

Draft

Regional Conference on Male, Youth and HIV & AIDS Networks towards the Prevention of Gender- based Violence

**Proposed Conference
Theme: Strong hands stop
gender-based violence, halt
the spread of HIV and end
gender inequalities in the
ASEAN!**

**Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
Philippine Commission on Women
& the Department of Foreign Affairs**

**November 15-16, 2012
Manila, Philippines**

**Conference Secretariate:
Philippine Commission on Women
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**Office of the President
Philippine Commission on Women
1145 J.P. Laurel St., San Miguel, Manila**

**International Commitment Fund
Hosting of Regional Conference**

**Regional Conference with Male and Youth Advocates towards the Prevention of Gender-based
Violence and HIV & AIDS**

**Proposed Conference Theme: Strong hands stop gender-based violence, halt the spread of HIV and
end gender inequalities in the ASEAN!**

**November 15-16, 2012
Manila, Philippines**

Conference Design

Background

The Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) of the Republic of the Philippines has made available resources and technical expertise through the International Commitment Fund to organize an ASEAN conference on gender-based violence or GBV, HIV & AIDS. This conference will highlight and focus the importance of strengthening the participation of men, youth and HIV & AIDS networks in addressing gender-based violence, halting the spread of HIV and how these actions can impact positively in stopping generational reproduction of gender inequalities in the ASEAN.

This conference builds on the gains of the ASEAN Conference on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the ASEAN Region in Jakarta, Indonesia, last 30 June 2004 where a *Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (DEVAW) in the ASEAN Region* was put forth and subsequently recognized by the ASEAN member states.

The ASEAN *Declaration* of 30 June 2004 states that in the context of strengthening regional cooperation, collaboration and coordination for the purpose of eliminating violence against women in the region, each Member Country, either individually or collectively, in ASEAN, shall endeavor to fully implement the goals and commitments made related to eliminating violence against women and monitor their progress.

The need to give priority to VAW issues was reiterated at the Third Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW) last November 29 – December 1, 2004. Preparatory to the holding of the Fourth ACW Meeting was then pursued by the ASEAN Secretariat and the Philippines as the Meeting host. With support from UNIFEM, the body agreed to develop the DEVAW work plan to implement the Declaration. This was drafted through a collective one-day Regional VAW Workshop by the PCW in coordination with the ASEAN Secretariat. The document was presented and approved with recommended 14 regional priority projects during the Fourth ACW Meeting in 2005. It was later approved by the ASEAN Standing Committee (ASC) in 2006.

The Philippines, through the PCW, were assigned two priority projects: (1) Regional ASEAN Conference on Gender-based Violence (GBV) and HIV – AIDS which was successfully conducted last December 1-3, 2009; and the (2) The Regional Workshop on Male Advocates and HIV & AIDS Networks to be held this November 15-16, 2012. The hosting of this Regional Conference was reiterated in the Planned Project and Activities under the ASEAN Committee on Women Work Plan for 2011-2016 during the 10th ACW Meeting held last October 3-4, 2011 at Bogor, Indonesia.

Thus, this conference responds to several agreements in the *Declaration* specifically:

- (i) regional and bilateral cooperation in the systematic research, collection, and analysis of sex disaggregated data and relevant information on the impact and effectiveness of policies and programs for combating violence against women;
- (ii) promote an integrated and holistic approach to eliminate violence against women by formulating mechanisms focusing on the four areas of concern of violence against women, namely, providing services to fulfill the needs of survivors, formulating and taking appropriate responses to offenders and perpetrators, understanding the nature and causes of violence against women and changing societal attitudes and behavior;
- (iii) support initiatives undertaken by women's organisations and non-governmental and community-based organisations on the elimination of violence against women and to establish and strengthen networking as well as collaborative relationships with public and private sector institutions.

The conference is envisioned to provide a space to discuss and learn global experience in designing, programming and implementing gender responsive actions in addressing GBV and HIV & AIDS in partnership with men and adolescent boys and how it will ultimately contribute to preventing violence against women and girls in the ASEAN.

While there is mounting evidence that GBV is both a cause and consequence of HIV infection, programs and services designed to address these pandemics are largely fragmented¹ and men and boys do not yet actively participate. Perspectives of high school students on how they regard GBV and the gender issues surrounding will be a starting point for HIV & AIDS networks to share about their work in an effort to correct misconceptions in these young minds and imbue them with positive values and attitudes.

Service Providers will also integrate responses to GBV in existing HIV and gender equality programs and to establish linkages with agencies who are working with men and boys addressing GBV. The ASEAN Network of Male & Youth GAD Advocates will be explored as a collaborative agenda on implementing successful strategies and projects implemented at the national level which could be adopted by other countries. Knowledge generated from this conference is envisioned to inform the programming of gender equality and women's empowerment programmes and policies of ASEAN member states and that of their respective international development partners' ODA frameworks and programmes. The conference is also envisioned to provide a mechanism to track progress on the elimination of violence against women in the ASEAN.

¹ Khan, Alia. 2011. *Gender-based Violence and HIV: A Program Guide for Integrating Gender-based Violence Prevention and Response in PEPFAR Programs*. Arlington, VA: USAID's AIDS Support and Technical Assistance Resources, AIDSTAR-One, Task Order 1.

