

**APPAP WORKING GROUP ON BUILDING AWARENESS  
TOWARDS ATROCITIES PREVENTION**



The APPAP Working Group in 2018 identified the following priority areas for promoting public awareness about the importance of atrocities prevention. Some concrete suggestions are indicated under each recommendation for consideration by APPAP members.

Priority Areas for 2018-2019

1. Capacity building for domestic stakeholders

APPAP should give priority to capacity building of domestic stakeholders in the region by conducting workshops and seminars on R2P and atrocities prevention for media practitioners, government sector (including parliamentarians), civil society groups, and the youth sector (e.g., Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative).

Education and training should also be an important component of capacity building. This is particularly important for countries that have a history of past atrocities. To reiterate, without a strong commitment on the part of states and non-state actors in recognising and memorialising past atrocities, the next generation of future leaders are likely to repeat the horrible mistakes of the past. It is therefore important that educational institutions, with the support of governments, should include the promotion of human rights protection to help foster a commitment among the youth and future generation of leaders to universal norms and human protection values. This is also necessary in promoting ASEAN's culture of prevention, which was recognised by its leaders in the summit in Manila in 2017.

Suggested activities:

- R2P Training the Trainers (first training conducted in Phnom Penh on 17 July 2019)
- Organise dialogues with stakeholders (e.g., parliamentarians, security sector, judicial branch)
- Organise dialogue with media practitioners on the role of journalists/media in preventing atrocities (e.g., on hate speech and incitement, tolerance and respect for diversity)
- Organise dialogue with religious leaders (e.g., inter-faith dialogue and role of religious leaders in preventing atrocities)

2. Engaging with ASEAN mechanisms

APPAP should engage with existing ASEAN mechanisms—in particular the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR)—on R2P and atrocities prevention. Specifically, it should explore opportunities for dialogue and capacity building seminars and workshops, as well as openings for collaborative research.

AIPR is a clearing house/platform for knowledge and research generation in ASEAN, specifically in developing a database of knowledge, information, and best practices in conflict prevention and peace. APPAP should also explore engaging other ASEAN mechanisms including AICHR and ACWC, the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Centre, and the ASEAN Defense Ministers Meeting on relevant issues such as dealing with humanitarian crisis, disaster management, and international humanitarian law, among others.

Suggested activities:

- Participate in meetings organised by ASEAN mechanisms particularly in relation to the promotion of ASEAN Culture of Prevention
- Engage with representatives of ASEAN mechanisms at national and regional levels through dialogues and public seminars on relevant domestic and regional issues related to human rights protection and atrocities prevention
- Hold regular dialogues with respective country representatives to AICHR, ASEAN IPR, and ACWC in capitals on relevant issues related to human rights protection, culture of prevention, and atrocities prevention

3. Resources and support mechanisms

APPAP can provide complementary resources and support for ongoing projects already in place in the region. Collaborative projects can be pursued by partner institutions in APPAP for research on various issues related to atrocities prevention, such as incitement, SGBV, hate speech, and conflict prevention among others. As well, support for the work of AIPR has been lined up by some funding agencies and it would be a good opportunity for APPAP to provide inputs and resources for its research and capacity building priorities. Other projects in the region that can be tapped through the YSEALI under the ASEAN-US initiative include HARMONI (on extremism) and PROSPECT (focused on prevention). Linking atrocities prevention with these projects could also contribute to building awareness about R2P at the regional level. Australia as a dialogue partner of ASEAN could also contribute to providing resources and support mechanisms for linking R2P with these projects.

Suggested activities:

- Share reports by APPAP Working Groups to ASEAN mechanisms, ASEAN Secretariat, and relevant national government institutions/agencies (e.g., foreign ministry, justice, national human rights commissions)
- Share relevant research and publications by individuals and institutions affiliated with APPAP network with ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN mechanisms, and national government institutions/agencies in the region on critical issues related to atrocities prevention
- Share information, research, policy relevant publications to other critical stakeholders in the region who interact or engage with relevant ASEAN actors/offices/mechanisms to help them in their policy advocacies related to human rights protection and atrocities prevention

#### 4. Media engagement

APPAP should actively pursue engagement with the media sector in the region. Specifically, media practitioners should be invited to participate in APPAP activities (e.g., national and regional dialogues and workshops). It is also important to identify critical media practitioners who know the relevant local, national, and regional issues that can be linked to atrocities prevention. Journalists who are familiar with ASEAN inside-out should also be engaged and encourage them to contribute in mainstreaming R2P and atrocities prevention in their media reports. The media sector can in fact be knowledge and resource partner of APPAP in developing R2P-related learning tools and materials for use by media practitioners in the region.

##### Suggested activities:

- Organise first APPAP regional workshop on the role of media in atrocities prevention, including prevention of hate speech and incitement
- Organise a training seminar for media practitioners on R2P and atrocities prevention, including the use of U.N. Framework of Analysis for Atrocity Crimes: A Tool for Prevention
- Invite media practitioners in national and regional workshops and seminars related to atrocities prevention
- Consider the creation of a network of media practitioners in the region who are committed to promoting awareness about atrocities prevention

#### 5. Statement of commitment by partner institutions

APPAP partner institutions should seriously consider submitting a statement of commitment to undertake activities within the next 18-24 months as part of their contribution to raising public awareness about R2P and atrocities prevention. This includes holding public seminars on atrocities prevention, generating policy-relevant research and publications (e.g., op-ed articles, blogs, reports, etc.), conducting public lectures or seminars in universities on relevant domestic or regional issues on atrocities prevention, and exploring the creation of domestic networks of stakeholders on R2P in universities (e.g., R2P Student Coalition) as well as involving government and non-government sectors. The Friends of R2P Cambodia may be a useful template for creating a domestic network of champions for atrocities prevention.

##### Suggested activities:

- Create a pool of APPAP volunteers who can commit to writing short op-ed articles for publication in major news outlets in the region on atrocities prevention and burning issues related to R2P
- Encourage APPAP members to submit to the Secretariat all relevant activities that they plan to undertake within the next 12-18 months (e.g., public seminars, workshops, training and education, engagement activities)
- Encourage APPAP members to submit to the Secretariat any relevant reports, research, or publications that can be uploaded in the APPAP website for public dissemination