



Annual Report



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List of abbreviations

ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
COP	United Nations Climate Change Conference
CSO	Civil society organisation
ESCR-Net	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Network
FIFF	Forging Intersectional Feminist Futures
FY	Financial year
GBV	Gender-based violence
GSWF	Global South Women's Forum
HLPF	High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
ILGA	International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
LOI	List of Issues
LOIPR	List of Issues Prior to Reporting
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
OURs	Observatory on the Universality of Human Rights
PSWG	Pre-Sessional Working Group
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SGBV	Sexual and gender-based violence
SOGIE	Sexual orientation and gender identity and expression
SWIFA	Sex Worker Inclusive Feminist Alliance
TB-Net	Treaty Body Network
TrEAD	Transforming Economics and Development through a Feminist Approach
TRIPS	Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights
UN	United Nations
UNSG	United Nations Secretary-General
WGC	Women and Gender Constituency
WRO	Women's rights organisation
WTO	World Trade Organization

About IWRAW Asia Pacific

Since 1993, IWRAW Asia Pacific has worked towards the realisation of women's human rights, mainly through the lens of the **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)**.

Our work centres on:

- Countering Human Rights Regression and UN Capture
- Interrogating Borders and their Impact on Women's Human Rights
- Connecting Gender Equality to Environmental Justice
- Advancing Gender Equality in the World of Work
- Transforming Economics and Development through a Feminist Approach

IWRAW Asia Pacific is an NGO in Special Consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. We facilitate and monitor CEDAW implementation.

Our Donors

- Channel Foundation
- Co-Impact
- Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, sub-granted through CREA
- Ford Foundation
- Hewlett Foundation, sub-granted through the Bretton Woods Project
- Open Society Foundation
- Belgium Agency for Development, subgranted through Oxfam DGD
- Oxfam Mekong
- Swiss Development Corporation
- VOICE
- Wellspring Foundation
- Women's Fund Asia

Our Networks

- Asia Democracy Network (ADN)
- The Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID)
- Feminist Action Nexus for Economic and Climate Justice
- Feminist Faultlines
- ESCR-Net Environmental Working Group
- ESCR-Net Economic Policy Working Group
- #EmptyChairs Campaign
- Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW)
- Global Network of Sex Work Projects (NSWP)
- Human Rights and Climate Change Working Group (HR&CC)
- Observatory on the Universality of Human Rights (OURs)
- NGO Network on UN Treaty Bodies (TBNet)
- Sex Workers' Rights Advocacy Network (SWAN)
- Sex Worker Inclusive Feminist Alliance (SWIFA)
- South Feminist Alliance on Financing for Development
- South Feminist Fiscal Justice Working Group
- StreetNet International
- Tax and Gender Working Group convened by The Global Alliance for Tax Justice
- Women and Gender Constituency (WGC)

Our Programme Partners

- Bangladesh
 - a. Bonhishikha
 - b. Women with Disabilities Development foundation (WDDF)
 - c. Naripokkho
- Cambodia
 - a. Gender and Development for Cambodia (GADC)
- Ecuador
 - a. Centro de Derechos Económicos y Sociales (CDES)
- Hong Kong
 - a. Asia Monitor Resource Centre (AMRC)
- India
 - a. Jagori
 - b. The George Institute
- South Africa
 - a. Institute for Economic Justice (IEJ)
 - b. Women's Legal Centre
- Sri Lanka
 - a. Women and Media Collective (WMC) (Sri Lanka)
- Tunisia
 - a. L'Observatoire Tunisien de l'Economie (OTE) (Tunisia)
- Regional and International Partners
 - a. ALTSEAN Burma
 - b. ASEAN SOGIE Caucus
 - c. African Sex Workers Alliance (ASWA)
 - d. Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)
 - e. Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact
 - f. Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers
 - g. Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network
 - h. Asia Pacific Transgender Network
 - i. Center for Economic and Social Rights (CESR)
 - j. Centre for International Environmental Law (CIEL)
 - k. CREA
 - l. International Domestic Workers Federation (IDWF)
 - m. International Drug Policy Consortium Asia
 - n. Pesticide Action Network Asia Pacific (PANAP)
 - o. Sexual Rights Initiative (SRI)
 - p. Special Talent Exchange Programme



IWRAW Asia Pacific: The Last Five Years

From 2020 to 2024, IWRAW Asia Pacific navigated a complex landscape shaped by the large-scale challenges ranging from the COVID-19 pandemic, the intensifying climate crisis, and the persistence of profit-centric, neoliberal economic and development policies that have entrenched inequalities.

The context in which we work remained complex. The spectre of the COVID-19 pandemic continued to hover over multilateral, state and civil society spaces, while access to those spaces was restricted by stricter border controls and inadequate investment in hybrid modalities.

