aboriginal women... This is not ancient history, it is our present tense.”– Caroline Martin

The keynote offered a powerful account of colonial violence and its enduring impact, particularly on First Nations women in Australia. Caroline Martin honoured the voices of those who shared their truths throughout the conference and acknowledged the country on which the gathering took place, while critically examining the colonial origins of terms like “Aboriginal.” The address traced the historical and legal sanctioning of violence, including massacres and sexual exploitation, which formed Australia’s first known sex trade under colonial silence. Through personal family history, Caroline illustrated the intergenerational trauma and resistance of Aboriginal women, showing how structural exclusion was deliberately designed to deny justice. She also spoke of her own lived experience of physical violence and abuse in a long-term relationship, situating her silence within the legacy of impunity passed down through generations. By naming the harm she endured, Caroline made clear that justice denied is not only historic but ongoing, and that silence has always protected perpetrators, not survivors.

Today, Aboriginal women continue to face disproportionate rates of violence, incarceration, and systemic neglect, with no national inquiry or public recognition of their suffering, historical and ongoing. Caroline emphasised that justice must go beyond legal frameworks and be anchored in political will, survivor engagement, and intersectional understanding. Silence, she argued, is not neutral but complicit, and true protection lies in naming harm, so future generations do not have to endure it. The keynote concluded with a call not for reconciliation, but for truth-telling and historical record.

Keynote: Dr Fiona Hukula, PNG SGBV researcher

- Moderator: Dr Julie Ballangarry

“Holding accountability and justice may not be the key thing for survivors. Many women just want the violence to stop.”

– Dr Fiona Hukula

Dr Fiona Hukula delivered a powerful and personal reflection on the enduring impact of colonialism, gender-based violence, and resilience in Papua New Guinea (PNG) and the broader Pacific region. Drawing connections to the visible Australian influence in Port Moresby and her own family history, she described PNG as “the land of the unexpected,” home to one-third of the world’s languages. Her narrative traced the lived experiences of her parents and husband – both first-generation university graduates – and the trauma of war in Bougainville, situating these within a broader colonial context. She highlighted the role of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) in regional politics and identified climate change and gender-based violence (GBV) as the region’s most pressing threats.

Dr Fiona Hukula critiqued development efforts that fail to engage with local knowledge and challenged assumptions about empowerment, asserting that PNG women are not disempowered but resilient and capable. Referencing *Do Muslim Women Need Saving?*, she questioned the dominant narrative of rescue and called for genuine partnership and listening in the Pacific. She emphasized the importance of engaging men and boys in community-led change and acknowledged the powerful leadership of women in rural areas, where 80% of the population resides. Reflecting on her research experience, she advocated for ethnographic approaches that centre survivors’ voices and cautioned against making assumptions about their needs. She concluded with a call for self-reflection, cultural sensitivity, and survivor-led responses to violence and development.

Plenary I: Evidence and Access in Real Time

- Dr Louise Olsson, Peace Research Institute, Oslo (CEVAW Partner Investigator)
- Ishita Kumar, Legal Action Worldwide
- Katie Rougvie, UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations
- Dr Ingrid Elliott, Deputy Co-Lead on the Murad Code Project, Institute for International Criminal Investigations
- Moderator: Richard Iron, CMG OBE, President AIIA-Victoria



This plenary session examined the evolving role of international mechanisms in addressing conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV), highlighting both institutional progress and ongoing challenges. Dr Louise Olsson traced the UN Security Council's (UNSC) recognition of CRSV back to the 1990s, in response to atrocities in Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia and outlined how the Council has since used tools such as sanctions, peacekeeping mandates, and normative frameworks to exert political pressure and reduce CRSV. However, rising tensions between state sovereignty and international norms, particularly in contexts like Ukraine and Palestine, have politicised CRSV discussions and weakened accountability. Ishita Kumar focused on evidence collection in displacement contexts, in particular, Cox Bazaar Bangladesh, where hundreds of thousands of refugees live after fleeing the Rohingya genocide in 2017. She emphasized the importance of survivor-centred documentation and grassroots leadership to access survivors and build trust. She recommended the need for sensitive data collection, capacity-building for local documenters, and depersonalised information sharing. Kate Rougvié explored the role of UN peacekeeping missions in responding to CRSV, noting that while missions in Central African Republic (CAR), South Sudan, and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) explicitly aim to reduce CRSV, accessibility of services remains a barrier. Peacekeeping components – military, police, and justice – play critical roles, and women protection advisors are essential in coordinating responses. Dr Ingrid Elliott addressed the practice of ethical evidence collection of CRSV, challenging the “golden hour” myth and advocating for trauma-informed, survivor-led approaches. The [Murad Code](#) was presented as a guiding framework for safe and respectful engagement with survivors.

Collectively, the session underscored the need for political will, survivor agency, and coordinated international action to effectively prevent and respond to CRSV. There is a continued need for protection mandates and peacekeeping missions, but they will be harder to achieve in this political environment. When safety cannot be secured, there is a need to shift away from language of “delayed reporting” and emphasis on “access in real time” for evidence collection when the CRSV context demands a longer period to gather quality and durable evidence in a safe, survivor-centred and trauma-informed manner.

Side Event: Sarah Bambrook – Away from Keyboard – Recreation for Peace: How Play, Sport, and Social Connection Foster Post-Conflict Recovery

Post-conflict justice frameworks often prioritise legal accountability, economic rebuilding, and security sector reform, yet fail to address the critical need for trauma recovery and social reintegration for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV). This session explored how recreation including sport, structured play, and social engagement can serve as a powerful tool for healing, empowerment, and community rebuilding in post-conflict environments. Drawing on insights from Geneva Peace Week 2024, particularly the Sport for Peace panel and real-world case studies, this presentation will highlight:

- The psychosocial benefits of recreation in addressing PTSD, isolation, and stigma for CRSV survivors.
- How sport and play-based interventions contribute to peacebuilding, reintegration, and community healing.
- The intersection of security sector reform and survivor-centred recreation programs, linking DDR (Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration) efforts with social recovery models.
- Lessons from Away from Keyboard (AFK) Inc., a not-for-profit organisation advocating for offline social engagement to improve mental health and foster human connection.

By integrating structured play, sport, and social engagement into humanitarian services, we can reshape post-conflict recovery models to be more inclusive, survivor-centred, and effective in fostering long-term peace.

Concurrent Session 2.1 – Conflict-Related Sexual Violence and Agency: Resistance, Resilience and Redress (Hybrid Delivery)

- Chamindra Weerawardhana, Consortium for Intersectional Justice (Virtual)
- Rachel Banfield, Monash University
- Dr Tishya Khillare, Council for Strategic and Defence Research India
- Selvi Izeti Çarkaxhiu, Kosovo Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims
- Moderator: Dr Helen Stenger, CEVAW Research Fellow at Monash University

CRSV and the intransigence Sri Lanka's Kwanatanga space: A Decolonial Feminist Retrospection – Dr Chamindra Weerawardhana

This paper calls for a decolonial feminist overhaul of existing approaches to CRSV, by gleaning insights from critical decolonial feminist epistemologies/praxes. Sri Lanka is a heart-wrenching example of an ethnonational conflict with high levels of sexual violence that remains unaccounted for. The world amply witnessed the sadistic violence inflicted on Tamil women's bodies in May 2009, but has moved on, with zero accountability, with the Sri Lankan state vehemently denying the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war. In this paper, I use the Te Ao Maori concept 'kwanatanga', as a means of conceptualizing the Sri Lankan state. I argue that this conceptualization carries tremendous significance beyond Aotearoa, and represents a useful tool in understanding the patriarchal, sexist, and misogynist fault lines of [post/neo]colonial governmental spaces. The government of Sri Lanka is a British colonial invention which functions along such colonialist fault lines, despite being led by Sri Lankans [primarily by Sinhala cis men]. This analytical framework enables one to gain a deeper critical understanding of the intransigence towards sexual violence, in the Lankan Kwanatanga space. It creates new ground for decolonial feminist interventions on addressing, remembering, redressing, seeking justice for, and honoring the memory of victims of sexual violence, and articulating strategies and policy innovations that are more effective than existing Eurocentric mechanisms and discourses on CRSV.

“Some do it out of ignorance.” Perspectives, practice and evidence in the engagement with armed actors to prevent sexual violence in conflict – Rachel Banfield

Sexual violence in armed conflict is not a new phenomenon. What has changed over recent decades is the belief that it is not an inevitable by-product of war, but something that can, and should, be prevented. This research examines efforts to prevent sexual violence in South Sudan and the Central African Republic.

Using survey tools and qualitative interviews, the research seeks to understand how different participant groups consider sexual violence in conflict, including its roots and what would constitute effective prevention, and how would we know what is working. By engaging with humanitarian practitioners, weapon bearers and donors the research will compare how different stakeholders influence decision-making to address this issue. The research looks at what research tells us already, including in terms of what works in prevention during peacetime, and contrasts this with what is currently implemented in practice. The research aims to contribute to bridging the gap between CRSV research and humanitarian practice in prevention. It looks at three categories of prevention programming: prevention that focuses on addressing impunity (e.g. criminal prosecution efforts), prevention that aims to improve knowledge (e.g. training sessions) and prevention that works at the community level (e.g. awareness raising efforts). While the focus of the research is on South Sudan and the Central African Republic, the main reflections of the research are relevant to humanitarian practice in conflict settings around the world.

Countering CRSV and SEA by working with TPCCs: The case of India – Dr Tishya Khillare

The recently released Report of the UN Secretary-General on Women, Peace and Security highlighted a 50% increase in Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV) over 2023. Against this ground reality, a key global

consensus is emerging that neither knowledge nor awareness are missing but rather weak implementation of WPS mandates by Troop and Police Contributing Countries (TPCCs) is a barrier to effectively addressing CRSV. Strengthening WPS implementation requires an understanding of how Security Sector Institutions (SSIs) in TPCCs address violence against women (VAW). These institutional cultures determine TPCCs approach to sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) by troop members against civilians and uniformed women and finally their preventive response to CRSV. This paper presents findings from an Elsie Initiative Fund-supported national case study on India. It examines institutional frameworks and legal mechanisms for addressing Sexual Abuse (SA) in Indian SSIs. It investigates institutional culture, focusing on training, oversight, accountability mechanisms, barriers to justice, and survivor-centric approaches. The paper offers two sets of evidence-based policy recommendations: For the UN to bridge the policy-practice gap in WPS mandate implementation and enhance prevention of SEA by peacekeepers. For SSIs to align institutional policies with universal frameworks, ensuring protection for uniformed women in peacekeeping and strengthening their participation. Bridging these policy and practice gaps is critical to preventing CRSV and SEA in UN peacekeeping and ensuring justice for survivors, who are often denied redress due to policy misalignment and loopholes at the national and international levels.

