

Christian Conference of Asia

**Asian Ecumenical Women's Conference on
"Towards Upholding the Dignity and Rights of Women in Asia"**

12-14 November 2025 | Chiang Mai, Thailand

Communiqué

We, more than eighty delegates from countries across Asia, representing the member churches of the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA), as well as civil societies in Asia united in our diversity of languages, cultures, and traditions, and generations, stand together as one body in Christ. Strengthened by our faith, we are challenged and committed to live out the Gospel imperative to uphold and protect the God-given dignity and rights of all women.

Gathered at the Payap University in Chiang Mai, Thailand for the three-day Asian Ecumenical Women's Conference 2025, we witnessed the painful and unjust realities confronting women across our region. In prayer, reflection, and dialogue, we have grounded our discernment in the biblical and theological affirmations of women's empowerment as an expression of God's justice and love, and by sharing and listening to testimonials, we have confronted the entrenched power structures and patriarchal systems that continue to oppress, silence, and marginalise women, recognising them as contrary to the will of God. We have been inspired by the prophetic witness of women who rise in faith to defend life, justice, dignity and rights of women and the well-being of communities.

The Context

We live in an Asia marked by political turbulence; authoritarian and populist governance that weaponises power and suppresses dissent; conflict within and among countries; militarisation; socio-economic injustices; corruption; weak institutions; fundamentalisms and extremism; and a lack of political commitment, all of which often limit the implementation and realisation of gender equity.

As Asian Christian women, we name the root causes and realities that traumatise and wound the body, mind, and spirit of our sisters:

1. The violation of women's dignity and rights under patriarchal/kyriarchal systems that silence voices, commodify bodies, limit bodily autonomy, and deny equal participation in family, church, and society; together with ableism and normalism, which marginalise women with disabilities.
2. Cultural and ethnic tensions that divide communities, exploit differences, reinforce harmful gender norms, and expose women to multiple and intersecting forms of oppression and discrimination.

3. Economic disparities that deepen poverty, perpetuate unequal access to resources, and drive the feminisation of labour, forcing women into precarious, underpaid, and unsafe working conditions, often away from their families.
4. Security threats and militarisation that displace communities, normalise sexual violence, and endanger the lives of women and their children.
5. Climate injustice devastates homes, livelihoods, and ecosystems, with women, children, and other vulnerable communities bearing the heaviest burdens, while those in positions of power and influence drive the policies and practices that worsen environmental destruction.
6. The growing menace of digital gender-based violence, exacerbated by the gender digital divide, which extends patriarchal control into technological spaces and exposes women to online harassment, surveillance, and exploitation.
7. Intersectional discrimination based on caste, class, ethnicity, migration status, age, ability, sexuality, and religion, which intensifies the vulnerabilities of indigenous women, migrant women, displaced women, and women with disabilities.
8. Inadequate access to comprehensive healthcare, including reproductive and mental health services, and insufficient survivor-centred support systems for women confronting domestic violence, sexual abuse, and other forms of gender-based violence.

From Amen to Collective Action

As Asian women of faith, we affirm our commitment to resist these injustices with courage, compassion, and collective care. We stand in solidarity with all who struggle for equality, justice, and peace. Therefore, we call upon churches and faith-based organisations to:

1. Transform themselves into spaces of liberation and equity, reflecting God's justice and love, where women's voices are heard, valued, and empowered to participate fully in the life of the church and community.
2. Affirm the sacred dignity of women, girls, and gender and ethnic minorities by promoting full participation and leadership of women in church, community, and society, and by challenging all patriarchal theologies, traditions, and structures that perpetuate inequality and silence.
3. Ensure gender equality and inclusion within church structures and policies, especially within decision-making bodies, and support inter-generational leadership of women.
4. Make conscious efforts to raise awareness on gender justice, critically examine and reinterpret theology that has been used to justify patriarchy, and highlight liberating narratives of women in the Bible.

5. Work collectively with civil society organisations, rights groups, and academia to promote and protect women, their rights and dignity, and to accompany women on the move — including migrants, refugees, displaced persons, and women with disabilities — by creating a network of care, advocacy, and sanctuary that restores safety, dignity, and hope.
6. Amplify climate and eco-justice, recognise women’s ecological wisdom, defend land and water defenders, restore our kinship with creation, and call for accountability from governments and corporations for ecological destruction, carbon colonialism, and the interconnected crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, known as the triple planetary crisis.
7. Develop digital ethics and safety in combating gender-based violence, including building digital justice and literacy, equipping women and girls to navigate online spaces safely, counter misinformation, and use technology as a tool for empowerment and solidarity rather than oppression.
8. Foster interfaith and intercultural collaboration and solidarity to dismantle discrimination and heal divisions rooted in ethnicity, class, caste, and religion, affirming the beauty of Asia’s diversity as a source of peace rather than conflict.
9. Develop and implement gender-responsive budgeting within church structures and programmes, ensuring that resources are allocated to support gender equality and the empowerment of women.
10. Revisit church constitutions and policies to remove barriers to women’s full participation and leadership, and to embed principles of equity, inclusion, and justice.

Using the prophetic ministry of the church to advocate for policies that protect women’s rights, address climate injustice, and challenge corrupt and authoritarian practices, we urge governments and international bodies to enact and enforce gender-just policies, end impunity for perpetrators of violence, and ensure the realisation of women’s human rights in every sphere of life.

We call upon our governments to:

1. Take immediate action to prevent and respond to domestic violence, sexual harassment, trafficking, and other forms of abuse, ensuring that survivors have access to justice, protection and reparations.
2. Promote women’s leadership and empowerment in decision-making at every level, and remove barriers to women’s participation in politics, business, and public services.

3. Provide quality education for girls and ensure all women have access to comprehensive health care, including reproductive and mental health services.
4. Close the gender digital divide, protect women from online violence and exploitation, and include women's voices in environmental and climate policies.
5. Advance economic justice by supporting women's cooperatives, fair trade, and sustainable livelihoods; opposing exploitative labour practices and corporate greed; and advocating policies that ensure living wages, labour rights, and land rights.
6. Review discriminatory laws and customary practices, ensuring that legal frameworks uphold gender equality and protect women's rights, and promote the formulation of laws and regulations using feminist and gender perspectives to address systemic inequalities.
7. Protect women's rights defenders and organisations, safeguarding their physical, legal, digital, and political environment.
8. Uphold the rights and freedoms guaranteed in national constitutions as well as international conventions such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.
9. Mainstream gender-responsive budgeting in public policies and government programmes to ensure resources are allocated to promote gender equality and women's empowerment.

In the face of these urgent realities, we, the women of Christian faith from across Asia, affirm our sacred responsibility to act. The Bible and the teachings of Jesus remind us that justice and peace are inseparable, and that faith without action is dead. We therefore call upon ourselves, our churches, our communities, and our partners in the broader ecumenical movement to join us in concrete, transformative action.

Finally, we commit ourselves to continue walking together as a communion of women in faith and action, strengthened by our shared hope, love, and vision, sustained by our collective struggle, and guided by the Spirit of Life.