Internally, the feminist movement faces challenges such as intra- and inter-movement fragmentation and siloing, as well as resource scarcity, which incentivises competition instead of collaboration under a global capitalist regime. The climate of our rights and civic movements is a direct reflection of larger societal issues and structures.

Our feminist values urge us to dismantle these unequal power structures and address the ways in which capitalism, racism, colonialism, ableism, and harmful political ideologies diminish collective rights-based agendas. We are called to hold those in power accountable for the harms and rights

violations exercised on women in all their diversity.

Despite robust advocacy and resistance from IWRAW Asia Pacific and its allies against right-wing and corporate forces, disillusionment continues to grow among activists and organisations regarding the efficacy of the UN system. However, this should not weaken our resolve, but bolster our determination to ensure that our work remains rooted in constructive, radical, collaborative, and transformative strategies that can rebuild systems and social cultures in intersectional feminist ways.

Between 2020-2024, IWRAW Asia Pacific focused on addressing several key issues, including:

- Human rights regression in CEDAW and other treaty body spaces, as well as UN capture by powerholders, corporations, and right-wing states;

- Increasing control of borders that violate marginalised women’s human rights;
- A lack of marginalised women’s voices in global policy discussions on environment, climate, and women-led solutions in climate change programmes;
- Violence and violations of women’s labour rights and barriers to economic empowerment arising from structural inequalities and global economic policies; and
- Increasing political disenfranchisement, poverty and economic precarity, particularly for marginalised women, as a result of profit-centric economic and trade policies.

These goals are focused through five programmes:

Countering Regression and UN Capture (CR)

Advancing Gender Equality in the World of Work (WW)

Interrogating Borders and their Impact on Women’s Human Rights (IB)

Connecting Gender Equality to Environmental Justice (EJ)

Transforming Economic and Development Policies Through Development (TrEAD)

Our Impact

Over the last five years, IRAW Asia Pacific has advanced in our role as an advocate, facilitator, ally, convener, resource, and knowledge partner for feminist movements.

There has been a notable increase in IRAW Asia Pacific’s visibility and recognition, particularly in connecting feminist movements and communities, and bringing CEDAW to these spaces. We have generated analysis and interest among our existing constituencies and the larger feminist movement in newer areas of women’s rights, such as anti-carcerality, visa equity, and tax justice. Crucially, IRAW Asia Pacific has taken gender and rights issues into nontraditional spaces like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and traditional civil society organisations (CSOs)

that engage with the international financial institutions.

Our partnership approach has enabled us to grow our outreach to feminist organisations and informal collectives in Southeast Asia, South Asia, Latin America, South-East Africa. In doing so, we’ve been able to support the organisational sustainability of a diverse range of organisations, including sex worker rights advocacy groups, women and girls with disability organisations, Indigenous women’s constituencies, young women activists, climate justice defenders, and informal and essential labour rights collectives.

Today, we work across **more than 8 consortium and partner projects** to jointly advocate for equality and intersectional rights both for and with structurally excluded groups.

Over the years, IRAW Asia Pacific has made **40 submissions** to different policy processes at international and national level. We have developed essential tools like the FACT manifesto and learning initiatives such as the Feminist Learning Exchange (FLEX) in 2021 and 2023, that have helped support partners in their own movements.

To create alternative spaces for marginalised women’s voices, between 2020-2024, IRAW Asia Pacific convened **five editions of our Global South Women’s Forum**. GSWF has served as an essential platform for creating political momentum and opportunities for advocacy in support of our movement partners. We have successfully brought together a broad range of participants to discuss and strategise on a range of issues, from feminist macroeconomics and climate justice to equality in the context of border control and questions of disability joy and justice. The Forum has also featured a tribunal to spotlight the rights of diverse women workers.

Collectively, **over 500 individual women and more than 100 women’s rights organisations (WROs), networks, and allies** have participated in IRAW Asia Pacific’s programmatic activities.

In 2024, IRAW Asia Pacific’s Five-Year Strategic Plan came to a close, after which we began developing our next Five-Year Plan, with the support of an external evaluation.

"One of the few organisations that is Global South-based and -led, that is engaging with UN Treaty bodies and platforms and with a decolonised lens at its centre. Also committed to breaking down the Treaty Body system and making it accessible to activists on the ground."

CREA, Partner, WGG and Feminist Faultlines Project

"One of the best feminist organisations I have worked with so far. Very inclusive, collaborative, uplifting. They are relentlessly working to lobby for policy changes, holding stakeholders accountable for women rights and pushing the agendas of [the] global women's movement. They have a good visibility and presence in the global advocacy space."

National Partner

2024: The Year of the Pivot

2024 marked a 31-year milestone for IWRAP Asia Pacific in taking an institutional approach to women's human rights accountability and strengthening norms on gender equality. Now, with new (and old) foes approaching, and the global order upending, change is in the air—but our mission remains the same.