Context

The 1993 UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women defines VAW as: “Any act of gender-based violence that results in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivations of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.” These acts include: spousal battery; sexual abuse, including female children; dowry-related violence; rape, including marital rape; female genital mutilation/cutting and other traditional practices harmful to women; non-spousal violence; sexual violence related to exploitation; sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in school and elsewhere; trafficking in women; and forced prostitution.

GBV takes on many forms and can occur throughout the lifecycle, from the prenatal phase through childhood and adolescence, the reproductive years, and old age. Types of GBV include female infanticide; harmful traditional practices such as early and forced marriage, “honor” killings, and female genital mutilation; child sexual abuse and slavery; trafficking in persons; sexual coercion and abuse; neglect; domestic violence; and elder abuse.

Women and girls are the most at risk and most affected by GBV. Consequently, the terms “violence against women” and “gender-based violence” are often used interchangeably. However, boys and men can also experience GBV, as can sexual and gender minorities, such as men who have sex with men and transgender persons. Regardless of the target, GBV is rooted in structural inequalities between men and women and is characterized by the use and abuse of physical, emotional, or financial power and control².

Gender-based violence has been identified as a significant driver of HIV & AIDS. Global debates and literature on GBV and HIV & AIDS would show correlations, as cited by studies, on gender-based violence and HIV & AIDS especially among women and girls. Today, gender-based violence is a worldwide pandemic and directly affects the spread of HIV & AIDS. Fear of violence limits the ability of women and girls to choose their partners; to find out about a partner's HIV status or disclose their own; and to get medical or counseling services³.

Studies in some countries have shown that among adolescents, HIV infection rates are on average five times higher among girls than among boys. This is largely due to girls’ biological and social vulnerability. Women face additional and more acute discrimination when they are identified as being HIV positive. Because they are often first to test positive through pre-natal testing, they are branded as the “spreaders” of the virus. Once their HIV-positive status is revealed or disclosed, women face being physically abused, losing access to important economic resources, and face the threat of being chased from their homes.

Gender-based violence among lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgenders (LGBT) also suffered multi-layer oppression as it remains controversial in many countries receiving fewer resources allocation. Being considered as sexual minorities, LGBT experienced community marginalization including pressure

² Khan, Alia. 2011. *Gender-based Violence and HIV: A Program Guide for Integrating Gender-based Violence Prevention and Response in PEPFAR Programs*. Arlington, VA: USAID’s AIDS Support and Technical Assistance Resources, AIDSTAR-One, Task Order 1.

³<http://www1.voanews.com/policy/editorials/Pepfar-Targets-Gender-Violence-93929709.html> accessed on 16 June 2012

to conform to sexual roles and expectations. Perpetrators of violence against LGBT justified their action with society's homophobic disgust and lack of legal measures to support sexual minorities.

According to the Global Health Initiative a facility founded by the U.S. Government, *physical violence or the threat of physical violence and coercion are all associated with HIV transmission*. With this, it now becomes necessary to implement initiatives that will tackle one of the greatest threats to women's health which is HIV & AIDS, by attacking another scourge: gender-based violence.

Gender-based violence is ubiquitous: no country can claim to have eliminated it, and one in three women will be its victim in her lifetime. In some countries, as many as seven in ten women are affected⁴.

Physical violence or the threat of physical violence and coercion are all associated with HIV transmission for women of all ages. Numerous studies indicate that gender-based violence increases women's and girls' risk of contracting HIV infection three fold. Gender-based violence limits women's ability to negotiate safe sexual practices, disclose their HIV status and access health services, thus helping to spread the HIV infection⁵.

Violence against women and children are often associated on the political, economic and social power and strength that is associated with men. Women's vulnerability to HIV infection has been associated with their economic dependence on men, sexual exploitation, coercion and rape, as well as by their engagement in informal and commercial sex work. Women's lack of economic independence is brought about by lack of education and poverty. The situation of women and girls in this masculine-dependent context breeds inequalities and logically pave the way for physical violence or the threat of physical violence and coercion, which are all associated with HIV transmission.

The statistics for Asia-Pacific as expressed in the UNiTE to End VAW campaign will reveal how urgent the work at hand is:

- 64% of women in the Solomon Islands⁶, 36% of women in New Zealand⁷, 34% of women in Viet Nam⁸ and 18% of women who have been married in the Philippines⁹, reported having experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner.
- 14% of women in Japan reported sexual abuse before the age of 15 years¹⁰ and 1 in 5 women in the Philippines have experienced physical violence since age 15.¹¹
- 30% of women in rural Bangladesh reported that their first sexual experience was forced.¹²
- 15 - 65% of women in Asia experience violence in intimate partner relationships where VAW has been identified both a cause and a consequence of HIV infection. Research revealed that

⁴<http://www.voanews.com/policy/editorials/africa/The-Gender-based-Violence-And-HIV-Connection-146484155.html> accessed on 16 June 2012

⁵<http://www.voanews.com/policy/editorials/africa/The-Gender-based-Violence-And-HIV-Connection-146484155.html> accessed on 16 June 2012

⁶ Solomon Islands Family Health and Safety Study: A study on violence against women and children, 2009.