Justice That Heals: A Survivor-Centred and Holistic Model for Dignity, Healing, and Accountability After Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in Kosova – Selvi Izeti Çarkaxhiu

More than two decades after the war in Kosovo, the scars of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) continue to deeply affect the lives of survivors, their families, and communities. Kosovo has made important legal steps in recognizing survivors, yet profound stigma, fragmented services, and limited institutional support remain major barriers to recovery, dignity, and justice. As a clinical psychologist at the Kosovo Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims (KRCT), I have witnessed survivors' long journeys toward healing. Our work, grounded in trauma-informed, survivor-centred principles, has shown that true justice cannot be confined to courtrooms. It must be felt in the body, understood within families, acknowledged by communities, and carried with dignity into future generations. Drawing on 25 years of experience, KRCT's holistic model offers practical lessons and best practices, including: survivor-centred care; comprehensive support services; integration of KRCT protocols into state mechanisms; trauma-informed institutional approaches; the creation of a Safe Room in court; and the documentation of CRSV crimes, alongside community education initiatives aimed at breaking stigma and supporting intergenerational healing. While rooted in Kosovo's experience, KRCT's model provides valuable insights and practical pathways for survivor-centred justice in conflict-affected and fragile settings globally, including the Indo-Pacific region. I will share KRCT's experience and key lessons for advancing justice in post-conflict societies, contributing to global efforts to end impunity and centre survivors' voices in CRSV responses.

Concurrent Session 2.2 – Legal Responses and Accountability Mechanisms in Addressing Conflict-Related Sexual Violence

- Sa Im Meas, DanChurchAid and Dr Marie Wilmet, Université Libre de Bruxelles
- Dashakti Reddy, University of Bergen
- Professor Olivera Simic, Griffith Law School, Griffith University
- Natalie Heni Maihi, University of Queensland
- Hitomi Fujimoto, Policy and Advocacy Officer for Asia, Global Survivors Fund
- Moderator: Allanah Colley, CEVAW PhD Candidate, The University of Melbourne

The Experiences of Sexual and Gender-based Crimes' Victims at the ECCC – Sa Im Meas and Dr Marie Wilmet

This paper investigates whether the inclusion of victim rights within the procedures of international and hybrid criminal courts enhances the justice experience of sexual and gender-based crimes (SGBC) victims. The research is founded on an empirical case study of the participation and reparation of SGBC victims in the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) Case 002/02. It is based on nine months of fieldwork including qualitative interviews with 42 victims of forced marriage who participated as civil parties in Case 002/02. Using a co-constructed methodology developed by Ms Meas and Dr Wilmet, the paper reflects on the ethical and reflexive practices, as well as challenges, encountered during the interviews with SGBC victims. This paper analyses the civil parties' justice experience, their effective exercise of procedural rights, their informal modes of engagement alongside court proceedings, and their ability to challenge the court's initially limited attention to SGBC. Victim participation fostered a dynamic relationship with the court, influencing its approach to SGBC while also increasing SGBC victims' justice experience. The reparative mandate of the ECCC, however, reveals a mixed picture. SGBC victims benefited from the transformative and rehabilitative reparation measures ordered by the Trial Chamber to address gender-based harms. Nevertheless, they criticised the Reparation Orders silences, particularly the absence of financial reparations and stupas.

The experiences of CRSV survivors and children conceived of CRSV in Bangladesh, Nigeria and Iraq: Gaps and barriers to available, accessible, acceptable and quality services – Dashakti Reddy

CRSV survivors and children conceived of CRSV have complex and individual needs. While humanitarian actors provide emergency life-saving services during and post conflict, CRSV and GBV survivors continue to face numerous overlapping barriers to support. Barriers to services not only prevents and prolongs recovery but can have severe implications for women and girls' sexual and reproductive health and re/integration. Qualitative data was collected in Bangladesh, Iraq and Nigeria, including 8 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and 39 in-depth interviews with survivors, community members, religious leaders, service providers and government. Findings showed that survivors, and their children's experiences were interrelated. Long-term recovery was hindered by gaps in (specialised) services and compounded by stigma at individual, family, community, institutional and societal levels. Needs frequently outweighed services. Where services were available, several barriers prevented access, including knowledge, proximity, cost and impunity for perpetrators. Some essential services were restricted or prohibited like abortion. Justice needs were most often unmet and were limited, costly, or completely unavailable. Unclear laws converged with survivors' expectations around legal process and length and were exacerbated by perpetrator impunity. Some documentation processes were comprehensive in recording narratives, like in Iraq, but lacked forensic evidence, posing an obstacle if survivors later chose to file a case. Geo-political, cross-border issues and refugee status also created barriers to identification documents.

Three decades of prosecuting CRSV in Bosnia and Herzegovina: lessons learned – Professor Olivera Simic

One of the key features of the armed conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) that attracted significant attention was the pervasive use of rape and other forms of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV). According to the United Nations (UN), there were around 20,000 women who were raped during the war between 1992 and 1995. BiH women victims of CRSV paved the way in international criminal law and jurisprudence by testifying before the first ad hoc international courts set up after World War Two, the Nuremberg and Tokyo tribunals. The creation of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) as an ad hoc court to try war crimes in the region made history in international humanitarian law. CRSV in BiH gave momentum to the rise of a global campaign against sexual violence in armed conflicts within international justice and advocacy. This paper offers a comprehensive analysis of investigating, prosecuting, and sentencing CRSV on a national level, using BiH as a case study. BiH was the first country and practice ground for international courts to prosecute CRSV, establishing that CRSV can satisfy the elements of a variety of serious international crimes that historically had not been interpreted to include them, such as torture and enslavement. The research draws on an analysis of all CRSV cases prosecuted before the State court of BiH in the last two decades. It also draws on surveys and interviews with the judiciary and law enforcement officials, as well as activists and practitioners working with witnesses/victims of CRSV.

International Criminal Court and sexual and gender-based violence – Natalie Hēni Maihi

Sexual violence pervades narratives of war. Despite this ubiquity, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) was long overlooked due to its categorisation as an inevitable by-product of conflict. As a result, SGBV was historically absent from the literature, reduced to laconic references in war chronicles or essentialist accounts which considered it an inescapable consequence of the hypermasculinity of warfare.

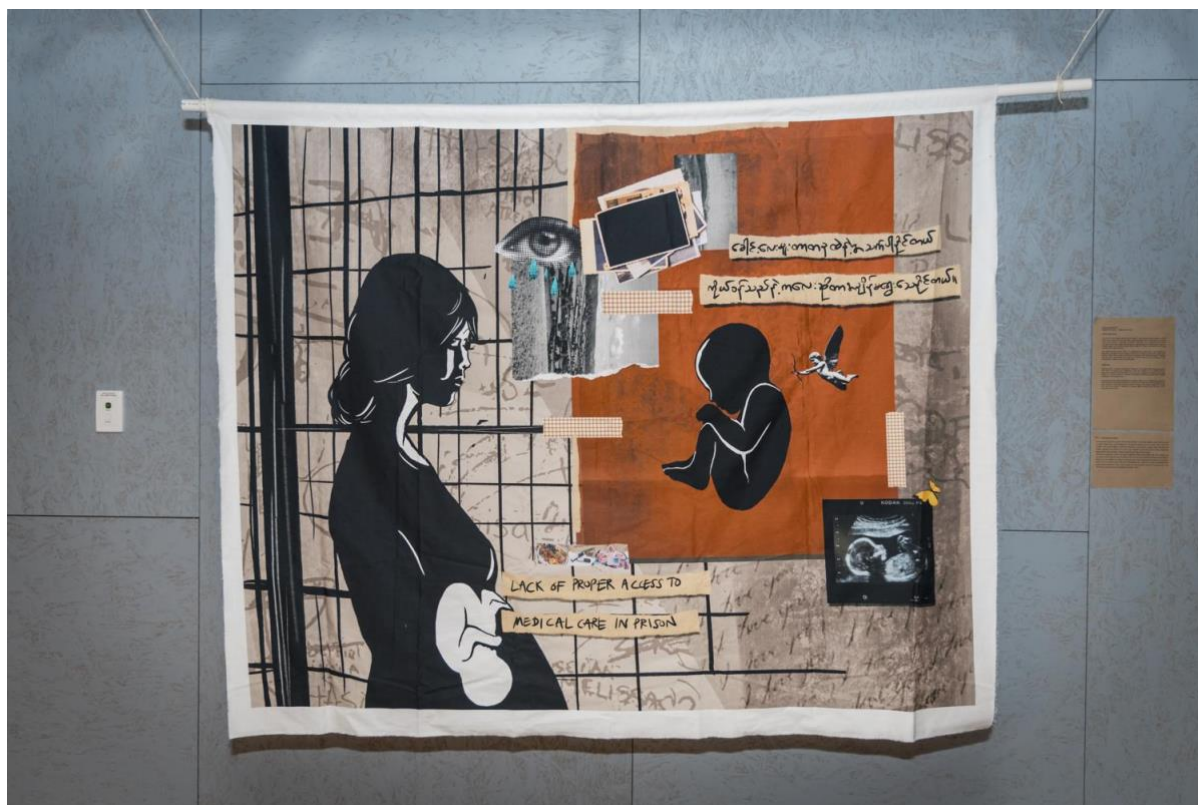
The unprecedented visibility of the atrocities in Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia pushed SGBV to the forefront of humanitarian and scholarly rhetoric, yet the increased visibility was dangerously easy, and paradoxically concealed the needs of victim-survivors within a faceless mass in need of saving, whilst demonising those responsible through racialised stereotypes. Ensuing scholarship established that victim-survivors were often retraumatised and dehumanised by their experiences at ad hoc tribunals, while those accused navigated acclamations of their inherent wickedness. The creation of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in 2002 sought to overcome these failures, yet adjacent to these developments are only two successful convictions. Given the pervasivity of SGBV, this low rate of conviction raises questions of the compatibility of normative judicial mechanisms with justice in the aftermath of war.

Financing Reparations: Multiple pathways to secure funding for reparations for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence – Hitomi Fujimoto

Reparation is a legal right of victims and survivors of gross human rights violations including conflict-related sexual violence. States and other duty bearers are obligated to fulfill this right promptly and effectively. However, one of the most frequently cited barriers to implementing reparations is the claim that “there is no money for reparations”. This is not only inaccurate but also deeply disrespectful to survivors whose suffering demands acknowledgement and redress. Multiple avenues exist to finance reparations. Traditional mechanisms include allocations from national budgets and international cooperation, and innovative financing, such as the repurposing of perpetrators’ assets and the use of fines from breaches of sanctions regimes, offer further potential. Securing sustainable funding for reparations is essential to uphold the rights of survivors, as well as to reinforce accountability. Reparation is affordable if there is a political will, and we have to explore and utilize all available avenues to finance reparation programmes.

