

QUESTION ON NOTICE / Written

Hearing Name: Inquiry into the Rights of Women and Children

Hearing Date: 31 August 2023

Topic: QoN 008 - Funding for a range of programs addressing gender-based violence, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region

Senator Maria Vamvakinou

Question

You explained at the last hearing that Australia provides funding for a range of programs addressing gender-based violence, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region, however violence against women and children remains a pervasive issue. What are the challenges in implementing effective strategies to counter gender-based violence in this context?

Answer

There are multiple and intersecting challenges to countering gender-based violence (GBV) in the region. These include but are not limited to:

- Social and economic inequalities and power imbalances for women and girls.
- Intersecting forms of discrimination which impact victim-survivors of GBV.
- The diversity of the Indo-Pacific region which necessitates a local and sustainable approach for effective GBV prevention.
- A need for documented and consolidated evidence and practice-based learning on GBV prevention in the Indo-Pacific context, to support approaches which are ethical, robust and safe.
- Limited long-term, sustainable funding and capacity support for GBV prevention across all countries in the region.

Australia recognises that addressing, responding to, and preventing GBV is a challenge that we have domestically, and share with our partners. Australian development assistance supports partners in the region to implement their initiatives that are addressing root causes of GBV. This ensures the use of effective strategies that address these challenges, shaped by the priorities and approaches of our partners.

Australia recognises that addressing gender-based violence and gender inequality is a long-term endeavour. This work requires long term commitments to the partners and countries we work with, including engagement with men and boys, to transform harmful social norms, attitudes and behaviours to eliminate GBV.