⁷ Fanslow, J., Robinson, E. Violence against women in New Zealand: prevalence and health consequences, 2004

⁸ National Study on Domestic Violence Against Women in Viet Nam, 2010

⁹ National Demographic and Health Survey, National Statistics Office, Philippines, 2008

¹⁰ WHO Multi-country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence against Women, 2005

¹¹ National Demographic and Health Survey, National Statistics Office, Philippines, 2008

¹² WHO Multi-country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence against Women, 2005

women who are beaten by their partners are 48% more likely to be infected with HIV/AIDS than those who are not.¹³

On the other hand, according to a study that appeared ahead of the 19th International AIDS Conference (July 2012), conducted by Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (Baltimore, Maryland), HIV remains uncontrolled in MSM¹⁴ in 2012. In Thailand and Malaysia, prevalence of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) among MSM is 15 percent or more. The biological reality is that unprotected anal sex carries a far greater risk of HIV infection than unprotected vaginal sex¹⁵. Given this finding, unprotected sex that characterizes forced sex associated with GBV among men and boys is considered as a transmission for HIV that is like a ticking bomb if left still hidden and unexplored.

Women and men in conflict areas also face the risk of GBV. Situations arising from war and un-peace breed violence where women and girls are the most vulnerable. Rape is a common incidence. Prostitution of women also occurs in times of war for economic and survival reasons. This form of survival is patronized by men soldiers.¹⁶

The current labour migration also poses risks. Trafficking in persons- men, women and children are subject to sex trafficking, forced labour and involuntary servitude.

Another concern is that culturally, women are viewed as 'objects' or traditionally treated as a 'property' belonging to men; also, women are by age old traditions treated as subordinate to men. This cultural mind set is a factor in the increase of GBV, and the violation of women's rights which have resulted in growing cases of HIV infection. Of concern, however, is that many people are ignorant of the link between these problems and culture. There is a need to make development agents, especially GEWE advocates, aware that there is not much that can be achieved in the response to HIV and AIDS and VAW/ GBV if programmes do not deal with the root causes that are often linked with the cultural mindsets and traditional practices.

Given that GBV is becoming one of the greatest threats to women's health and has been identified as a significant driver of HIV & AIDS, the men and adolescent boys have to account as significant contributors to finding and implementing solutions to stop both GBV and spread of HIV. However, despite gains on women's empowerment, gender equality programmes and projects do not yet significantly involve men and boys losing out on the potential of addressing generational reproduction of gender inequalities in the long run. Given that the alarm has been sounded, programmes on gender equality especially those that intend to impact on preventing violence against women and girls must now consider the potential of men and young boys and their contribution towards addressing the interrelated problem of GBV and HIV & AIDS.

¹³ <http://www.unescap.org/sdd/meetings/UNiTE/UNiTE%20Campaign.pdf> visited last 20 September 2012

¹⁴ MSM is a general term coined by AIDS experts in 1992, applying to gays as well as to heterosexuals and bisexuals who have male-to-male sex. In the Philippines, MSM is an abbreviation for "men having sex with men" or "males having sex with males".

¹⁵ <http://www.interaksyon.com/article/38021/time-to-overhaul-aids-strategies-for-gays---study> visited last 20 July 2012.

¹⁶ The paper by Aurora Javate De Dios of Women and Gender Institute (WAGI), Miriam College, on GBV elaborates on prostitution and other forms of GBV.

Conference Objectives

On the whole, the conference is envisioned to inform participants on the state of knowledge concerning GBV and HIV, men and youth involvement and generational reproduction of gender inequalities. Specifically, the conference aims to:

- (i) Surface global experience and learn effective ways in designing, programming and implementing gender responsive actions in addressing GBV and HIV & AIDS together with men, youth and HIV & AIDS networks.
- (ii) Present and examine existing models of addressing GBV, HIV & AIDS in the ASEAN region:
 - a. Mainstreaming GBV and HIV & AIDS in formal education and non-formal streams
 - b. Addressing generational reproduction of gender inequalities at home and in the communities
 - c. Men and Adolescent Boys responding to GBV and HIV & AIDS at Home and in their Communities
 - d. Empowering women and girls to address GBV and HIV & AIDS at Home and in their Communities
- (iii) Establish and strengthen networking as well as collaborative relationships with women's organisations and non-governmental and community-based organisations including public and private institutions and individuals, experts and consultants doing work on GBV, HIV & AIDS and men and boys and masculinities approaches.

Finally, the conference is also envisioned to provide ASEAN member states solutions on how to strengthen current mechanisms for knowledge exchanges on the progress of the *Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women in the ASEAN Region* and to improve future programming.

The Conference Theme and Learning Framework

There are three (3) major messages that the theme envisions to popularize. The first message is: **Strong Hands stop GBV**. The second message is: **halt the spread of HIV** and the third message: **end gender inequalities in the ASEAN region!** Cumulatively, these messages synthesize the learning framework of the conference.

