

## Security Women's Stories at the Spotlight: Southeast Asia Media and WPS Competition

### *Media and Women, Peace and Security Competition – Terms of Reference*

#### **Background**

The media holds an incomparable power to shape narratives and spread awareness. Its online and offline access to and influence on its audiences makes it a powerful policy implementation and monitoring tool. In media coverage, women are underrepresented, especially in peace and security. When they are portrayed, it is most often either as sex objects or helpless victims incapable of holding decision-making positions. In efforts to popularize the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda and change social norms, the media can amplify stories of the gendered impacts of conflict and counter women's portrayal as victims of conflict rather than active agents of peace.

As Southeast Asia grapples with varying peace and conflict situations, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is vital to maintaining regional peace. Southeast Asian communities face a battle of press freedom, government mistrust, and technology regulation. Governments in the region have a history of weaponizing media laws, harassing and targeting journalists, media owners, and activists expressing dissent against government leaders.<sup>1</sup> As an intergovernmental organization, ASEAN acknowledges the persistent challenges in information dissemination and awareness raising to instill a sense of belonging among its members' citizens. ASEAN is invested in efforts to ensure the inclusion of women as a Priority Area of Action (4.2.3) in its ASEAN Strategic Plan for Information and Media (2016-2025).<sup>2</sup>

The WPS agenda is a powerful international normative and policy framework addressing the gender-specific impacts of conflict, political crises, displacement, disaster, violent extremism, and mass atrocities on women and girls. Media and awareness raising is a primary component of the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders' (GNWP) Full-Cycle Implementation of WPS approach. Through its Media and WPS training and competitions, GNWP and its partners advocate for and educate about gender- and conflict-sensitive reporting on women's role in peace and security and promote the recognition of media as a key ally in implementing the WPS agenda. To date, GNWP has trained over 400 journalists and media practitioners in 15 countries around the world.

The launch of ASEAN's Regional Plan of Action on Women, Peace and Security<sup>3</sup> (RPA WPS) opens a renewed space for collaboration with journalists, media practitioners, and influencers in the region to promote and monitor its overall implementation.

To further strengthen this opportunity for partnership, GNWP and UN Women are launching a Southeast Asia Media and WPS Award competition entitled "**Women's Stories at the Spotlight: Southeast Asia Media and WPS Competition.**" This is an initiative under the "Empowering Women for Sustainable Peace: Preventing Violence and Promoting Social Cohesion in ASEAN,"<sup>4</sup> generously funded by the Government of Canada, and the Republic of Korea.

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<sup>1</sup>Southeast Asia's Disinformation Crisis: Where the State is the Biggest Bad Actor and Regulation is a Bad Word. (2021). Available here: <https://items.ssrc.org/disinformation-democracy-and-conflict-prevention/southeast-asias-disinformation-crisis-where-the-state-is-the-biggest-bad-actor-and-regulation-is-a-bad-word/>.

<sup>2</sup>ASEAN Strategic Plan for Information and Media 2016-2025. (2016). Available here: <https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/14.-May-2016-ASEAN-Strategic-Plan-for-Information-and-Media-2016-20251.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on Women, Peace and Security. (2022). ASEAN. Available at: <https://wps.asean.org/resources/asean-rpa-wps/>.

<sup>4</sup> Project Explainer: Empowering Women for Sustainable Peace: Preventing Violence and Promoting Social Cohesion in ASEAN. (2022). ASEAN. Available at: <https://wps.asean.org/resources/project-explainer-empowering-women-for-sustainable-peace-preventing-violence-and-promoting-social-cohesion-in-asean/>.

## Security Women's Stories at the Spotlight: Southeast Asia Media and WPS Competition

### Objectives

1. To recognize journalists and other media practitioners whose work contributes to the awareness-raising, implementation, and advancement of WPS in the region;
2. To provide greater visibility to the winning outputs, highlighting the importance of women in building and sustaining peace;
3. To challenge gender stereotypes by bringing counter-narratives of women's roles and their representation in peace and security, spotlighting women as leaders and decision-makers; and
4. To encourage other media outlets in the region to take an interest and invest in stories that cover the implementation of WPS and women's leadership in building and sustaining peace.

Applications may be submitted through an online form accessible here: <https://gnwp.org/regional-mediafor1325-competitions-3/>

### The Terms of Reference for the Media and WPS competition are as follows:

#### Criteria:

The submitted materials:

- Must be produced by a journalist and/or media practitioner, including independent writers, bloggers, influencers, and youth from and working in a country that is part of ASEAN;
- Must contain a minimum of 500 and 1500 words (for written submissions) or a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 15 minutes (for audio or audio-visual submissions);
- Must be in English;
- Must have been published after 1 January 2021 or be scheduled to be published no later than 31 December 2023 via print, online media (e.g., blogs), TV, or radio stations;
- Must contribute to promoting:
  - 1) at least one of the four pillars of the WPS agenda, namely: women's meaningful participation; protection of women's rights; conflict prevention; and gender-sensitive relief and recovery;
  - 2) grassroots organizations and leaders' contributions to the WPS agenda in Southeast Asia; and/or
  - 3) the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on Women, Peace and Security.<sup>5</sup>
- Must be an original work.

#### Categories of submission

- Print
- Television
- Radio
- Online News
- Photojournalism

Note: All submissions must include a short biography of the author or producer of the output.

#### Who can nominate?

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<sup>5</sup> ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on Women, Peace and Security. (2022). ASEAN. Available at: <https://wps.asean.org/resources/asean-rpa-wps/>.

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- Journalists/reporters can nominate their own work or the work of others; and
- Individuals, civil society organizations, peace advocates, educational institutions or interested organizations can also nominate entries.

### Judging Criteria

- a. Depth of Reporting (60%)
  - Considers the history, problems encountered, and the process of arriving at solutions or compromise in a particular peace and security issue;
  - Triangulates data, utilizes available materials, and uses a wide array of sources from all relevant parties;
  - Highlights the impact of conflict and the stories of survivors and key actors;
  - Innovative and solution-driven; and
  - Presents a transformative narrative, showing women as agents and not only as passive victims.
- b. Creative Peace Message (40%)
  - Engaging and moving storytelling;
  - Creatively but clearly explains how a particular aspect of the conflict has been overcome or how stakeholders are trying to overcome it; and
  - Uses an original and engaging angle, making key messages advocating for women's participation in peace processes accessible to a broader population.

### Awards & prizes

A total of three (3) awardees will be identified.

The winner (1st place) will be announced in September 2023 and will participate in an online event on the sidelines of the Anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325. The winner will also go on a field exchange in Southeast Asia to cover and meet with local civil society organizations conducting work on Women, Peace and Security. Two additional top contenders will be awarded a plaque and a monetary award of USD 1,000 for 2nd place and USD 500 for 3rd place. All nominees will receive certificates of recognition.

The outputs from the winning journalists will be published on the GNWP website, and ASEAN Women, Peace and Security website and UN Women website, and widely circulated to reach policymakers in governments, UN and other international and regional organizations, civil society and the general public.

### Timeline

- Launch of the competition: **28 June 2023**
- Submission deadline: 31 August 2023
- Review of the submissions by the independent panel of judges: September 2023
- Winner announced: by 30 September 2023
- Award ceremony: October 2023

**Copyright:** Contestants will still retain all rights to any material they submit. However, entering this contest, participants are accepting that the rights to use their materials will be transferred permanently and legally to GNWP and UN Women Indonesia. GNWP and UN Women Indonesia will enjoy the full rights to use the works in publication, website, or other non-commercial activities.