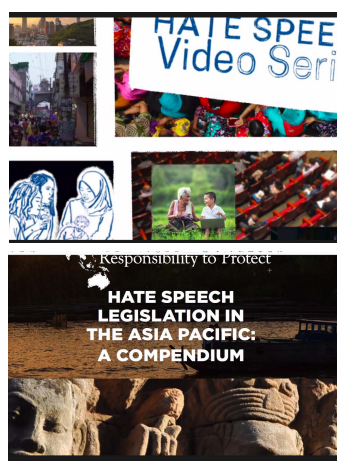
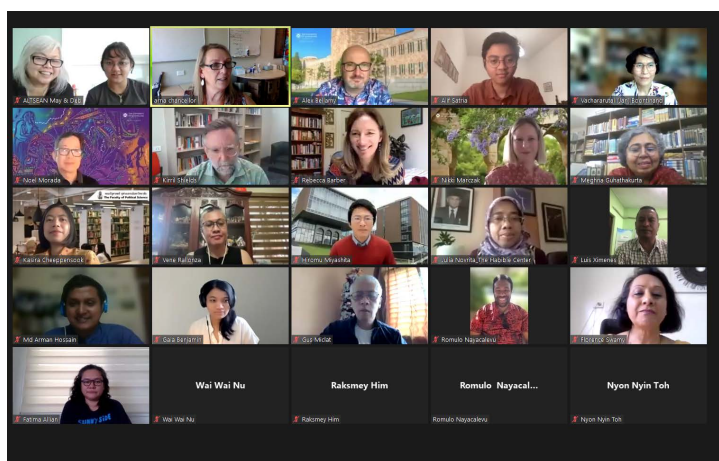


SPOTLIGHT APPAP



APPAP Sixth Annual Meeting 2022

The annual meeting of the Asia Pacific Partnership on Atrocity Prevention (APPAP) was held on 9 December 2022. Chaired by APR2P Centre Director, Prof Alex Bellamy, the meeting included reports back from Working Groups, presentations from organisations running local projects, and a rich discussion on future priorities.

Prof Bellamy noted that with 37 members, APPAP is the largest regional network working on atrocity prevention anywhere in the world, and welcomed its newest members, Femlink Pacific, Nisa ul Haqq fi Bangsamoro (Philippines), and the Leadership, Governance and Human Rights Programme at the University of the South Pacific.

APPAP Working Groups

Gender and Atrocity Prevention

Dr Ma. Lourdes Veneracion-Rallonza, APR2P Philippines Office and Co-Chair of the Working Group on Gender and Atrocity Prevention, provided an overview of the Working Group's activities over the past year. The annual meeting

was held in Manila on 1 December, and topics covered included:

1. The review of the first security sector training on preventing sexual and gender based atrocity crimes;
2. A report and presentation on the country level roundtable consultations on the 2021 report on gender-based atrocity crimes, which were held in Thailand, Philippines, Indonesia, Myanmar and Fiji;
3. Research Initiatives Bangladesh (RIB) project on Early Warning Early Response relating to sexual and gender based violence;
4. Presentation and discussion on advancing the integration of gender responsive indicators in atrocity prevention work, including the Framework of Analysis for Atrocity Prevention.

Dr Rallonza updated the network on the 2022 security sector training on preventing sexual and gender based atrocity crimes which was conduct-

ed on 2-3 December 2022 in Manila, with 23 personnel from the Philippines Armed Forces, and delivered by members of the Working Group and staff of the APR2P Centre. She noted potential activities for future include training for human rights defenders on preventing gender based atrocity crimes, in Thailand or the Pacific; adapting the security sector training for another context such as Indonesia; and working further on gender responsive indicators.

COVID-19

Dr Noel Morada updated members on the publication by Routledge of the Covid-19 Working Group report on seven case studies in the Asia region, which is now available online with printed copies in early 2023. A suggestion was put forward by members to re-focus the Covid-19 Working Group on post-Covid recovery.

