

SPOTLIGHT ON R2P

7th APPAP Annual General Meeting

November 2023

Spotlight on the 2023 APPAP General Meeting

The 7th annual meeting for the Asia Pacific Partnership for Atrocity Prevention (APPAP) was held on 15 November 2023. Held virtually, the General Meeting was an opportunity to get updates and insights into the partnership's Working Groups and projects, and to speak more generally on future trajectories across 2024-2025. The meeting was attended by representatives from APPAP organisations including CSIS Indonesia, ALTSEAN-Burma, Beyond Borders, Mahidol University, Research Initiatives Bangladesh, the APR2P Centre, Human Rights Working Group Indonesia, Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace, and a representative member from Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The meeting was Chaired by Professor Alex Bellamy, APR2P's Director, who welcomed all participants and extended the welcome to those APPAP members who could not attend from the Pacific due to the imminence of a cyclone and internet and power shutdowns.

Project Summaries

Across 2022-2023 APPAP housed several ongoing projects, and the meeting was an opportunity for each of the projects to give an update and to talk on project expansion.

CSIS Indonesia Hate Speech Dashboard

Mr Beltsazar Kristeya from CSIS Indonesia gave the first update, explaining how the CSIS Hate Speech Dashboard had been expanded across 2023 to include further targeted minority groups: Ahmadiyya, Shi'as, Chinese Indonesians, Christians, and ethnic Papuans. Across 2022-2023 the dashboard collated over 800,000 Tweets, of which 10,000 were found to be hate speech as per the project's definition, and these posts were re-Tweeted/reengaged nearly 6 million times. Mr Kristeva noted that the Dashboard had been the focus of media coverage in the region and was also referred to by the country's parliamentarians and ministers. The next

steps of this project were to conduct a policy roundtable in the lead-up to the 2024 federal elections, to figure through the way AI is being used to promote hate via Twitter, and to consider looking at religious-based hate speech.

As an expansion, the dashboard is being replicated by Foundation for Media Alternatives (FMA), an organisation based in The Philippines that is guided by Ms Liza Garcia. The dashboard and its algorithm are being tailored to suit the agenda of the organisation, with cross-collaboration a key consideration between CSIS Indonesia and FMA in the future.

RIB EWER

Dr Meghna Guhathakurta spoke on Research Initiative Bangladesh's continued use of the APPAP EWER application, with the organisation gathering a third instalment of data in late-2023 that looks at incidents

of SGBV in refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, alongside similar incidents recorded in the community against Rohingya women and girls. Dr Guhathakurta spoke on the way there have been various initiatives undertaken across 2023 to help strengthen the data being imported into the EWER, including roundtable discussions across regional sectors and the employment of various experts who provided insight into the use of EWERs in respect to gender, and how data should be gathered to minimise data discrepancy. The presentation also spoke to some of the findings of the data gathered across the three phases and showed some of the recommendations that have come from the project.

AMAN Indonesia is currently working with the EWER as a means of collaborating data that the organisation is collecting via Indonesian Human Rights Commissions, including the Commission in Aceh Province. This data looks specifically at incidents of SGBV and there will be opportunity for collaboration between AMAN Indonesia and RIB.

SOS Hate Speech Reporting Mechanism

The third project discussed was the APPAP 'Speak Out, Stop Hate' reporting mechanism. Mr Prathee Saravananathan spoke on behalf of the organisations that developed and are using this application: ALTSEAN-Burma (Thailand), Beyond Borders (Malaysia), and Pluralistic Society (Burma). The discussion centred on some of the difficulties

faced across 2023, including the inability to 'roll out' the application in Burma due to ongoing fighting. Of late, however, the application has been used to report over 500 incidents of hate speech; these, recorded by refugee and migrant workers in Malaysia. Mr Prathee Saravananathan also gave an overview of the publicity campaign the organisations are about to launch, using both social media and on-the-street posters.

Professor Alex Bellamy thanked all speakers and then took questions from those attending the meeting, and then moved to the next item on the agenda, which were the Working Group Reports.

Working Group Reports

COVID-19

The first report was from Dr Noel Morada from the APR2P Centre on behalf of the APPAP Working Group on COVID-19. The two major outcomes of the group across 2023 were the publication of an edited volume titled *COVID-19 and Atrocity Prevention in East Asia*, with chapter contributions by members from the Working Group. The second was a report that reflected the contents of the book but will be updated to look at 'what should have been done' across the region as a means of reflection, and a list of updated recommendations will result.

It was generally thought amongst participants at the meeting that this Working Group be phased out given the way the pandemic has settled globally and regionally.