Concurrent Session 2.3 – Women’s Arts Initiatives to Address Conflict Related Sexual Violence (CRSV) in Southeast Asia

- Jamela Alindogan, Singtala Centre for Women and Children in Conflict
- Sophiline Cheam Shapiro, Sophiline Arts Ensemble
- Ma Hnin, A New Burma
- Moderator: Carla Silbert, The Asia Foundation



Hosted as an interactive panel and dialogue, the panel will feature women activists and human rights practitioners from the Philippines, Cambodia and Myanmar showcasing practical examples of how the use of arts-based activities, documentation and memorialisation can address CRSV. Arts-based initiatives such as dance, theatre, visual arts, weaving and documentary-making have been employed across Southeast Asia as a method of survivor-centred psychosocial support; to facilitate advocacy; and to promote awareness-raising and accountability to catalyse justice measures. The event will advance knowledge and highlight these practical solutions on the themes of evidence collection and ethical reporting, and survivor-centred responses to justice. It will address contexts where formal justice mechanisms have been present, as well as settings where reparations have been symbolic, and contexts where justice measures are absent.

Creative arts offer a powerful, survivor-centred platform for storytelling, providing not only psychosocial support but also meaningful economic opportunities. Arts serve as innovative platforms for amplifying voices and storytelling, informed by survivors' experiences to challenge structural silencing and address the impacts of conflicts.

Concurrent Session 3.1 – Strengthening Survivor-Centred Approaches: Policy, Response and Reporting

- Emma Gerhardy, Girls Run the World (Women in Strategic Policy)
- Dr Ingrid Elliott, Deputy Co-Lead on the Murad Code project, ICII
- Associate Professor Jasmine-Kim Westerndorf, University of Melbourne
- Yukti Saumya, The International Humanitarian Law and Youth Initiative (Virtual)
- Moderator: Hana Hanifah, CEVAW and Australia Awards PhD Candidate, Monash University

The Blind Spot: Uncovering Intelligence Failures in the Fight Against Conflict-Related Sexual Violence – Emma Gerhardy

Conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) remains a significant yet under-addressed issue in contemporary warfare, often overlooked in national and international security assessments. Despite its destabilising impact, CRSV continues to be treated as secondary to conventional military threats. This research seeks to identify key intelligence failures in addressing CRSV, posing the question: What are the key intelligence failures in addressing conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV), and how can these insights inform more effective policy and intervention strategies? Drawing on the intelligence cycle framework, the study analyses existing intelligence reports and case studies from 89 conflict zones to identify deficiencies in intelligence collection, processing, analysis, and dissemination. The research explores how cultural dynamics, such as militarised masculinities, contribute to the normalisation of sexual violence in military contexts, and how these factors impede effective prevention, justice, and survivor support. The study further explores the policy implications of integrating gender-sensitive intelligence practices into military and security operations. Recommendations include revising intelligence threat assessments to include gender-based violence indicators, fostering cross-sector collaboration between intelligence agencies and human rights organisations, and ensuring that CRSV is prioritised in intelligence frameworks. The findings aim to reshape military and intelligence practices, advance gender-aware security policies, and address the impunity for CRSV in conflict zones.

How the Murad Code can Strengthen Survivor-Centred Approaches – Dr Ingrid Elliott

This contribution will focus on the development and implementation of the Murad Code – the Global Code of Conduct for Gathering and Using Information about Systematic and Conflict-Related Sexual Violence. It will talk about the importance of how it was developed with survivor co-design and engagement at its core, what it tells us about survivor-centred approaches and how it contributes to policy, response and reporting for CRSV work. The presentation will include survivor voices and will also call for conference audience engagement with the Code.

CRSV and sexual exploitation and abuse in peacekeeping and aid: Elusive accountabilities – Associate Professor Jasmine-Kim Westerndorf

This paper investigates the intersections of and tensions between CRSV and sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) by peacekeepers and aid workers, and the impacts this has for prevention and accountability efforts. I argue that efforts to prevent and address SEA reflect a confluence of structural-bias feminism and governance feminism which occurred at the time that efforts to address CRSV intensified globally. In the context of efforts to pursue accountability for SEA, these approaches have institutionalised a focus on sexual harm and consensus on the importance of criminal accountability, with counterproductive consequences for those who experience sexual exploitation at the hands of peacekeepers and aid workers. I ask, which feminist concerns lose out when these categories of sexual (mis)conduct – CRSV and SEA – are collapsed in accountability efforts? I consider the intersections between SEA and CRSV, the benefits to be had in considering them in parallel, and the unintended negative consequences of considering the former a sub-category of the latter.

I argue that the carceral impulse embedded in much of the institutional response to SEA – grounded in the sexual harm frame – is unsuited to dealing with sexual exploitation, which spans consensual and coercive interactions. Moreover, this carceral impulse in peacekeeping and humanitarian contexts extends colonial logics by elevating a duty to care and protect ‘vulnerable’ local people through the enactment of rules that materially control their intimate choices, with significant consequences for the broader peace and humanitarian processes the international community is engaged in and their ability to meet the needs and expectations of survivors of CRSV and SEA.

Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in the Middle East and North Africa Region – Yukti Saumya

Escalating concerns about CRSV in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region require immediate intervention. According to UN reports in 2023, rising militarization and the proliferation of weapons has led to a significant increase in incidents of rape, sexual slavery, forced prostitution, and other forms of sexual violence, with the majority of the victims being women and girls. Through this panel at the ‘Justice Denied’ conference, the International Humanitarian Law and Youth Initiative (IHLYI) seeks to share the expertise, documentation, and research it has developed from its grassroots interventions at an international platform. This will empower us to enhance regional and international efforts to document these crimes, support survivors, and develop effective strategies to reduce impunity.

Concurrent Session 3.2 – Care in Fragile Contexts: The Lifesaving Role of CSOs in Survivor Service Delivery

- Angela Apa, Kup Women for Peace (KWP)
- Shamah Bulangis, Global Civil Society Reference Group, Spotlight Initiative
- Margaret Muthama, Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund (Virtual)
- Aiko Nagae, Griffith University
- Moderator: Priya Dhanani, CEVAW PhD Candidate, Monash University

Frontline Advocates for Access to GBV and CRSV services for women and girls – Angela Apa, Shamah Bulangis, Margaret Muthama

This panel discussion will provide a dynamic space for dialogue, bringing together three expert speakers to discuss key issues at the intersection of gender, humanitarian, and peace building. The discussion will focus on CSOs’ unique role as frontline advocates for access to GBV and CRSV services for women and girls in conflict zones. It will also underline the critical need for inclusive and accessible support systems for GBV survivors in the aftermath of conflict, including flexible funding mechanisms. It will notably feature a women’s rights organization that is providing GBV services in the Highlands, one of PNG’s regions which has some of the highest rates of GBV, with much of it related to tribal conflicts (reprisals/acts of warfare). The discussion will: 1) Shed light on a women’s rights organization Kup Women for Peace (KWP)’s experience to respond quickly to survivors of GBV and sorcery accusation related violence (SARV) in Papua New Guinea. In this successful example, KWP has strengthened their internal capacities and built innovative partnerships with local government officials, which helped expand their GBV services and reach remote locations in the Highlands region. 2) Share insights on the value of multi-partnerships and provision of flexible funding instruments to expand grassroots women’s CSOs’ institutional capacity and sustainability to work at the intersection of peacebuilding, humanitarian action, and human rights. Kup Women for Peace (KWP) will present their strategies and approaches to deliver critical services to survivors of violence and promote peacebuilding such as repatriation, counselling, child protection, livelihood skills training, and mediation to gender-based violence (GBV) survivors.

FGM/C Through an Intersectional Lens in Southeast Asia – Aiko Nagae

Female genital mutilation and cutting (FGM/C) affects more than 230 million girls globally, with practices being prevalent in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. While global efforts to combat FGM/C have successfully criminalised practices in over 80 countries, those in Southeast Asia have received little attention despite their estimated high prevalence. To provide a comprehensive overview of current knowledge, this study aimed to identify and map the intersectional factors of FGM/C practices in Southeast Asia. The study reviewed 41 articles and conducted consultations with six stakeholders, and the results were analysed with descriptive and thematic methods using an intersectional lens. The findings identified six major contributing factors, including religious and cultural practices, health impacts, policy and government (dis)engagement, pushback on eradication movements, patriarchy and decision-making. Unlike practices in Malaysia and Indonesia, where most available studies are focused, practices in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), the Philippines, are less studied. Small qualitative studies have identified the practice is performed on girls for marriage preparation, often followed by marriage arrangements. The findings indicate that displacements due to conflicts and natural disasters in BARMM impact the continuation of practices. To understand the intersection of FGM/C, conflict, and disasters adequately, further research on the contextual understanding of FGM/C in Southeast Asia is required.

Concurrent Session 3.3 – Empowering Voices: Ending Impunity for Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in Myanmar (Hybrid Delivery)

- Ar Mee Mar, Women's Research and Documentation Program, Burmese Women's Union
- Chan Thinzar Min Thein, Women's Alliance Burma
- Min Khant Tar, Kings N Queens
- Mi Kun Chan Non, Alliance for Gender Inclusion in the Peace Process
- Aye Aye Myo, Women's League of Burma (WLB)
- Myat Thin Zar Kyaw, Alliance Against CRSV
- Moderator: Professor Sara Davies, Deputy Director CEVAW

Myanmar has experienced prolonged armed conflict over federal democracy and self-determination between the military junta and ethnic resistance organizations (EROs). Throughout these conflicts, the junta has systematically employed sexual violence against women and girls as a weapon of war, enjoying decades of impunity. Following the attempted military coup in 2021, CRSV has escalated and become more pervasive across the country. This discussion aimed to shed light on the systemic use of sexual violence against women from ethnic minority groups and political movements in Myanmar after the 2021 coup. It also highlights the collaborative efforts of grassroots civil society organizations in addressing the justice and humanitarian needs of survivors who have faced profound mental health impacts, disruptions to their livelihoods, victim-blaming, and societal stigmatization rooted in patriarchal norms and traditional ideologies.

This session focused on the critical importance of supporting frontline actors engaged in documenting conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) and advancing transitional justice and accountability. A key learning highlighted the safety and security challenges faced by survivors, particularly those in displacement or under threat, which often deprioritises access to survivor-centred services. Gender minorities, especially those resisting oppressive regimes, are systematically targeted with sexual violence in prisons, detention centres, and at checkpoints. Despite operating in resource-limited settings, frontline organisations continue to uphold a rights-based approach to support survivors. The session emphasized the need to train community mobilisers in safe documentation practices, acknowledging the risks faced by those collecting evidence. Strengthening protection and capacity at the grassroots level is essential to ensure credible documentation and future justice efforts.

