

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS AND PREVENTION OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

POLICY DIALOGUE: EU JULE POLICY BRIEF NO. 2

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EU JULE



Co-Hosted by:

- Ministry of Justice
- European Union
- UNDP

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Ha Noi, Viet Nam



SIGNIFICANCE

Gender Equality lies at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, not only as a sustainable development goal (SDG) through SDG5 but mainstreamed through the whole Agenda as one of the key accelerators of sustainable development, with a priority to leave no woman and girl behind.

Viet Nam is to be commended for the strong commitment to gender equality in its laws and policies. The Constitution guarantees gender equality and anti-discrimination, and this is reinforced by many laws and policies such as the Gender Equality Law and considerable progress has been and continues to be achieved.

Strengthening the capacity of Viet Nam's legal and judicial system to address discrimination against women, and gender-based violence, is one of the main objectives of the EU JULE programme.

To achieve the goal, MOJ, EU and UNDP jointly organised the Policy Dialogue "Anti-Discrimination against Women and Prevention of Gender-Based Violence" to examine current situations, laws, and policies, to agree upon the main priorities for action for Vietnamese agencies, as well as supportive interventions provided by EU JULE and other partners.



HIGHLIGHTS

The Policy Dialogue gathered more than 150 participants from relevant ministries and agencies such as MOJ, MPS, MOLISA, SPC, SPP international organizations, development partners, NGOs, gender and law scholars, and more than 30 press agencies. The agenda was structured to enable voices from both presenters and participants. Two main panels of experts were organised. The first focused on sharing information on law and policies on anti-discrimination against women and girls, gender-based violence prevention, and practical implementation. Building on the first session, the second panel discussed ways to improve the effectiveness the prevention and protection mechanisms and their implementation. Each of the speakers provided clear recommendations for prevention and protection against gender-based violence for women and girls. The event resulted in a set of recommended priorities for action going forward.

The event attracted considerable media coverage. More than 30 news articles and outlets featuring the event were published in major online press and media platforms, including VTV3 and the People's Representatives Newspaper, etc. The EU JULE Programme and key messages from UNDP Viet Nam were often mentioned. Mentions and videos of the event were captured in major social media sites, including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



We need to break the culture of silence which prevents women and girls, and especially boys and men from reporting violence.

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*Ms. Caitlin Wiesen
Resident Representative, UNDP Viet Nam*





The Policy Dialogue resulted in nearly 50 recommendations from both speakers and participants. Some of them are general while the others are more specific. All the recommendations focused on finding institutional, legal and technical solutions to prevent gender-based violence, as well as to protect survivors and potential victims.

A majority of recommendations are in line with the expected results under the EU JULE Programme. Among them, there are ideas that have already been foreseen under the Programme. These recommendations, although not entirely new, reaffirm the commitments of partners towards EU JULE's common goals. There was also a number of the recommendations are either out of the scope of EU JULE Programme or have already been handled by different specialised agencies and organisations. In order to avoid overlaps and to concentrate efforts within the scope of the EU JULE Programme, this brief intends to report on some recommendations that are most relevant and can be priorities for actions for EU JULE's implementing partners for the coming years. The following lists are not in order of importance:

BROAD PRIORITIES

Raise awareness among the public on gender equality and the right to be free of gender-based violence, especially the most vulnerable groups.

Improve laws (including and especially the Penal Code) and policies to ensure their consistency with international standards on the prevention of and protection against gender-based violence.

Conduct capacity training on gender equality and handle gender-based violence for judicial and law enforcement personnel, mediators and legal aid providers.

Create a more comprehensive legal aid scheme for survivors of gender-based violence; Monitoring and evaluating quality of services provided by legal aid providers.

Undertake more valuable dialogues and research to learn from and international experience and best practice.

There have been many commitments and efforts, but there remains much work that need to be done regarding gender-based violence.



*Mr. Nguyen Khanh Ngoc
Vice Minister of Justice*



SPECIFIC PRIORITIES

Establish a 24/24 hotline for legal aid at all levels of authorities, piloting in few provinces before multiplying good models;

Establish post-legal aid evaluation mechanisms for all legal aid recipients;
Employ diverse and creative channels and methods for public communication on gender equality and gender-based violence, such as TV programmes, radio, Facebook, etc.

Criminalise all forms of violence against women, including marital rape, dating violence, violence in public spaces and sexual harassment; Penalising the full range of sexual offences against children.

Organise rapid response mechanisms that have close links with legal aid providers and other stakeholders in case of gender-based violence in order to provide timely and adequate projection for survivors.

FOUR DISTINGUISHED LEADERS

- Mr. Nguyen Khanh Ngoc - Vice Minister of Justice
- Ms. Axelle Nicaise – Chargé d’Affaires, EU Representative of Delegation
- Ms. Caitlin Wiesen – Resident Representative, UNDP Viet Nam.
- Ms. Nguyen Thuy Hien, Deputy Chief Justice, Supreme People’s Court

This brief summarises the primary results of the Policy Dialogue focusing on recommendations for better prevention of and protection against gender-based violence as interpreted by UNDP Viet Nam. Therefore, it should not be assumed that every participant subscribes to all recommendations and conclusions. The top broad priorities are identified based on their frequency of repetitions by presenters.