The first message is: Strong hands stop GBV. The term *strong hands* is derived from the U.N. Secretary General's Campaign to End Violence Against Women (UNiTE) which carries the tag line "Strong Hands stop violence against women and girls". The UNiTE campaign provides a unique opportunity to galvanize action and accelerate progress towards a life free of violence for every woman and girl. Asia-Pacific UNiTE is the regional component of the campaign and envisions to build partnerships across sectors to strengthen accountability, capacities and resources to prevent violence against women and girls, end impunity, and provide services to survivors.

The second message is: Halt the spread of HIV. According to UNAIDS, gender-based violence contributes to the spread of HIV throughout the world¹⁷ (UNAIDS 2001). This finding has multi-layered implications to current efforts to halt back the spread of HIV impacting the health and social dimensions.

¹⁷ UNAIDS. 2001.

As the issues of GBV, HIV & AIDS carries with it social stigma, moral and cultural pressures mostly from established institutions, and as a result of rooted traditions, impedes current programmes on gender and HIV to address them as an associated development issue. It is a concern to note that in most countries in the world, even in countries where the spread of HIV is fast growing and incidences of violence especially against women, girls, boys and the LGBT is high, development initiatives and assistance do not yet address both issues in an associated manner, missing out on its long term potential to address purposively and *head-on* the reproduction of gender inequalities across generations.

The third message: End gender inequalities in the ASEAN region! Is a call to stop generational reproduction of gender inequalities by addressing both GBV and HIV as a *dual-core approach* to bring about gender equality. a viable entry point to address key issues such as stigmatization that is silencing programming of GBV with HIV and to encourage new debates such as the role of men and the adolescent boys in particular- the risks they face and the possibilities and opportunities that is before them to stop the reproduction of gender inequalities across generations by addressing GBV and halt the spread of HIV.

The dimension of reproduction of gender inequalities across generations provides the vista and the long term perspective of the impacts of addressing GBV and HIV. The reproduction of specific gender inequalities across generations gives rise to gender inequality traps, such as the stigma currently faced by GBV and HIV and will most affect the current generation of adolescents and the violence that is ubiquitous in the home and in the communities. It becomes important to address these traps now- men and boys must understand and support increasing young women's voice and participation in societal institutions and enhancing young women's voice within households; enhancing access to economic opportunities; improving education and health services for adolescent girls and boys too; helping adolescents make smart reproductive decisions; and, building inner capacities of adolescents to mold and nurture lifelong aspirations.

Current Challenges in Programming Men and Adolescent Participation in Halting Gender-based Violence and the Spread of HIV & AIDS

There are several challenges that are currently being addressed by government and civil society albeit at different levels of interventions. Some of these challenges which are deemed relevant and fitted to the realities of the ASEAN region are explained below.

- 1. Debates and advocacies on gender-based violence and HIV & AIDS, expounding on its link and impacts to strategic development outcomes brought about by the participation of men, and adolescent boys and girls, is not yet popular.**

While GBV has been identified as a significant driver of HIV & AIDS, its nexus to development outcomes is not yet popularly known and studies and researches have not been extensively disseminated. What is clear at this point is reasoned after the need to raise awareness on GB and HIV, an example is the Violence against Women and Children and HIV and AIDS project facilitated by UNICEF aimed at reducing the incidence of HIV and AIDS by raising awareness on the linkages between violence against women and children and HIV and AIDS in South Africa¹⁸.

- 2. The need to improve implementation methods, tools and data collection that are useful in designing programmes and projects on gender-based violence and HIV & AIDS.**

¹⁸ http://www.unicef.org/southafrica/hiv_aids_729.html accessed on 16 June 2012

A meeting convened in Vilnius early this year that drew Europe's top experts on gender-based violence, including those who have explicit experience in working with men to end gender-based violence concluded that the need to identify and map what kind of data and resources should be collected to have a good overview of the methods, tools and progress made in relation to the prevention of sexual violence against women, to collect existing and reliable information, data and resources, to systematize it and to provide advice on actions for improving implementation methods, tools and data collection on sexual violence against women¹⁹.

3. No significant funding for programmes on gender-based violence and HIV & AIDS.

While the link between gender-based violence and HIV & AIDS is recognized globally, there is no significant funding devoted to start and scale up programmes on GBV and HIV and AIDS involving men and adolescent boys. It should be noted however that a model is shaping in Tanzania, Mozambique and Congo- U.S. government has given PEPFAR an additional 30 million dollars to scale up existing programs in these countries. Some of the money will also be used to make health facilities more comprehensive and able to respond to victims of violence²⁰.

4. Men and adolescent boys are not specifically targeted to contribute, participate and implement programmes on gender-based violence and HIV & AIDS and in some countries, on gender equality.

It has been established that GBV is becoming one of the greatest threats to women's health and has been identified as a significant driver of HIV & AIDS. Men and adolescent boys have to account as significant contributors to find solutions to stop both GBV and spread of HIV not only because they are stereotypically associated with violence against women and girls but also because in most ASEAN countries men and boys are positioned and can influence and control resources and decisions that will eventually add up to addressing both issues. In the case of combating sex trafficking and prostitution, many programs adopted educating men and boys away from the demand of commercial sex. Gender equality programmes and projects do not yet significantly involve men and boys losing out on the potential of addressing generational reproduction of gender inequalities.