Plenary II: Centering Survivors Access to Justice

- Dr Arifah Rahmawati, ASEAN Women's Peace Registry and Gadjah Mada University
- Mitra Khakbaz, Australian Coalition for Women, Peace and Security
- Noor Azizah, Rohingya Maiyafuinor Collaborative Network
- Moderator: Associate Professor Jasmine-Kim Westerndorf, University of Melbourne



This plenary session highlighted the emotional, structural, and political barriers survivors face in their pursuit of justice. Dr Arifah Rahmawati opened with a powerful metaphor – “How many doors must I open before justice?” – to illustrate the systemic silencing of survivors, particularly in Indonesia, where stigma, shame, and fear of social consequences such as divorce or raising children born of rape are compounded when perpetrators are state actors. The intersection of gender, culture, and religion further suppresses survivor voices, underscoring the need for safe spaces and multi-level interventions, including media engagement, religious leadership, and ASEAN-level policy reform. Despite the existence of national action plans under the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) framework, implementation remains weak due to limited awareness and resources, even among women activists. Mitra Khakbaz, representing the Australian Coalition for Women, Peace and Security, emphasized that societal tolerance of violence shapes its normalization, and that empathy, readiness, and inclusive dialogue are essential to healing. Survivors must be recognised not only as victims but as leaders in peacebuilding, and their inclusion in negotiations is critical. Cross-sector collaboration is essential to dismantle patriarchy and nationalism in obstructing gender justice. Noor Azizah, from the Rohingya Maiyafuinor Collaborative Network, presented harrowing evidence of systematic sexual violence during the 2017 Rohingya genocide, including widespread gang rapes and exploitation during displacement. She highlighted the role of disinformation and hate speech in silencing survivors and dehumanising communities and stressed that justice must be survivor-led and globally supported. The Rohingya experience was framed as part of a broader pattern of ethnically targeted violence. True justice requires ordinary people – not just world leaders – to demand accountability, amplify survivors’ voices and confront ongoing hate speech.

Across all contributions, the session underscored the urgent need to amplify survivor voices, ensure the meaningful inclusion of survivors – particularly those from grassroots and marginalised communities – in all peacebuilding and policy processes, by creating safe, trauma-informed spaces and investing in local leadership and cross-sector partnerships. Survivors of conflict-related sexual violence must be at the centre of peace and justice efforts – true accountability and recovery require dismantling systems of silence, exclusion, and impunity through survivor-led, culturally sensitive, and cross-sector approaches.

From Dialogue to Direction: A Statement of Action

A major outcome of the conference was the development of a Statement of Action, a collaborative document that will consolidate insights from speakers and participants into a strategic roadmap for advancing justice, rights and services for CRSV survivors. There was a wide consensus that more evidence-building and education on CRSV are vital for supporting advocacy in the region.

The Statement was finalised with feedback from participants and was [publicly released](#) on 2 July 2025. It is intended to serve as a guide for governments, legal institutions, researchers, and civil society organisations to take forward key actions.



CRSV in the Indo-Pacific: Conference Statement of Action 2025

It is 25 years since the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) calling for the responsibility of states to end sexual violence; and 13 years since the adoption of Resolution 1820, which denounced rape and other forms of sexual violence as a weapon that constitutes a war crime, crime against humanity and act of genocide.

Over 200 delegates attended the “Justice Denied: Fighting Widespread Impunity for Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV)” Conference on 2–3 June 2025, the first international conference to be convened to specifically address the persistence of CRSV in the Indo-Pacific region. The conference connected global dialogue on CRSV prevention and survivor-centred responses with the current state of CRSV survivor-centred care and justice in the Indo-Pacific region.

Survivors, researchers, civil society organisations, international organisations, and states discussed situations in the Indo-Pacific where [systematic and conflict-related sexual violence is ongoing](#).

Survivors (and victims) of systematic and conflict-related sexual violence are adults, children, and all genders.

Today, CRSV is on the rise despite the international commitments made to address it. Impunity for this violence was already too high in fragile and conflict settings. Yet, safe and accessible supports to survivors are diminishing rather than being expanded.

The Indo-Pacific is a focal point for CRSV learning, activism, and lived experience. Conference participants identified priority actions that represent their commitment to ensure survivor-centred rights, care, dignity, justice and agency across the Indo-Pacific.

Conference Consensus:

Sexual violence is part of systematic, repressive, structured and political violence rooted in gender discrimination and inequality.

The trauma caused by colonial CRSV and its legacy of harm continues.

All responses to this violence must be survivor-centred and trauma-informed. This means that every program must centre survivors' needs, safety, and priorities over evidentiary criteria, efficiency and performance targets.

Survivor-centred responses require champions in all sectors involved in CRSV prevention and response: including, for example, health, education, policing, law, forensics, media, digital technology, military/security.

Facilitate, listen, and preserve the stories of survivors. Supporting survivors is vital for justice and prevention, whether through recorded testimony, publications, artwork, music, dance, film and other creative and/or healing practices.

Call for Investment by states, multilateral organisations, and donors:

To prevent CRSV:

- Recognise and support programs that address social norms, in partnership with the local rights organisations, to reduce and eliminate violence against women and promote gender inclusive practices.
- Commit to WPS National and Regional Action Plans to identify clear mechanisms and lines of responsibility for CRSV monitoring and reporting.

To support survivor recovery:

- Transformative reparations, including urgent and interim, are a human right and vital for individuals as well as community-level recovery; they do not require a legal prosecution to be implemented.
- Invest in survivor-led commemorative justice projects and community restorative programs with a focus on intergenerational participation.
- Transitional justice processes must have short, medium and long-term timeframes, with ongoing supports and services available to survivors and communities.

To respond to CRSV:

- Prioritise the distribution and delivery of survivor-centred trauma-informed safe, accessible and inclusive care services.
- Establish survivor-centred and trauma-informed documentation and investigative processes.
- Invest in research and programs that explore novel documentation and investigation practices that do not endanger, stigmatise or require survivors to repeatedly relive their experiences.
- Support a documentation investigation ecosystem at the state level, with regional and international support to build universal jurisdiction cases.

- Ensure survivor co-created or led safe and ethical documentation and investigation, for example, the Murad Code.
- Call out peace agreements and/or state actors that provide CRSV amnesties for combatants.

Next Steps for CEVAW:

1. Establish an Indo-Pacific CRSV Collaborative Network open to all, to bridge gaps and share knowledge across research, practice and policy virtually.
2. Convene a biennial conference on CRSV in the Indo-Pacific, ensuring all aspects of CRSV advocacy, research, practice and policy are included.
3. Create opportunities for research and publishing with survivors and survivor-advocacy groups.

Join the Indo-Pacific CRSV Network

To build on momentum from the Conference, we are launching the **Indo-Pacific CRSV Collaborative Network**. We invite survivors, survivor networks, scholars, students, civil society organisations, practitioners, and policymakers to join this growing regional and global community.

The **Indo-Pacific CRSV Collaborative Network** will meet online, and preparations for a follow-up conference in 2027 are already underway. Members of the Network will be kept informed and invited to participate in ongoing discussions, collaborations, and research. We particularly encourage members from the Indo-Pacific region to join. Scan the QR code or click the link to access the [registration form](https://forms.gle/zWYoYUY4JNKRJ6gg9) (<https://forms.gle/zWYoYUY4JNKRJ6gg9>)



Conference Testimonials



“ THE KEYNOTES WERE AMAZING!! ABSOLUTELY LOVED THE INCREDIBLE COMMUNITY YOU BOUGHT TOGETHER AND OPPORTUNITIES THIS CREATED FOR CROSS POLLINATION AND SHARING

EXCELLENT RANGE OF PRESENTERS AND FOCUS ON INDO-PACIFIC REGION ”

Dignitaries in Attendance

First Name	Last Name	Position	Organisation
H.E. Ms Stephanie	Copus Campbell AM	Australian Ambassador for Gender Equality	Department of Foreign Affairs of Trade
H.E. Ms Jetmira	Berdynaj Shala	Ambassador	Embassy of the Republic of Kosovo
Riina	Tominaga	Vice-Consul	Consulate-General of Japan
H.E. Mr Vasyl	Myroscnychenko	Ambassador	Embassy of Ukraine
Dr. Sophie	GALAISE	Honorary Consul of Canada	Honorary Consul of Canada
H.E. Dr. Jane	Bassey Adams	Acting High Commissioner	High Commission of Nigeria to Australia
Mr. Emekekwe	C. Paul	First Secretary	High Commission of Nigeria
Mrs. Arafat	Adulrazaq-Edun	Delegate	High Commission of Nigeria

Speaker Biographies

HE Stephanie Copus Campbell AM has extensive experience working across the public, private, philanthropic and community sectors in Australia and the Indo Pacific. She has served as head of Australia's bilateral aid programs with Papua New Guinea, Fiji and Tuvalu and head of Australia's Pacific Regional programs. Stephanie has worked in senior executive roles with CARE Australia and the Oil Search Foundation. From 2018 to 2023, Stephanie was appointed by the Government of PNG as Chair of the Southern Highlands Provincial Health Authority Board, with responsibility for governing all health service delivery in one of PNG's most populated provinces. She is also the founding Director on the Femili PNG Board (providing services to survivors of family and sexual violence) and actively involved in a not for profit, social impact coffee business that supports female coffee growers in PNG with all profits funding domestic violence services in PNG. Stephanie holds a Master of Philosophy from Cambridge University in international relations and a bachelor's degree from the University of California in political science, where she graduated Summa Cum Laude.

Professor Jacqui True FASSA, FAIIA is Director of the ARC Centre of Excellence for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (CEVAW) and Professor of International Relations and Maureen Brunt Professorial Fellow at Monash University. She is a leading scholar in the field of international relations, with research expertise on gender, peace and security and violence against women globally. She is the author of 21 books and over 150 peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters including *The Oxford Handbook on Women, Peace and Security* and *Hidden Wars: Gendered Violence in Asia's Civil Conflicts* with Sara E. Davies. Her book, *The Political Economy of Violence Against Women* (Oxford) won the American Political Science Association's 2012 biennial prize for the best book in human rights among other awards.