We remained staunch in our belief that partnership and community are the keys towards unlocking a better world. These principles underpin our capacity building and advocacy work, with the CEDAW framework remaining at the centre of our programming.

The IWRAP Asia Pacific team continued to engage with a broad and diverse base of civil society organisations and activists, including labour rights champions, women with disabilities, women of all age groups, queer peoples, Indigenous women, sex workers, women who use drugs, and women affected by conflict. Our partners—friends and colleagues—remind us that the ultimate aim of our rights struggle is the achievement of dignity, freedom and justice for all,

This year, we also appointed our new Executive Director, Tulika Srivastava who took up the mantle in August 2024 to lead the organisation as we transition to a new Five-Year Strategic Plan.



Tulika's journey with IWRAP Asia Pacific spans across 31 years when she first engaged in CEDAW capacity building efforts in 1994. She has since served as our Executive Director in 2006, and the, since concluded, Programme Management Team until 2014.

The Year At a Glance

In 2024, we collaborated with **58 partners** across **19 countries**, working across **more than 30 consortiums and alliances** globally.

We continued to support civil society organisations in their engagements with the CEDAW framework, providing technical support to **16 NGOs** from **10 countries** on **16 shadow reports** and further oral statements during the year's country reviews.

Through our From Global to Local (G2L) programme, we build capacity for activists to engage with the CEDAW framework. In 2024, we provided G2L training to **61 activists** from more than **16 countries**, as well as additional CEDAW support to NGOs from Singapore, India, Indonesia, South Africa, Malaysia, Kenya, Rwanda, Bangladesh, Uganda, Sri Lanka, and beyond.

"IWRAP Asia Pacific's work towards strengthening CEDAW is unique and much needed. They have been able to include groups that are usually not looked at by donors and policy makers in the discussions."

– Donor

"On behalf of PWOAM, I extend my heartfelt gratitude for your guidance and support during the CEDAW event in Geneva. Your assistance has been invaluable, and we look forward to your continued support in all areas relevant to our organization."

— Maslah, Malaysian Indigenous Women's Association (PWOAM)

Programmes



Countering human rights regression and UN capture

The [Countering Regression \(CR\)](#) programme is our political platform for strengthening the CEDAW process as a key strategic space for the feminist movement to resist the capture of the UN human rights ecosystem. Through CR, we engage in treaty body (TB) reform and mobilise women's rights organisations to actively engage with the international human rights system, while also building political knowledge and analysis alongside them.

Treaty body challenges

A key focus area for the Countering Regression programme is our ongoing engagement through the NGO Network on UN Treaty Bodies (TB-Net) to monitor and participate in the UN OHCHR's broader treaty body strengthening work. Engaging in treaty body strengthening is key to ensuring we are able to facilitate NGOs' participation in CEDAW – and all treaty body – processes and advocate for effective accountability mechanisms in pursuit of women's human rights.

Over the last few years, there has been increased focus on the gaps and lack of political will within the UN and multilateral system, a situation exacerbated by growing geopolitical polarisation. Throughout 2024, our CR team has continued to track an ongoing liquidity crisis within the treaty body (TB) system, as well as the anti-gender and anti-rights capture of the human rights system. The CR team's work this year has been focused on three strategies:

- Continuing with our TB-Net membership, through which we collectively organise our recommendations to and demands of the UN human rights treaty body system with other NGOs;
- Collaborating with other feminist collectives in exposure on issues at the Summit of the Future, where system change discussions are partly open to CSO inputs; and
- Leveraging our membership in various feminist and civil society collectives such as Feminist Faultlines, Observatory of the Universality of Rights, and ESCR Net.

Through these, we participated in more than **12 collective joint CSO statements or resources** and engaged in **8 virtual or in-person dialogues with** the UN or states, while also maintaining ongoing conversation with funders. These collective public statements amplify the need for diversity in voices, approaches and solutions sought by people in the Global South who are most affected by a restriction of their rights. They also underscore the power in demonstrations of solidarity by movements to challenge global systemic inequalities and harmful narratives.

In an effort to produce more resources focused on marginalised women's groups and their contexts, in 2024, we co-published and/or shared

five briefing documents, think pieces and/or blogs that articulate the perspectives of women and girls with disability, young women, indigenous women, migrants on the emerging and contemporary ways in which they are affected by anti-rights or anti-gender norms.

Projects

From Global to Local (G2L)

One of IWRAW Asia Pacific's key roles is to support civil society organisations to become active and effective stakeholders in the CEDAW process, especially those structurally excluded from global human rights spaces. We do this by providing civil society organisations with information, guidelines, shadow report writing support, and preparation for country-level implementation.