Some Models: References for Conference Paper Presentations

1. Expounding on Inter-linkages between Culture, Gender-based Violence, HIV and AIDS and Women's Rights in Gender Equality and Women Empowerment Training

Facilitated by Oxfam Canada, Oxfam America, and SAfAIDS a training manual was developed that explores the theory that culture is central to the forces that trigger gender-based violence, leading to the violation of women's rights and subsequently to the spread of HIV. Since culturally, women are viewed as 'objects', Southern Africa has witnessed an increase in gender-based violence (GBV), and the violation of women's rights which have resulted in growing cases of HIV infection. Of concern, however, is that many people are ignorant of the link between these problems and culture. This training manual seeks to make development agents aware that

¹⁹ <http://www.eige.europa.eu/content/event/gender-based-violence-experts-meet> accessed on 16 June 2012

²⁰ <http://www.thebody.com/content/art56674.html> accessed on 16 June 2012

there is not much that can be achieved in the response to HIV and AIDS if society does not deal with the root cause of the problem – Culture²¹.

2. Mainstreaming in Gender-based Violence, HIV and AIDS in Formal Education

The Girls' Education Movement/Safe Schools Initiatives: in KZN, Limpopo and Eastern Cape provinces have proven crucial and critical to prevent, violence against women and children, HIV and sexual risky behaviors through participatory life skills development and AIDS education. All developmental practitioners agree on the need to strengthen capacity of learners and teachers to transform the schools into centers of community learning, social change and sustainable development. Eight (8) pilot sites have been established while 200 safe schools are expected to be outreached and achieved through the safe schools model in all three provinces²².

3. Mainstreaming in Gender-based Violence, HIV and AIDS in Non Formal Educational Modes

The Teen Health Center in the Municipality of Ubay, Bohol, Philippines implements a reproductive health programme for the youth. A special concern of the programme is slanted on the LGBT and activities such as empowerment camps implemented during the summer months are undertaken. The center is managed by peer counselors who conduct regular information and educational activities on sexuality, STDs and HIV including GBV occurring among young people at home and in the community.²³ The center also employs marketing activities to attract the youth such as providing access to musical instruments, sports equipment and educational/school and academic aids.

4. Men and Masculinities Approaches to Address Gender-based Violence

In the Philippines, a movement called Men Oppose to Violence Everywhere (MOVE) demonstrates a good start-up approach to involving men and adolescent boys into gender equality programmes, projects and issues. The movement is a national network tapping on individuals and traditionally male-dominated organizations and institutions such as the uniformed sector (e.g. Police, Military and Para Military) and making men aware of VAW and GBV issues and how men/males can help address these issues at the community level.

Also in the Philippines, UNFPA recognizes an innovative men and masculinities approach that is designed after indigenous practices. The practice is called AYOD which is patterned after parenting approaches practiced by men that highlights gender equality principles; including approaches that prevents VAW and GBV at the household and community level. The AYOD model also demonstrates how these culture-based practices are systematically transferred to younger men and boys (inter-generational transfer of male parenting).

5. Small Grants to Grassroots Organizations to Address Gender-based Violence, HIV and AIDS Issues

In mid-March, Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues Melanne Verveer and U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator, Ambassador Eric Goosby announced an initiative to provide \$4.65 million in small grants to grassroots organizations to address gender-based violence issues. The new initiative will support programs that prevent and respond to gender-based violence, with links to HIV prevention, treatment and care. The money, which will be provided by the

²¹<http://www.safaids.net/content/inter-linkages-between-culture-gender-based-violence-hiv-and-aids-and-womens-rights-training> accessed on 16 June 2012

²²<http://www.unicef.org/southafrica/education.html> accessed on 16 June 2012

²³ Contact person: Mr. Kenneth Trajano

President's Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief, or PEPFAR, in grants of as much as \$100,000, will go to organizations in some of the 80 countries that are working with the U.S. on trying to contain HIV & AIDS. U.S. embassies and consulates will oversee and support these grants.

Through the Gender-based Violence small grants program, grassroots organizations will receive support to prevent and respond to violence against women and help to address the structural drivers of both violence and HIV.

By combining the efforts to eliminate two of the major factors that threaten women's health — gender-based violence and HIV — the United States and its partners will strengthen the response to each²⁴.

Conference Topics and Sessions

The conference sessions are categorized by way of their placements in the conference schedule. A plenary session will be conducted in the morning of the first day of the conference. This opening plenary session will logically follow the opening ceremonies and the usual and *de rigueur* formalities. The opening session is entitled *Culture, Gender-based Violence, HIV and AIDS in the ASEAN*.

In the afternoon of first day, two (2) more sessions will be conducted. The sessions, which will follow after the other are titled: *Men and Masculinities Approaches for Addressing Generational Reproduction of Gender Inequalities in the ASEAN* and *Overseas Development Assistance for Gender-based Violence, HIV and AIDS in the ASEAN*.

The first day will be capped by an evening pre-dinner synthesis session that will highlight learnings, agreements and suggested policy directions based on the sessions.

On the second day of the conference, four (4) sessions will be conducted in the morning which will examine models in terms of education, coping with GBV and HIV, addressing generational reproduction of gender inequalities and women/girls empowerment to address GBV and HIV & AIDS.