Professor Kim Thuy Seelinger, JD holds faculty positions in both Public Health and Law at Washington University in St. Louis, where she also directs the Center for Human Rights, Gender, and Migration at the Institute for Public Health. Dr Seelinger is an expert on gender-based violence in armed conflict and forced displacement, focusing on survivors' needs for protection and accountability and strengthening the support and legal systems they encounter. Through research and technical assistance, Seelinger engages justice actors, victims' advocates, human rights defenders, and asylum adjudicators in developing survivor-centered approaches, including in Kenya, Uganda, Liberia, eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, Mexico, Haiti, Greece, Poland, Belarus, and Ukraine. She has involved graduate students in all of this transdisciplinary work. In 2021, Seelinger was appointed Special Adviser on Sexual Violence in Conflict to the International Criminal Court Prosecutor in the Hague. After co-drafting the Office of the Prosecutor's Policy on Gender-based Crimes and Policy on Children in 2023, Seelinger took a management position in the Office, as its first Senior Coordinator on Gender-based Crimes and Crimes Against and Affecting Children. Taking academic leave from Washington University, Seelinger oversaw the Office's work in these areas and helped lead its Policy implementation efforts, training curricula, and technical assistance to all trial teams. She will return to Washington University in the summer of 2025. She is currently a technical advisor to the Global Survivors' Fund, established by 2018 Nobel Peace Prize winners Dr. Denis Mukwege and Ms. Nadia Murad. She has authored several articles and book chapters focused on the investigation and prosecution of sexual violence as an international crime, and co-edited "The President on Trial: Prosecuting Hissène Habré," from Oxford University Press (2020).

The Hon. Justice Lesley Taylor was appointed to the Supreme Court of Victoria in July 2018 and to the Court of Appeal in October 2022. She had previously practised as a lawyer for 25 years, including 20 years as a barrister at the Victorian Bar where she was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2011. As counsel, Taylor JA primarily undertook criminal cases, both prosecuting and defending. She has also worked in various international bodies. In 2004 and 2005, she was Senior Trial Counsel at the Office of the Prosecutor in Sierra

Leone. In 2006 she was Senior Counsel assisting the Independent Commission of Inquiry into Timor Leste. In 2011 she was Senior Advisor to the Special Independent Commission of Inquiry into Kyrgyzstan. Taylor JA also taught in Uganda in both 2015 and 2017 and in Cambodia in 2016.

Professor Elisabeth Wood is the Crosby Professor of the Human Environment, Co-Director of the Program in Agrarian Studies, and Professor of Political Science, International and Area Studies at Yale University. She is the author of *Forging Democracy from Below: Insurgent Transitions in South Africa and El Salvador* and *Insurgent Collective Action and Civil War in El Salvador*, and co-editor with Morten Bergsmo and Alf B. Skre of *Understanding and Proving International Sex Crimes*. Among her recent articles are “Ideology and the Implicit Authorization of Violence as Policy: The Myanmar Military’s Conflict-Related Sexual Violence against the Rohingya” with Mayesha Alam, “The Islamic State’s Pattern of Sexual Violence: Ideology and Institutions, Policies and Practices” with Mara Revkin, “Rape as a Practice of War: Towards a Typology of Political Violence”, and “The Persistence of Sexual Assault within the US Military.”

Leonésia Tecla da Silva is a co-founder of the Southeast Asian Women Peace Mediators, with over 20 years of experience in peacebuilding, conflict resolution, and women empowerment. As the National Consultant for WPS with UN Women Timor-Leste, she established the first national network of mediators and co-drafted the UNSCR 1325 National Action Plan Second Generation for Timor-Leste. Tecla has facilitated the reintegration process for internally displaced persons during the 2006 Crisis and contributed to UNDP programs on social cohesion. Her work promoting women’s participation in mediation has been recognized internationally, including at the Women4Multilateralism event in Geneva on March 8, 2022.

Dr Fiona Hukula is a Papua New Guinea Social Anthropologist with over 20 years of research and policy experience in Papua New Guinea and more recently within the Pacific. Prior to commencing her role as a regional civil servant Fiona spent over 20 years as a researcher at the Papua New Guinea Research Institute. Fiona’s research and policy background allows her to think globally but act locally. She has published in the areas of gender-based violence, urban sociality and gender equality and is a firm advocate for local solutions for local problems. She holds a PhD in Social Anthropology from the University of St Andrews in Scotland and a Master’s in International Criminology from the University of Sheffield, England.

Professor Bina D’Costa is a Professor at the Department of International Relations at the Australian National University, an ARC Future Fellow and a Chief Investigator at the ARC Centre of Excellence for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (CEVAW). She is also a UN Special Procedures Mandate Holder in the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent. Bina previously served at UNICEF’s Office of Research and led research-led policy advocacy in the Horn of Africa, Jordan, Lebanon, Europe, and Bangladesh. She has advised the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, OHCHR, International Crimes Tribunal, Bangladesh, and various civil society justice initiatives in Asia. Her current focus is on displaced children’s protection in global humanitarian emergencies including trafficking/smuggling, child/early marriage, child labour and gender justice issues. She has published many essays and seven books, including *Nationbuilding, Gender and War Crimes in South Asia* and *Children and the Politics of Violence*. She received the Distinguished Alumni Award (Peace Studies), University of Notre Dame, United States and the Ann Tickner Award from the International Studies Association.

Associate Professor Sally Moyle is an Honorary Associate Professor at the Australian National University, associated with the Gender Institute, and an Advisory Council member of CEVAW. Sally has worked for over three decades to advance gender equality, social justice and international development. Sally is the Deputy Chair of the National Foundation for Australian Women and a director at Plan International Australia as well as pursuing a range of paid and unpaid gender equality work. Until August 2019, Sally was the Chief Executive Officer at CARE Australia, and, between 2013 and 2016, was the Principal Gender Specialist and Assistant Secretary with the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Sally has been in senior executive roles

in the Australian Government since 2008. Sally had senior roles at the Australian Human Rights Commission, the Australian Law Reform Commission and practised as a lawyer.

Artemis Akbary is the Executive Director of the Afghanistan LGBTIQ+ Organisation (ALO), a leading advocacy organisation dedicated to the rights of LGBTIQ+ individuals, particularly in conflict and post-conflict settings with a main focus on Afghanistan. Their work involves engaging with international accountability mechanisms to ensure justice and accountability for marginalized groups including LGBTIQ victims. With extensive experience advocating for LGBTIQ+ refugees at the EU level, Artemis is a recognized voice for marginalized communities. Artemis has addressed global human rights issues at forums such as the UN Human Rights Council, and the UN Security Council. Artemis holds an academic background in International Relations and European Politics, with expertise in Queer, Peace, and Security.

Moon Nay Li is a member of Kachin Women's Association Thailand which is a founding member of WLB and a former General Secretary of her mother organization – Kachin Women's Association Thailand. Ms. Moon Nay Li was elected as a Joint General Secretary of the Women's League of Burma (WLB) in December 2022 for leading the organization to fulfill its vision “the federal democratic union of Burma is premised in genuine peace, social and political justice and gender and ethnic equality”. She has worked as a women human rights defender for more than 18 years and working for justice and peace with gender perspectives. Since 2002, she has worked with Kachin Women's Association Thailand for federal democracy change in terms of making a peaceful society by promoting human rights especially in the field of women's human rights in Burma and working several tasks at KWAT. She formed a documentation team to implement human rights documentation in Kachin areas for doing human rights advocacy and seeking justice to human rights survivors especially women survivors and the survivors of CRSV. Currently, she is a part of Joint Consultative Committee – Gender Policy and Technical support team for Women Peace and Security framework action plan. She is actively involved in the political change to ensure ethnic equality, gender equality and genuine peace in Burma. She is also a part of the Transitional Justice Network - Asia (TJAN), and she contributed as a Policy Board member and advisory board member at the Women's League of Burma, and she is a former management board member of Network for Human Right Documentation-Burma.

Bhavani Fonseka is a Senior Researcher and Attorney at Law with the Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA), with a focus on research and national and international advocacy. Her work has revolved around assisting victims and affected populations across Sri Lanka, legal and policy reforms and public interest litigation (PIL). She is the editor of the books *Elusive Justice and Emblematic Cases in Sri Lanka* (2023) and *Transitional Justice in Sri Lanka: Moving Beyond Promises* (2017) and co-editor of the book *Salient Aspects of Public Interest Litigation Jurisprudence in Sri Lanka* (2023). Presently she serves as a member of the Business and Human Rights Sub-Committee of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka. She was previously an adviser to the Consultation Taskforce appointed by the Government of Sri Lanka in 2016 and a member of the drafting committee to formulate the National Human Rights Action Plan for Sri Lanka for the period 2017–2021.

Queenie Pearl V. Tomaro is a PhD Candidate at the School of Government and International Relations, Griffith University, Queensland, Australia. She is also a faculty member at the Department of Political Science, Mindanao State University – IIT, Philippines. Her research interests include Gender, Peace and Security, and Preventing Violent Extremism.

Professor Sara E. Davies is a Professor of International Relations, Griffith University, Australia and Deputy Director (Indo-Pacific Research), Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (CEVAW). Her research explores human vulnerability in contexts such as forced displacement, gender-based and sexual violence in conflict, and mass disaster events, including epidemics and pandemics. She leads the CEVAW Shocks and Violence Against Women research program, which investigates scalable protection strategies for at-risk populations. Professor Davies is a Fellow of the Academy of Social

Sciences in Australia and the Australian Institute of International Affairs, and has recently been appointed as a member of the WHO Technical Advisory Group on Health, Migration and Displacement.

Hnin Shwe Zin Hlaing advocates gender equality and women's rights in Burma/Myanmar. She has been actively working in the areas of preventing and responding to gender-based violence through research, evidence-informed advocacy, and public campaigns since 2014. After the attempted coup in February 2021, she became involved extensively in advocating for women's meaningful participation and representation in the peace and security efforts, for addressing conflict-related sexual violence to eradicate the system of impunity, and for gendering emergency assistance. She holds a master's degree in Gender and Development Studies from the Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand.

Okkar Shein is the Head of Program at Gender Equality Network and a development professional with 10+ years of experience in women's empowerment, leadership, and community-driven initiatives. He holds degrees in health (Myanmar) and public management (New Zealand). Skilled and experienced in community development, gender mainstreaming, and gender-based violence, he delivers high-impact programs through direct and partner-led approaches. Amid Myanmar's ongoing crisis, he collaborates with UN agencies, donors, and embassies, strategically advocating for Women, Peace, and Security to enhance the effectiveness of international assistance in Myanmar's rapidly changing context.

Ja Seng Ing is a human rights advocate with over 13 years of experience advancing the rights of women, vulnerable migrants, displaced communities, and religious minorities in Myanmar. Growing up in Kachin State, a conflict-affected area, she began her work supporting internally displaced people in Kachin and Northern Shan after receiving her medical degree in 2012. Her advocacy applies an intersectional lens to issues of human trafficking, freedom of religion or belief, women, peace and security, and accountability for conflict-related violations, with active engagement across regional, global, and UN platforms. Ja Seng holds a Master of Human Rights from the University of Sydney and serves as a Vice President of South Asia Forum on FoRB (SAFFoRB) and as Secretariat of the Myanmar FoRB Network. In 2023, she received the FoRB Impact Youth Leadership Award from the International Religious Freedom or Belief Alliance (IRFBA) in Prague, Czech Republic. Her research with the International Commission of Jurists and Asia Justice and Rights (AJAR) focuses on religious freedom, women's detention, and transitional justice in Myanmar. She also teaches postgraduate courses on human rights and transitional justice at the Myanmar Institute of Theology (MIT), and is deeply committed to building local capacity for survivor-centered and gender-inclusive justice.