Prevention of Hate Speech and Incitement

Dr Kirril Shields provided an overview of the work of the Hate Speech Prevention

Working Group, thanking members for their contributions over the year. He mentioned the training for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade staff on hate speech, and that the third iteration of the training course is planned for Indonesia in early 2023. One major deliverable of the Working Group is the publication of a compendium of hate speech legislation across Asia and the Pacific, for use by civil society and atrocity prevention organisations. The second is the development of an online version of training tools on hate speech, with 7 videos covering topics such as hate speech on social media, and the effects of Covid-19 on hate speech.

APPAP Small grants program

Dr Shields also gave an update of the APR2P Small Grants Projects which have included developing software and applications to facilitate atrocity prevention. One currently in development is “Speak out, Stop hate”, a reporting mechanism being produced by Altsean Burma in partnership with Beyond Borders.

Mr Alif Satria from CSIS Indonesia gave a presentation on the Hate Speech Dashboard developed under the small grants program. Now in its second iteration, the dashboard has been expanded to cover a wider range of vulnerable minorities who are targeted by hate speech, and to develop algorithms for identifying hate speech using AI. In addition, the technology can identify the severity of the hate speech, such as whether it affirms stereotypes, directly insults, or incites violence, as well as mapping trends. APPAP members congratulated CSIS on the project and expressed interest in collaborating and expanding the project to different locations, such as the Philippines.

Dr Meghna Guhathakurta presented on the RIB early warning project on sexual and gender based violence in humanitarian contexts. The second stage of this project has been to identify and map indicators of SGBV over a six month period, using software for data collection. This has been operating in both the Cox’s Bazar refugee camps and in the host community in Southeast Bangladesh. Dr Guhathakurta presented on some of the findings on SGBV and the differences in the two communities, and on underlying risk factors such as broader discrimination

against women and girls. RIB was congratulated on the project and Prof Bellamy reiterated the importance of this network for information sharing on valuable projects such as these.

Youth Core Group on Atrocity Prevention

On behalf of the Youth Core Group on Atrocity Prevention (YCGAP), Md. Arman Hussein presented on youth activities over the year. He noted YCGAP involvement in activities such as the June webinar on the role of children and young people in atrocity prevention which coincided with the release of the Secretary General’s report on R2P, and the High Level Global Conference on Youth Inclusive Peace Processes, and mentioned the APR2P event co-hosted with Justice Call on International Resilience and Solidarity, held online and in person at the University of Queensland. He then presented on three local projects delivered this year:

1. Pacific Centre for Peacebuilding – youth empowerment project for 120 young people in public housing communities to enhance capacity in decision making, restorative justice and peacebuilding, and to reduce the risk of violent conflict;
2. The Habibie Centre – Turning Hate into Love filmmaking project for 12 young people to develop capacity in filmmaking and amplifying the stories of their communities;
3. RIB – Participatory Action Research project with Borua and Rakhine Buddhists to identify hate speech and discrimination and develop skills and responses.

Prof Bellamy commended the work of the YCGAP.

R2P Implementation Framework

He then introduced the APR2P’s Rebecca Barber, who is developing a framework for the implementation of R2P to lay out the strategies States can adopt to better protect their populations from atrocity crimes. This is intended to consolidate the various assessments and recommendations on R2P that have come out over several years, with the support of the Special Adviser on R2P. Ms Barber advised that a regional consultation would be held in Indonesia later in December 2022 with a range of stakeholders and the ASEAN

Secretariat, with a view to a draft early in 2023.

APR2P Pacific Program

R2P Pacific Director Romulo Nayacalevu gave an overview of the APR2P Pacific Project including work around monitoring, risk assessment, early warning, and particularly on socialising the concept of atrocity prevention with civil society and governments in Melanesia. The work to date has involved raising awareness and building understanding of risk factors, and linking atrocity prevention with important issues in the Pacific, such as human rights, climate change, regional security, and gender based violence.

Prof Bellamy commented that with the depth of work being undertaken by APPAP members, there is a need for more information sharing among the network to facilitate knowledge, learning and collaboration. Several suggestions and recommendations for APPAP over the coming year were put forward by members and it was agreed to compile these for further input from APPAP, which will then be developed into key future priorities for APPAP. These included ideas on existing and additional working groups, youth activities, inclusivity and intersectionality, fundraising, further dialogue at national level and on related issues like regional security, and prioritising research collaboration and project partnerships.

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