In the afternoon of the second day, three (3) simultaneous workshops will be undertaken to provide opportunities to identify entry points for networking and problem identification among ASEAN regions

²⁴<http://www.voanews.com/policy/editorials/africa/The-Gender-based-Violence-And-HIV-Connection-146484155.html> accessed on 16 June 2012

Tentative Program:

Day 1	Activities
9-10	Opening Program Photo & Media
10-12	Opening Session: "Culture, Gender-based Violence, HIV and AIDS in the ASEAN"
12-1	Lunch break
1 -2:30	Plenary Session 1: "Men and Masculinities Approaches for Addressing Generational Reproduction of Gender Inequalities in the ASEAN"
2:30 – 2:45	Coffee Break
2:45 -4:15	Plenary Session 2: "Overview of Overseas Development Assistance for Gender-based Violence, HIV and AIDS in the ASEAN"
4:15-4:45	Open Forum
4:45 -5:00	Synthesis
Evening	Welcome Dinner & Cultural Night

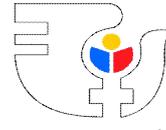
Day 2	Activities
9-12	Simultaneous Panel Sessions Session Hall A: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Model 1 - GBV and HIV and AIDS in Formal Education and Non Formal Streams • Model 2 - Addressing Generational Reproduction of Gender Inequalities at Home and in the Communities Session Hall B: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Model 3. Men and Adolescent Boys Facing up to GBV and HIV at Home and in their Communities • Model 4. Empowering Women and Girls to Address GBV and HIV and AIDS at Home and in their Communities
12-1	Lunch break
1 -2:00	Action Planning
2:30 -4:30	Presentation of Critical Life Cycle Timeline and Country Action Plans
4:15-4:45	Open Forum
4:45 -5:00	Synthesis and Closing Ceremony



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Department of Foreign Affairs



www.pcw.gov.ph
Philippine Commission on
Women

Regional Conference on Male, Youth and HIV & AIDS Networks towards the Prevention of Gender-based Violence

November 15-16, 2012

Manila, Philippines

Guide for Writing and Presentation of Conference Papers

Topic 1: *Culture, Gender-based Violence, HIV and AIDS in the ASEAN*

Premise: Gender-based violence has been identified as a significant driver of HIV & AIDS. Global debates and literature on GBV and HIV & AIDS would show correlations, as cited by studies, on gender-based violence and HIV & AIDS especially among women and girls. Today, gender-based violence is a world-wide pandemic and directly affects the spread of HIV & AIDS.

There is also a need to make development agents, especially GEWE²⁵ advocates, aware that there is not much that can be achieved in the response to HIV and AIDS and VAW/GBV if programmes do not deal with the root causes that are often linked with the cultural mindsets and traditional practices.

This paper will be presented as a keynote paper and will open the main conference on day 1, November 15, 2012.

The expert/presenter is expected to elaborate on the following sub-topics:

- The state of GBV and VAW and HIV and AIDS in the ASEAN
- The Culture Context – challenges and obstacles brought about by traditional cultural contexts in designing and implementing GBV and VAW and HIV and AIDS in the ASEAN
- Good practices in designing and implementing GBV and VAW and HIV and AIDS in the ASEAN

The paper may be organized using the proposed outline below. Please limit the length of the paper to 10 pages (excluding title page and bibliography page), single space.

1. Introduction
2. Definition of key terms and key concepts

²⁵ Gender Equality and Women Empowerment

3. The state of GBV and VAW in the ASEAN – Overview and Updates
4. The state of HIV and AIDS in the ASEAN – Overview and Updates
5. Challenges and Obstacles - Traditional Cultural Contexts
6. An Overview of Designing and Implementing GBV and VAW and HIV and AIDS in the ASEAN
7. Some Good Practices
8. List of References or Bibliography

For presentation purpose- kindly transpose the key messages of the main sections of the paper in a digital presentation, using Microsoft Office PowerPoint 2007 software. Please limit the number of slides to 20.

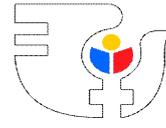
For a general overview of the conference, kindly refer to the attached conference design



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Philippine Commission on
Women

Regional Conference on Male, Youth and HIV & AIDS Networks towards the Prevention of Gender-based Violence

November 15-16, 2012
Manila, Philippines

Guide for Writing and Presentation of Conference Papers

Topic 2: *Men and Masculinities Approaches for Addressing Generational Reproduction of Gender Inequalities in the ASEAN*

Premise: It has been established that GBV is becoming one of the greatest threats to women's health and has been identified as a significant driver of HIV & AIDS. Men and adolescent boys have to account as significant contributors to find solutions to stop both GBV and spread of HIV not only because they are stereotypically associated with violence against women and girls but also because in most ASEAN countries men and boys are positioned and can influence and control resources and decisions that will eventually add up to addressing both issues. Gender equality programmes and projects do not yet significantly involve men and boys losing out on the potential of addressing generational reproduction of gender inequalities.