Daw Hnin Win Aung is an Attorney and human rights defender from Myanmar. Daw Hnin Win Aung grew up in a small town in lower Myanmar and, with her mother's encouragement, became the first female lawyer in her township. She finished the Bachelor of law (L.L.B) at Yangon University of Distance Education. Her impressive efforts concentrate on Fair Trial Rights, women's rights, land rights, LGBT matters, and the principles of the rule of law. She worked on the Rule of law promotion project with British Council and Loka Ahlinn, Fair Trial project with Justice Base and as legal advisor for the International Commission of Jurists. She was an Assistant General Secretary of Agriculture and Farmer Federation of Myanmar (Food Allied Worker) and administrative committee member of the Peace Studies Centre for the 2020–2022 academic years. In her role as Team Leader of 'Lawyer For YOU', co-founder of Justice for Women, Daw Hnin Win Aung showcases her dedication to advancing justice and human rights.

Dr Farkhondeh Akbari is a Research Fellow at the ARC Centre of Excellence for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (CEVAW) at Monash University, where she researches inclusive peace, non-state armed actors' diplomacy, feminist foreign policy, and the Women, Peace and Security agenda. She received her PhD in diplomatic studies from the Australian National University. Her thesis examined the required characteristics for non-state armed actors to engage meaningfully in diplomacy for the purpose of peace settlements and studied the cases of the Taliban in Afghanistan and the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia. Farkhondeh leads a grassroots not-for-profit NGO in Afghanistan working on women's empowerment. Her forthcoming book on

'Women, Peace and Security in Afghanistan' (2025), coauthored with Jacqui True uses scholarly research to advocate for women's rights and inclusive peace in Afghanistan.

Fereshta Abbasi is the Afghanistan Researcher in the Asia division at Human Rights Watch, focusing on research and documentation of ongoing abuses in Afghanistan. She was previously a legal advisor for the International Development Law Organization (IDLO), where she trained and developed employees' legal skills within the Afghan justice sector. She holds an LLM in International law and Strategic Studies from University of Aberdeen and was a Chevening Scholar in 2019-2020. Fereshta has also published on human rights issues in the media.

Dr Sima Samar is a Nobel Peace Prize nominee and globally recognized human rights advocate who has dedicated her life to public service, humanitarian work, and the empowerment of women. She served as Afghanistan's first Minister of Women's Affairs and Vice President in the Interim Administration. From 2002 to 2019, she chaired the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, holding violators accountable and shaping national human rights policy. Dr. Samar also served as the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Sudan and was appointed to the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Advisory Board on Mediation. Through her NGO, the Shuhada Organization, she has established schools, clinics, and hospitals across Afghanistan and Pakistan, focusing on education and healthcare for women and girls. Her lifelong advocacy for marginalized communities is grounded in a belief that justice, equality, and dignity are essential to peace. She is the author of *OUTSPOKEN: My Fight for Freedom and Human Rights in Afghanistan*.

Dr Niamatullah Ibrahim is a Senior Research Fellow at the Initiative for Peacebuilding of the University of Melbourne. His research focuses on the interactive dynamics between local peace and conflict and international politics in conflict-affected states. His research interests include social movements, political violence, local peacebuilding and post-conflict governance and security dynamics. He is the author of 'The Hazaras and the Afghan State: Rebellion, Exclusion and Struggle for Recognition' (London: Hurst & Co. 2017) and co-author of (with William Maley) 'Afghanistan: Politics and Economics in a Globalising State' (Abingdon: Routledge, 2020).

Dr Susan Risal Lamsal is a long-term peace practitioner based in Kathmandu, Nepal. She is a Chief Executive Officer of Nagarik Aawaz a feminist peacebuilding organization in Nepal which works with conflict-affected youth and women. Susan holds a Masters Degree in Business Administration from Tribhuvan University of Nepal and another Masters degree and PhD degree in Applied Conflict Transformation Studies from Pannasastra University of Cambodia which is a collaborative programme between Center for Peace Studies and Pannasatra University, Cambodia. Her Phd Research topic was "Defining Justice and Dignity through gendered peacebuilding: A Case Analysis of women who faced sexual violence in the time of conflict in Nepal."

Lilly Be'Soar is the Executive Director and Founder of Voice for Change, a non- governmental organisation based in Jiwaka Province, Papua New Guinea. She is a prominent women's rights activist, dedicated to advancing the political, economic, and social empowerment of women and girls. Her work focuses on advocacy for gender equality and building alliances to end all forms of violence and discrimination. Lilly chairs the Highlands Regional Human Rights Defenders Movement Network and is actively involved in the Pacific Women Against Violence Against Women network. She serves on the Jiwaka Provincial Village Courts Board and the National Committee on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls. Lilly is widely respected for her leadership in conflict resolution and peace mediation in tribal conflicts. In 2010, she received the Pacific Human Rights Defenders Award. Her activism is deeply rooted in personal experience, and she draws strength from her role as a mother of six, whose support has been integral to the growth of Voice for Change.

Hitomi Fujimoto is the Policy and Advocacy Officer for Asia at the Global Survivors Fund, where she leads advocacy efforts currently in Myanmar, Timor-Leste, Cambodia, and Nepal, with the goal of improving access to reparations for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. Previously, Hitomi worked in the field of child rights,

protection, and gender at the United Nations and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. She holds a Master's degree in International Development, with a specialization in participatory approach.

Dr Phyu Phyu Oo is a Research Fellow at the ARC Centre of Excellence for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (CEVAW) at Griffith University. She holds a Master of Public Health from Johns Hopkins University and a PhD in International Relations from Griffith University. Her research focuses on addressing critical issues related to sexual and gender-based violence in conflict and other crises. With over a decade of experience as a practitioner in development and humanitarian settings across the Asia-Pacific region, she brings academic expertise and practical insight to her work. Dr Oo was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship in 2014 and a Griffith Postgraduate Scholarship in 2019. Her book, *Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in Myanmar: The Role of the State*, was recognised with the John Legge Thesis Prize for the best thesis in Asian Studies by the Asian Studies Association of Australia.

Caroline Martin is a Sovereign Boonwurrung and Wemba Wemba Woman, and is a leading advocate for the recognition and amplification of First Nations voices while transforming systems for lasting change. With over 35 years of impact across arts, education, tourism, and policy, she led Museum Victoria's Bunjilaka Aboriginal Cultural Centre for 12 years, where she advocated for and managed the development of the internationally acclaimed First Peoples exhibition – renowned for its pioneering community-led approach. As Founder and Managing Director of Yalukit Marnang, she drives transformative Cultural Safety initiatives, reshaping institutions nationwide. Her leadership as Creative Director of YIRRAMBOI (2019, 2021) showcased over 350 First Nations creatives, elevating the festival as a defining force of cultural excellence. Caroline's unwavering commitment to advocacy and cultural understanding continues to challenge systems, reinforce First Nations leadership, and shape Australia's cultural landscape.

Dr Julie Ballangarry is a proud Gumbaynggirr/Dunghutti woman and Associate Investigator with the Centre for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (CEVAW). Her research focuses on Indigenous rights and recognition, First Nations gender justice, and the structural conditions that sustain inequality and violence against Indigenous peoples, communities, and women. Julie is passionate about how Indigenous voices – including ways of being, knowing, and doing – can strengthen policy and improve outcomes for Indigenous peoples. She brings an Indigenous feminist and decolonial lens to her work and is nationally recognised for her leadership in First Nations and Feminist Foreign Policy.

Dr. Louise Olsson, Research Director, Department of Global Politics, Norms, and Societies, at the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO), Norway. Olsson's research focuses on gendered dimensions of war and effects of conflict resolution on women's empowerment. She is the author of articles appearing in *Global Governance*, *Journal of Global Security Studies*, and *International Peacekeeping*. Olsson regularly contributes to research-policy dialogue and the effective use of research in policy development and decision-making. For example, Olsson arranged a series of Dialog Forums together with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and NUPI during Norway's term in the Security Council. Olsson got her PhD from the Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University, Sweden, in 2007. She began her career already in 1999 by contributing to the UN-led project *Mainstreaming a Gender Perspective in Multidimensional Peace Operations*.

Dr Ingrid Elliott MBE is the Deputy Co-Lead on the IICI Murad Code Project and the lead drafter of the Murad Code. She has over 25 years' experience investigating and prosecuting international crimes, including in Bosnia and at the ICTY. She has been on the UK PSVI Team of Experts since 2013, working on CRSV in Syria, Iraq, Jordan, Turkey, Libya, Myanmar/ Bangladesh and Ukraine. She has helped develop international and national standards for CRSV investigations, forensic evidence, prosecutions, and tackling stigma in justice systems. She is the lead drafter of Iraq and Syria supplements to the International Protocol on Investigation and Prosecution of CRSV, and has published on Syria accountability, justice for male CRSV and the long-term impacts of CRSV on Syrian men.

Ishita Kumar is currently the Legal and Programme Advisor at Legal Action Worldwide (LAW). Her experience lies in the field of international refugee law and localizing international human rights norms for the forcibly displaced in the South/SE Asia region. She has over 8 years' experience in providing legal aid to survivors of torture and sexual violence mainly from Myanmar, Afghanistan, DRC in international criminal law cases and refugee-status determination processes. She served as the head of office for LAW's Rohingya Crisis programme in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh for over 3 years involved in programme development, management and team building, and is currently focussing on research, advocacy, and strategic litigation in relation to atrocity crimes perpetrated in Myanmar.

Kate Rougvie is the Acting Team Leader of the Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV) Team at the United Nations Department of Peace Operations in New York. She provides strategic guidance and capacity building to peacekeeping operations on survivor-centred CRSV prevention and response, contributing to the advancement of the Women, Peace and Security agenda. Kate has 15 years of experience in gender equality and gender-based violence prevention and response, working across humanitarian response, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. She has led both field-based and headquarters-level efforts in conflict-affected contexts including the Central African Republic, South Sudan, DR Congo, Lebanon, Somalia, Mali, Iraq, and Bangladesh. She holds a Master's in Peace and Conflict Studies from the University of Queensland and works in English, French, and Spanish.