Prevention of Hate Speech and Disinformation

Dr Kirril Shields from the APR2P Centre gave an update on the Prevention of Hate Speech and Disinformation Working Group, reflecting on the Working Group's meeting only a few weeks prior. He outlined the finalisation of both the Hate Speech Legislation Compendium and the video series on preventing hate speech (both of which were still works-in-progress up until recently) and then gave an overview of where the group might like to further its intentions. This included more education on the prevention of hate speech, and the translation of documents to help aid those who are working on APPAP projects on hate speech prevention.

Gender and Atrocity Prevention

Dr Ma. Lourdes Veneracion-Raltonza from Mahidol University spoke on behalf of the Gender Working Group and outlined key activities of the group across 2023, including a workshop titled 'The Development of Gender-Responsive Early Warning Indicators for the Prevention of Atrocity Crimes' that was held virtually on the 4 October 2023. The workshop had 23 participants from across the region, including the Pacific, out of which will come a report. The second activity slated for 2023 is security sector training to be held in December 2023 in Jakarta, Indonesia, partnering with AMAN Indonesia.

Final Overviews and Looking Forward

Professor Alex Bellamy then called on Ms Nikki Marczak to give an overview of work the APR2P Centre and APPAP are doing in the Pacific, and to talk also on youth initiatives in 2023. Ms Marczak outlined the aims of the work being undertaken by the Centre and APPAP in the Pacific, and some of the resulting activities. Ms Marczak also spoke on a youth initiative to educate about and prevent hate speech that was held in Malaysia and organised by APPAP member Malaysian Centre for Constitutional and Human Rights (MCCHR), alongside Article 19.



This was followed by a presentation by Mr Daniel Awigra from Indonesia's Human Rights Working Group (HRWG) who gave an overview of the 2023 ASEAN People's Forum / ASEAN Civil Society Conference. A number of APPAP members were either part of the event's organisation, or were present, including HRWG, AMAN Indonesia, the APR2P Centre, and ALTSEAN-Burma. This led to a conversation amongst the group of how APPAP might become more actively involved in the event.

The meeting was finalised with a conversation about ways forward, which included the proposal of an APPAP Working Group on Advocacy that would then participate/attend the 2024 ASEAN People's Forum, and a proposal by Cambodia's Raksmei Him that APPAP meet in person in 2024 given meetings have been conducted virtually since 2020. This was welcomed by all members present.

Professor Alex Bellamy closed the meeting by expressing his thanks for the work being undertaken by APPAP members across the region, and by signalling the importance of APPAP as an organisation that continues to grow in significance in the atrocity prevention sector across Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

Recommendations for action that were agreed by participants include:

1. Six seminars developed to discuss APPAP activities
2. A face-to-face meeting be held in 2024
3. The Working Group on Atrocity Prevention and Awareness Raising be revived in 2024 to assist in amplifying understanding and awareness of atrocity prevention in the region
4. APPAP develop an "Introduction to R2P" session



7th APPAP AGM:
“Solidarity Building on R2P and Mass Atrocities Prevention in ACSC/APF 2023”

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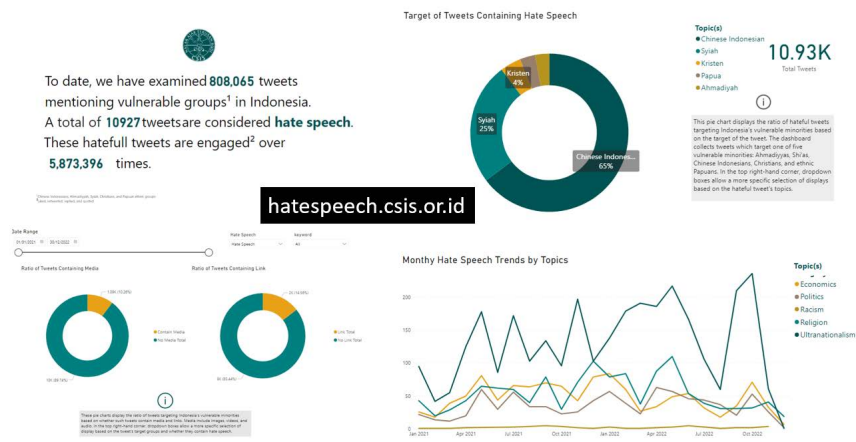
To be updated on recent and emerging research on gender responsive early warning indicators.

2

To explore context-specific experiences relating to early warning and gender-based atrocity prevention.

3

To identify broader gender responsive indicators or enhance existing ones.



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