The dimension of reproduction of gender inequalities across generations provides the vista and the long term perspective of the impacts of addressing GBV and HIV. The reproduction of specific gender inequalities across generations gives rise to gender inequality traps, such as the stigma currently faced by GBV and HIV and will most affect the current generation of adolescents and the violence that is ubiquitous in the home and in the communities. It becomes important to address these traps now- men and boys must understand and support increasing young women's voice and participation in societal institutions and enhancing young women's voice within households; enhancing access to economic opportunities; improving education and health services for adolescent girls and boys too; helping adolescents make smart reproductive decisions; and, building inner capacities of adolescents to mold and nurture lifelong aspirations.

This topic will be presented in the afternoon of the first day of the conference, November 15, 2012

The expert/presenter is expected to elaborate on the following sub-topics:

- Generational reproduction of gender inequalities

- Men and masculinities approaches in implementing GEWE²⁶ programmes in the ASEAN
- Challenges and obstacles in designing and implementing men and masculinities approaches in GEWE in the ASEAN
- Good practices in designing and implementing men and masculinities approaches in GEWE in the ASEAN

The paper may be organized using the proposed outline below. Please limit the length of the paper to 10 pages (excluding title page and bibliography page), single space.

1. Introduction
2. Definition of key terms and key concepts
3. Current Approaches and Strategies in Designing and Implementing GEWE Programmes – Some Global and ASEAN Models
4. Challenges and Obstacles²⁷
5. Some Good Practices
6. List of References or Bibliography

For presentation purpose- kindly transpose the key messages of the main sections of the paper in a digital presentation, using Microsoft Office PowerPoint 2007 software. Please limit the number of slides to 20.

For a general overview of the conference, kindly refer to the attached conference design.

²⁶ Gender Equality and Women Empowerment

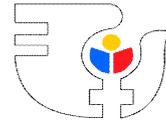
²⁷ As shown/inferred by the models.



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Topic 3: Overseas Development Assistance for Gender-based Violence, HIV and AIDS in the ASEAN

Premise: While the link between gender-based violence and HIV & AIDS is recognized globally, there is no significant funding devoted to start and scale up programmes on GBV and HIV and AIDS involving men and adolescent boys. It should be noted however that in the absence of a devoted funding facility for addressing the twin scourge that is GBV and HIV and AIDS, current funding modalities can be maximized for addressing them and GEWE funding facilities will most welcome the inclusion of men and boys in the programme/project components. How this will be done is a question worthy to discuss.

This topic will be presented in the afternoon of the first day of the conference, November 15, 2012

The expert/presenter is expected to elaborate on the following sub-topics:

- ODAs for GBV in the ASEAN – Priority Funding Themes and Locations
- ODAs for HIV and AIDS in the ASEAN – Priority Funding Themes and Locations

The paper may be organized using the proposed outline below. Please limit the length of the paper to 10 pages (excluding title page and bibliography page), single space.

1. Introduction
2. Definition of key terms and key concepts
3. Current Approaches and Strategies in Funding GBV in the ASEAN – Sources and Priorities
4. Current Approaches and Strategies in Funding HIV and AIDS in the ASEAN – Sources and Priorities
5. Challenges and Obstacles
6. Some Recommendations – Maximizing Current Funding Windows to Impact on Addressing GBV and HIV
7. List of References or Bibliography

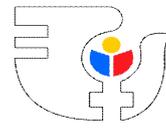
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Topic 4 : GBV and HIV and AIDS in Formal Education and Non Formal Streams

Premise: Education has proven crucial and critical to prevent, violence against women and children, HIV and sexual risky behaviors through participatory life skills development and AIDS education. All developmental practitioners agree on the need to strengthen capacity of learners and teachers to transform the schools (formal) and community learning programmes (non formal) into centers of community learning, social change and sustainable development.

This topic will be presented in the morning of the second day of the conference, November 16, 2012.

The paper may be organized using the proposed outline below. Please limit the length of the paper to 10 pages (excluding title page and bibliography page), single space.

1. Introduction
2. Definition of key terms and key concepts
3. Current Approaches and Strategies in Mainstreaming GBV and HIV and AIDS in Formal Education
4. Current Approaches and Strategies in Mainstreaming GBV and HIV and AIDS in Non Formal Education
5. Challenges and Obstacles
6. Good Practices
7. Some Recommendations
8. List of References or Bibliography

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Topic 5: Addressing Generational Reproduction of Gender Inequalities at Home and in the Communities

Premise: It has been established that GBV is becoming one of the greatest threats to women's health and has been identified as a significant driver of HIV & AIDS. Men and adolescent boys have to account as significant contributors to find solutions to stop both GBV and spread of HIV not only because they are stereotypically associated with violence against women and girls but also because in the household and at the community level, men and boys are positioned and can influence and control resources and decisions that will eventually add up to addressing both issues. Gender equality programmes and projects at the community level do not yet significantly involve men and boys losing out on the potential of addressing generational reproduction of gender inequalities.

The dimension of reproduction of gender inequalities across generations provides the vista and the long term perspective of the impacts of addressing GBV and HIV. The reproduction of specific gender inequalities across generations gives rise to gender inequality traps, such as the stigma currently faced by GBV and HIV and will most affect the current generation of adolescents and the violence that is ubiquitous in the home and in the communities. It becomes important to address these traps now- men and boys must understand and support increasing young women's voice and participation in societal institutions and enhancing young women's voice within households; enhancing access to economic opportunities; improving education and health services for adolescent girls and boys too; helping adolescents make smart reproductive decisions; and, building inner capacities of adolescents to mold and nurture lifelong aspirations.