Sarah Barnbrook is a passionate volunteer, award-winning advocate, and founder of Away from Keyboard (AFK) Inc., a not-for-profit organisation relieving emotional distress, digital harm, and social isolation for vulnerable children, youth, and carers. She campaigns globally to address Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence (TFGBV) and promotes ethical technology and safer digital spaces. A delegate to the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69) and contributor to Geneva Peace Week, Sarah uses her voice to champion inclusive, trauma-informed approaches. Her work combines advocacy, education, and leadership to empower women and girls and foster real-world human connection in an increasingly digital world.

Dr Chamindra Weerawardhana is a Sri Lankan decolonial feminist political theorist and organizer. Her work focuses on decolonial feminist approaches to conflict transformation in deeply divided places, and challenging the cisheteronormative walls of the discipline of international relations. She is the author of many peer-reviewed articles and the 2018 monograph *Decolonising Peacebuilding*. She has worked extensively in international human rights advocacy, political organizing and strategizing, and is the co-founder and currently Acting Director of the Consortium for Intersectional Justice. Chamindra is a commissioner at the O'Neill-LANCET Commission on racism, structural discrimination and global health.

Rachel Banfield is a humanitarian practitioner specialising in prevention of and response to sexual violence in conflict settings. Originally from Aotearoa New Zealand, she has worked in India, South Sudan, the Central African Republic and most recently was based in Kenya as the regional advisor for addressing sexual violence for the International Committee of the Red Cross. She has a masters in international law and is in her final year of her PhD at Monash University where her research focuses on what works in prevention of sexual violence in conflict.

Dr Tishya Khillare is a New Delhi-based policy analyst specializing in Gender, Peace, and Security. She leads the research vertical on Inclusive Foreign and Security Policy at the Council for Strategic and Defense Research (CSDR). Her work currently focuses on gender-responsive reforms for security institutions, including the Indian Army. She recently led India Case Studies for collaborative research with RESDAL and Monash Global Peace and Security Centre, developing field-informed recommendations to support Indian women's safe participation in UN peacekeeping, including by addressing sexual abuse, assault, and harassment. Dr. Khillare began her career at UN Women in New Delhi and holds a PhD in International Relations from Jawaharlal Nehru University, where her research focused on global politics of norm-setting on violence against women.

Selvi Izeti Çarkaxhiu is a clinical psychologist and psychotherapist with over 19 years of experience in trauma rehabilitation. As a key member of the Kosovo Rehabilitation Center for Torture Victims (KRCT), she has been instrumental in supporting survivors of torture and sexual violence. Passionate about holistic healing, Selvi has contributed to various international research projects focused on rehabilitation models. She is deeply committed to building professional capacities and promoting trauma-informed approaches across different sectors, ensuring that survivors' needs are at the center of care. Through her work, she advocates for justice, dignity, and healing for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence.

Dr Helen Stenger is a Research Fellow at the ARC Centre of Excellence for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (CEVAW) at Monash University. She holds a Ph.D. in Politics and International Relations from Monash University, a Master of Arts in International Relations from Leiden University and a Master of Science in Clinical Neuropsychology from the University of Groningen. Her research interest lies at the intersection of extremism, including Islamist, far-right and Buddhist, and gender-based violence. Helen Stenger's work has been published in the European Journal of International Security, Critical Studies on Terrorism, and European Journal of Politics and Gender. Her book *Returning Home: An Intersectional Analysis of the Repatriation, Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Foreign Fighters* was recently published in the De Gruyter Women, Peace and Security series.

Dashakti Reddy is a GBV Specialist with over 10 years of humanitarian and GBV research experience in countries including South Sudan, Iraq, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Somalia and Afghanistan. Dashakti is the Senior Humanitarian SGBV Advisor at Save the Children International, leading Save the Children's GBV work in humanitarian settings. She holds a Bachelor of Arts from the Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand and a Master of Philosophy from the University of Bergen, Norway where she is finalising her PhD at the Faculty of Psychology focused on conflict related sexual violence and children conceived by CRSV.

Sa Im Meas has over 15 years of experience in gender justice and human rights, with a strong focus on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), trafficking, and migration. At ADHOC, she led interventions, advocacy, and safe repatriation efforts as Deputy Head of the Women and Children's Rights Section and interviewed survivors of forced marriage under the Khmer Rouge. Since May 2023, she has been Program Coordinator for Gender and Inclusion at DCA Cambodia, providing technical and funding support to communities and rights defenders. She ensures SGBV initiatives are inclusive and empowering for women, youth, and marginalized groups across Cambodia.

Noor Azizah, a Rohingya refugee, fled genocide in Myanmar and resettled in Sydney with her family at age 8 in 2003. Their journey involved navigating jungles, evading danger, and enduring hunger. Motivated by the plight of Rohingya women facing atrocities like systematic rape and torture, Noor became a dedicated advocate. She co-founded the Rohingya Maiyafuinnor Collaborative Network, focusing on human rights, gender-based violence, and education. Noor earned a Bachelor of Education in Primary and TESOL from the University of Sydney, followed by a Master of Peace and Conflict Studies. Her dedication earned her accolades, including NSW Young Woman of the Year (2024) and the Global Citizen Youth Leader (2024) award. Noor has collaborated with prominent figures such as UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador Cate Blanchett and activist Craig Andrew Foster. She has spoken at the United Nations on Rohingya women's rights and serves as a refugee expert in global forums on gender-based violence, education, and statelessness. She is also a member of Australia's Refugee Advisory Panel and contributes to various initiatives, including the Gender Audit Team, the U.S. Consulate General's Sydney Youth Advisory Council, the UN 30 for 20 Network, and the NSW Westminster Bridge Young Leaders Network. Noor's journey exemplifies resilience, compassion, and dedication to a better world.

Professor Olivera Simić is a Professor with the Griffith Law School, Australia. Originally from the former Yugoslavia, Dr Simić lived through Yugoslav wars (1991-1999). She was nineteen years old, studying her first year of a law degree in Bosnia and Herzegovina when the Bosnian War broke out in 1992. Initially as a refugee and later as a migrant, Dr. Simic lived and studied in Eastern and Western Europe, the USA and South America before coming to Australia in 2006. She has published four monographs and numerous co-edited collections,

book chapters, journal articles and personal narratives. They draw on hundreds of interviews with victims, perpetrators and bystanders of the wars. The stories of people who struggle with post-war trauma and seek some form of justice for crimes they survived, particularly women, are at the heart of Dr Simić's work. Dr Simić teaches international law and transitional justice at Griffith Law School, Griffith University and lives in Brisbane. Dr Simić was a nominee for the Penny Pether Prize for Scholarship in Law, Literature and the Humanities, and won the Peace Women Award from Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF, Australian branch). Her latest book "Lola's War: Rape Without Punishment" (Palgrave MacMillan, 2023) was shortlisted for the Australian Legal Research Award 2024.

Natalie Hēni Maihi is a Māori teacher and PhD candidate at the University of Queensland (UQ), who descends from the Ngāpuhi people of Aotearoa. Her research explores the intersections between sexual and gender-based violence, international justice and coloniality, and engages with abolitionist principles to confront harm through healing and accountability. Her work as a scholar and educator is guided by her whakapapa (ancestry), and her positionality as a victim-survivor of domestic and sexual violence, to challenge normative conceptions of 'justice' through compassion and radical imagination. She is the recipient of the John Braithwaite prize in Criminology, and a UQ Teaching Excellence Award.

Dr Marie Wilmet is a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Centre de Recherches en Droit Pénal of the Université libre de Bruxelles. She is conducting a two-year socio-legal research project on universal jurisdiction, in collaboration with Damien Scalia. She completed her Ph.D. in Law, entitled "Contributions of Victims' Procedural Rights to Gender Justice in International Criminal Law", at the European University Institute in 2023. Through an empirical case study of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, it investigated the impact of victims' procedural rights on the judicial experiences of sexual and gender-based violence victims as well as on the prosecution, adjudication, and reparation of SGBV crimes.

Allanah Colley (she/her) is a PhD Candidate with the ARC Centre of Excellence for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (CEVAW) at the University of Melbourne, Faculty of Law. She researches primarily in the areas of gender and sexuality law, criminal law, family violence and international criminal law. While completing her PhD, Allanah continues her role as an International Consultant with the United Nations Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict, with whom she has worked since mid-2023. Allanah has a BA/LLB(Hons) from the University of Auckland and an LLM from New York University. She also serves on the Board of the New Zealand Women's Law Journal – Te Aho Kawe Kaupapa Ture a ngā Wāhine, which she co-founded in 2017.

Carla Silbert is Regional WPS Advisor for The Asia Foundation. She is a member of the Justice Rapid Response SGBV Experts Roster and has worked on CRSV response in Africa and Southeast Asia, and contributed to UN Women's handbook 'Conflict-related Sexual Violence in Asia-Pacific: Putting Victim/Survivors First'.

Emma Gerhardy is a public policy professional and criminology Honours candidate critically examining how gender-based violence is marginalised within traditional security frameworks. With a background in policing and public policy, Emma's research spans media representations of domestic violence and terrorism, as well as the role of intelligence failures in conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV). She explores how dominant narratives shape whose safety is prioritised – and whose is ignored. Their work aims to challenge conventional security paradigms and contribute to more inclusive, gender-informed approaches to violence and national policy. Emma has published in leading Australian think tanks, including the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) and The Interpreter.

Dr Jasmine Westendorf is an Associate Professor of Peace and Conflict, Co-Director of the Initiative for Peacebuilding and ARC DECRA Fellow at the University of Melbourne (Australia). Her current research focuses on sexual exploitation and abuse in peacekeeping and humanitarian operations; her past work has looked

broadly at the challenges to effective international involvement in peace processes and questions of inclusivity in peace processes. Her most recent books are *Violating Peace: Sex, Aid and Peacekeeping* (Cornell University Press, 2020) and *Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in Peacekeeping and Aid: Critiquing the Past, Plotting the future*, edited with Elliot Dolan-Evans (Bristol University Press, 2024).

Yukti Saumya is a Women7 Advisor at the G7 in Canada for 2025, and a Communications and Advocacy Advisor at the International Humanitarian Law and Youth Initiative. She is also the co-founder of The Centre for Restoration, which addresses gender violence using restorative justice. With a master's in Transitional Justice, Human Rights, and the Rule of Law, her thesis connected sexual violence research across peace and conflict. She has experience representing a civil society at the United Nations in Geneva and has led trauma-informed research and intervention projects spanning themes of survivor-centric justice, intimate partner violence recovery, and gender violence prevention.

Sophiline Cheam Shapiro is founder of the Sophiline Arts Ensemble in Cambodia. Her choreography includes a dance theatre project documenting forced marriage under the Khmer Rouge as a reparations initiative of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) based on survivor testimonies.