This topic will be presented in the morning of the second day of the conference, November 16, 2012.

The paper may be organized using the proposed outline below. Please limit the length of the paper to 10 pages (excluding title page and bibliography page), single space.

1. Introduction
2. Definition of Key Terms and Key Concepts
3. Current Approaches and Strategies in Designing Programmes and Projects that Addresses Generational Reproduction of Gender Inequalities at Home and in the Communities
4. Current Approaches and Strategies in Mainstreaming Men and Boys' Participation in GBV and HIV and AIDS Programmes and Projects at Home and in the Communities
5. Challenges and Obstacles
6. Good Practices
7. Some Recommendations
8. List of References or Bibliography

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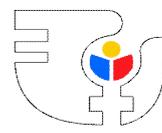
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Topic 6: Men and Adolescent Boys Facing up to GBV and HIV at Home and in their Communities

Premise: While women and girls are the most at risk and most affected by GBV, boys and men can also experience GBV, as can sexual and gender minorities, such as men who have sex with men and transgender persons. Regardless of the target, GBV is rooted in structural inequalities between men and women and is characterized by the use and abuse of physical, emotional, or financial power and control²⁸. On the other hand, according to a study that appeared ahead of the 19th International AIDS Conference (July 2012), conducted by Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (Baltimore, Maryland), HIV remains uncontrolled in MSM²⁹ in 2012. In Thailand and Malaysia, prevalence of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) among MSM is 15 percent or more. The biological reality is that unprotected anal sex carries a far greater risk of HIV infection than unprotected vaginal sex³⁰. Given this finding, unprotected sex that characterizes forced sex associated with GBV among men and boys is considered as a transmission for HIV that is like a ticking bomb if left still hidden and unexplored.

Given this, it will be important to know how government and their partner NGOs/CSOs prepare boys and young men to cope with the realities of GBV and HIV. It will also be good to know what programmes and projects are currently being implemented at the community level.

This topic will be presented in the morning of the second day of the conference, November 16, 2012.

²⁸ Khan, Alia. 2011. *Gender-based Violence and HIV: A Program Guide for Integrating Gender-based Violence Prevention and Response in PEPFAR Programs*. Arlington, VA: USAID's AIDS Support and Technical Assistance Resources, AIDSTAR-One, Task Order 1.

²⁹ MSM is a general term coined by AIDS experts in 1992, applying to gays as well as to heterosexuals and bisexuals who have male-to-male sex. In the Philippines, MSM is an abbreviation for "men having sex with men" or "males having sex with males".

³⁰ <http://www.interaksyon.com/article/38021/time-to-overhaul-aids-strategies-for-gays---study> visited last 20 July 2012.

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1. Introduction
2. Definition of Key Terms and Key Concepts
3. Current Approaches and Strategies in Designing Programmes and Projects that Empowers Bpys and Young Men to Address the Threats of GBV and HIV and AIDS at Homes and in the Community
4. Challenges and Obstacles
5. Good Practices
6. Some Recommendations
7. List of References or Bibliography

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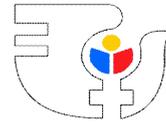
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Topic: *Empowering Women and Girls to Address GBV and HIV and AIDS at Home and in their Communities*

Premise: According to the Global Health Initiative a facility founded by the U.S. Government, *physical violence or the threat of physical violence and coercion are all associated with HIV transmission*. With this, it now becomes necessary to implement initiatives that will tackle one of the greatest threats to women's health which is HIV/AIDS, by attacking another scourge: gender-based violence.

Gender-based violence is ubiquitous: no country can claim to have eliminated it, and one in three women will be its victim in her lifetime. In some countries, as many as seven in ten women are affected³¹.

Physical violence or the threat of physical violence and coercion are all associated with HIV transmission for women of all ages. Numerous studies indicate that gender-based violence increases women's and girls' risk of contracting HIV infection three fold. Gender-based violence limits women's ability to negotiate safe sexual practices, disclose their HIV status and access health services, thus helping to spread the HIV infection³².

Experts agree that by empowering women and girls through education, economic opportunities, improved access to basic services and by ensuring their participation in home-level and community

³¹<http://www.voanews.com/policy/editorials/africa/The-Gender-based-Violence-And-HIV-Connection-146484155.html> accessed on 16 June 2012

³²<http://www.voanews.com/policy/editorials/africa/The-Gender-based-Violence-And-HIV-Connection-146484155.html> accessed on 16 June 2012

decision making structures will help them intelligently and meaningfully address the threats of GBV and HIV and AIDS in their own homes and in their communities.

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1. Introduction
2. Definition of Key Terms and Key Concepts
3. Current Approaches and Strategies in Designing Programmes and Projects that Empowers Women and Girls to Address the Threats of GBV and HIV and AIDS at Homes and in the Community
4. Challenges and Obstacles
5. Good Practices
6. Some Recommendations
7. List of References or Bibliography

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Note: Although there would not be a specific session for presenting the country reports because of time constraint, these will be included as background documents and references.