Hana Hanifah is a PhD student at Monash University and the ARC Centre of Excellence for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Her research focuses on anti-violence against women policy adoption at the sub-national level in Indonesia. She is an Australia Awards Scholarship awardee. Before studying at Monash, Hana worked for the Prospera program (Australia-Indonesia Partnership for Economic Development) in Indonesia, contributing to policy development and institutional capacity building to improve gender, disability, and social inclusion outcomes in the Indonesian public sector. Hana holds a master's degree in International Political Economy from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), UK.

Angela Apa is Director of Kup Women for Peace (KWP), formed as a women's organisation over 25 years ago to bring an end to tribal fights in the Kup area of the Simbu Province in Papua New Guinea (PNG). KWP provides services for women and families across the province supporting communities in addressing any form of violence. Angela is an active human rights defender, assisting survivors of sorcery related violence and gender-based violence in the Highlands region. A true inspiration for peace and justice for women and girls, she and other founding members marched into conflicts, met 'secretly' in plain sight devising strategies for mediation and reconciliation.

Shamah Bulangis is a young queer feminist from the Philippines. She started her activism at 14 as a Peer Educator on Violence Against Women in Northeastern Mindanao and is now the youngest member of the Global Civil Society Reference Group of the Spotlight Initiative focused on eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls everywhere. Among her extensive work both at the local and international level, she serves as co-chair of Transform Education, a feminist coalition of youth-led networks and young activists with a shared mission to accelerate progress for gender equality in education, hosted by the UN Girls Education Initiative. She is also the co-founder and coordinator of Girls Congress, a young feminist organization in Dumaguete, Philippines.

Margareth Muthama is the WPHF Women Human Rights Defenders' (WHRDs) Window Coordinator, Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF). Maggie Muthama is a Gender Specialist with over 12 years of experience in providing state and non-state actors with technical advice to develop and implement transformative policies and programmes on peace and security that seek to realize SDG 5 on Gender Equality and SDG 16 on Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions in conflict and post conflict settings. This experience has been gained in organizations including the WPHF, Mercy Corps Kenya, UN Women (Kenya Country Office and Somalia Programme), the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change and RefugePoint International. Maggie holds a master's degree in law, Development and Globalization (University of London, 2012).

Aiko Nagae is a postgraduate student in Global Public Health at Griffith University, specialising in planetary and women's health. Her research focuses on FGM/C in Southeast Asia, where she is conducting a scoping review to examine its intersectional drivers and outcomes. This study is part of her master's dissertation supervised by Prof. Sara Davies, Dr. Connie Gan, and Valentina Volpe, in collaboration with the CEVAW and UNFPA. Aiko also engages in research that assesses the social impact of medical outreach programs in remote Australian communities. With a strong commitment to improving justice for vulnerable populations, Aiko's work aims to bridge gaps in public health and advocate for sustainable, equitable healthcare solutions globally.

Priya Dhanani is a queer social justice activist, community organizer, and PhD candidate at Monash University under the ARC Centre of Excellence for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (CEVAW). Her research investigates how geopolitical tensions, international aid/resources, and enduring colonial legacies have shaped feminist movements in Fiji, with a particular focus on intergenerational dynamics and their capacity to address gender-based violence (GBV). She has worked in grassroots, development, and humanitarian settings on GBV, gender justice, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and child protection. In 2023, she received the Foreign Policy LGBTQIA+ Out Award. Priya also serves on the board of the Coalition of Feminists for Social Change and the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice while pursuing a certification in pleasure activism at the Atlanta Institute of Tantra and Sexuality.

Ar Mee Mar is an ethnic minority who was born in a conflict-affected area. She experienced armed conflict and various human rights violations, including forced displacement, and witnessed the atrocities committed by the military junta from a young age. These experiences motivated her to work for conflict-affected people, especially women. Since 2017, Ar Mee has been actively involved in advocating for minority rights and marginalized communities. Her work spans the thematic areas of human rights, gender equality, peacebuilding, and CRSV in conflict settings. Currently, Ar Mee is working as the Program Coordinator for Women Research and Documentation at Burmese Women's Union (BWU). In her organization, Ar Mee is actively engaged in addressing sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), including conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV), with a focus on documentation, research, evidence-based advocacy, and survivor support services.

Chan Thinzar Min Thein is an Executive Committee Member of Women Alliance Burma (WAB) and a dedicated activist for women's rights and democracy in Myanmar. Since the 2021 military coup, she has been at the forefront of protests against the Military Junta, actively participating in Mandalay Strikes and leading guerrilla strikes. In June 2021, she participated in organizing and leading women's strikes in Mandalay. As the movement grew, women's strike leaders from different areas formed a network to strengthen their activism. This collaboration led to the founding of Women Alliance Burma in September 2021. As part of WAB, she continues to lead women's strikes and people power movements, advocating for gender equality and human rights. Chan is committed to supporting women's needs, raising awareness of women's rights, and addressing issues of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV).

Min Khant Tar (also known as A Tar), is a transgender woman from Myanmar and a passionate advocate for gender equality and human rights, with over 12 years of experience in community empowerment and program coordination. She holds academic qualifications from Yadanarbon, Chiang Mai, and Mahidol Universities. A Tar is a winner of the Women of the Future Awards Southeast Asia 2023 (Media and Communication), recognized for her use of media platforms to advocate for human rights. Through her roles in advocacy, media, and leadership, she empowers marginalized communities and champions gender-responsive approaches in conflict-affected regions.

Mi Kun Chan Non is Mon Ethnic and the chair of the Mon Women's Organisation (MWO). She holds an M.A in Development Study from KDSC in Ireland. She is currently serving as Steering Committee Member of Alliance for Gender Inclusion in the Peace Process. She was awarded the N Peace Award 2014 Untold Story, Myanmar. After the 2021 attempted military coup in Myanmar, she was involved on behalf of women representatives at Mon State Federal Council. For more than 20 years she has worked as an activist and advocate for gender

justice, leading initiatives on women's leadership, political participation and inclusive security and currently strongly engage with advocating on women participation in the peace process.

Myat Thin Zar Kyaw is a lawyer and a legal aid specialist from Myanmar. She has been working on access to justice for vulnerable communities in Myanmar for over 6 years. She also provided technical assistance to lawyers who represented political prisoners in Myanmar. She is a former legal advisor for the British Council (MyJustice Program). She is now working for Legal Action Worldwide focusing on the accountability work relating to post-coup human rights violations in Myanmar particularly conflict-related sexual violence. She holds a master's degree in human rights law and policy from the University of New South Wales, Australia.

Dr Arifah Rahmawati is a senior researcher at the Center for Security and Peace Studies and lecturer of Cultures and Media Studies of Universitas Gadjah Mada Indonesia. She is also a member of ASEAN Women for Peace Registry (AWPR). Arifah holds Master of Arts on Security Studies from Naval Post-graduate School California USA; and PhD on Policy Studies from Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM) Yogyakarta Indonesia. Her dissertation title is "Gender Contestation on the Reintegration Process of the Acehese female ex-combatants – the Inong Balee". Arifah's main research interest is on gender, conflict and peacebuilding.

Mitra Khakbaz is a member of steering group of Australia Women Peace Security Coalition and works as CEO of Immigrant Women Support Services and previously CEO of the Gladstone Women's Health Centre, deputy CEO of HOST International leading humanitarian work across South-East Asia. Mitra is committed to working towards improving quality of life for women, children and their families. Overseeing delivery of specialist domestic family and sexual violence support services keeps Mitra's focus on strengths and resilience of women and children victims/survivors. Mitra is dedicated to catalysing positive social change to enhance the quality of life for women and girls locally and globally. With over two decades of experience in senior roles within the non-profit sector, she specialises in navigating the intricate intersection of humanitarian and development initiatives. Her expertise lies in designing and executing impact within complex socio-political landscapes. Mitra was privileged to obtain a Churchill Fellowship, which allowed her to delve into best practices for creating employment pathways and livelihoods, particularly for vulnerable and at risk women. In addition to her hands-on work, Mitra is board member of Nationality for All, 100Women, Economic Justice Australia and organisations committed to fostering inclusivity and social justice.

Media and Resources

Register your interest in the [Indo-Pacific CRSV Collaborative Network](https://forms.gle/zWYoYUY4JNKRJ6qg9):
(<https://forms.gle/zWYoYUY4JNKRJ6qg9>)

[Statement of Action](https://cevaw.org/cevaw_article/conflict-related-sexual-violence-crsv-in-the-indo-pacific/): (https://cevaw.org/cevaw_article/conflict-related-sexual-violence-crsv-in-the-indo-pacific/) includes language translations: English, Burmese, Cebuano, Thai, Filipino, Tok Pisin, Bahasa

Conference Website: <https://aiiavic.glueup.com/event/135079/>

Conference photo gallery: <https://gallery.dlxphotography.com.au/20250602-justice-denied/>

[Keynote Address](https://go.unimelb.edu.au/6ozp) by Professor Kim Seelinger (<https://go.unimelb.edu.au/6ozp>)

[ABC News: The World Interview](https://go.unimelb.edu.au/8ozp). Professor Kim Seelinger, 'The 'universal challenge' of fighting sexual violence in conflict zones', 2 June 2025 (<https://go.unimelb.edu.au/8ozp>)

Social Media Posts

CEVAW LinkedIn – [Release of Keynote address by Professor Kim Seelinger](https://go.unimelb.edu.au/5mzp)
(<https://go.unimelb.edu.au/5mzp>)

CEVAW LinkedIn – [Our Statement of Action](https://go.unimelb.edu.au/z5zp) (<https://go.unimelb.edu.au/z5zp>)

CEVAW LinkedIn – [Conference Wrap Up](https://go.unimelb.edu.au/6uzp) (<https://go.unimelb.edu.au/6uzp>)

AIIA Vic LinkedIn – [Spotlight Keynote Panel](https://go.unimelb.edu.au/8uzp) – Caroline Martin, Fiona Hukula and Julie Ballangarry
(<https://go.unimelb.edu.au/8uzp>)

AIIA Vic LinkedIn – [Caroline Martin Spotlight](https://go.unimelb.edu.au/2uzp) (<https://go.unimelb.edu.au/2uzp>)

AIIA Vic LinkedIn – [Keynote Speaker Announcement](https://go.unimelb.edu.au/5uzp) – Kim Thuy Seelinger
(<https://go.unimelb.edu.au/5uzp>)

AIIA Vic LinkedIn – [Keynote Speaker Spotlight](https://go.unimelb.edu.au/7uzp) – Fiona Hukula (<https://go.unimelb.edu.au/7uzp>)

AIIA Vic LinkedIn – [Keynote Speaker Spotlight](https://go.unimelb.edu.au/9uzp) – Stephanie Copus Campbell
(<https://go.unimelb.edu.au/9uzp>)



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