Running in the background of the CEDAW reviews, our **From Global to Local (G2L)** programme provides women's human rights activists with a crucial space to strategise, collaborate, and receive training on various aspects of the CEDAW review cycle. Though G2L is largely conducted in-person, we were able to conduct some NGO engagement virtually to increase outreach and participation to those who are not able to travel to Geneva.

In 2024, we worked with **61 activists** from across a spectrum of organisations and networks, a third of whom represent marginalised or minority identities.



“At the 87th session of the CEDAW, we had the opportunity to advocate for the rights of migrant women domestic workers in Oman. We extend our sincere appreciation to [IWRAW](#) Asia Pacific, who facilitated our involvement and provided invaluable support, thank you.

Our participation in the CEDAW 87th session has been a pivotal moment, allowing us to advocate for the rights of women domestic workers on an international stage.

Through this constructive dialogue, we’ve made significant strides in bringing attention to issues that were once overlooked.”

— Ekaterina Porras Sivolobova, Do Bold, Oman, CEDAW 87

“Humongous thank you for going out of your way to ensure that Singapore NGOs were able to present all the pertinent and sensitive issues to the CEDAW Committee. We can't thank you enough for your guidance, support, resourcefulness and coordination in making this happen. Thanks for taking care of us and looking out for us.”

— Corina Lim, AWARE, Singapore, CEDAW 88

““It is [the] first time for us to engage in any UN related meetings and report writing... The training today definitely helped us have [a] better understanding of CEDAW, and it was a very great learning opportunity!”

— Indigenous women from Okinawa, Japan



Countering Regression: Gender-responsive Research and Advocacy through CEDAW (GRACE)

The GRACE project is a three-and-a-half-year collaborative project, funded by Co-Impact, designed to strengthen our understanding of the barriers to implementation of legislation and policies on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

Together with our research partner, the George Institute for Global Health (TGI), IWRAW Asia Pacific works with country partners Jagori (India), Women’s Legal Centre (South Africa), the Kenya Sex Worker’s Association (KSWA) and the CEDAW Working Group Indonesia (CWGI) to identify potential drivers of change in SGBV laws rooted in local contexts.

Our achievements in 2024

Following significant preparatory work in 2023—including identifying target constituencies and applying for ethical approval from in-country research institutions— GRACE commenced with a learning and evaluation-oriented meeting in January of 2024 which took place in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

We saw substantial progress in the research portion of the project, with TGI working closely with our country partners to establish mechanisms and processes to strengthen research capacity and dissemination. The consortium’s research is disseminated largely through the partners’ advocacy work, but also at scientific and academic forums.



Women’s Legal Centre, South Africa

WLC has undertaken key informant interviews that include the perspectives and experiences of duty bearers and perceived neutral parties, strengthening the credibility and impact of the research.

CEDAW Working Group Indonesia (CWGI), Indonesia

In consultation with researchers from the University of Indonesia, CWGI conducted two research studies: one with domestic workers and one with survivors of domestic violence.



Jagori, India

With the support of TGI, Jagori conducted a witness seminar and consultation on the 2013 Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Workplace (POSH) Act



Kenya Sex Workers Association (KESWA), Kenya

KESWA held key informant interviews with a range of stakeholders including community leaders, feminist activists, members of parliament, members of the police force, and policy makers.



Countering Regression: Forging Intersectional Feminist Futures (FIFF)

The Forging Intersectional Feminist Futures (FIFF) consortium was a project focused on collective capacity building and cross-movement advocacy through the lens of intersectionality. FIFF implemented national projects in five countries: Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Pakistan and the Philippines.

Led by IWRAP Asia Pacific, the consortium featured eight regional partners who collaborated and strategised on how structurally excluded groups can use CEDAW to demand their rights. They were:

- Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact;
- Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers
- Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network
- Asia Pacific Transgender Network,
- ASEAN SOGIE Caucus,
- International Drug Policy Consortium Asia
- Special Talent Exchange Programme

The consortium supported cross-movement advocacy in their shared mission to reclaim the narratives of rights holders in the spirit of decolonisation and power redistribution, while also countering anti-gender and anti-rights movements.

Our achievements in 2024

In 2024, FIFF came to a close. Throughout its duration, FIFF generated a rich pool of knowledge and experience on tackling intersectionality—both in theory and practice—thanks to the contribution of all the members working across different themes and groups.

Among our various achievements this year, we:

- Published a CEDAW shadow report guidelines on the rights of LGBTI women, nonbinary and gender diverse people;
- Published CEDAW GR39 on the rights of indigenous women and girls briefer to facilitate partner engagement in the CEDAW processes for rights claiming;
- Supported sex workers' partners to articulate their advocacy demands to counter the Special Rapporteur for Violence Against Women's anti-sex worker rights position on "prostitution" via an oral intervention in response to her thematic report to the Human Rights Council; and
- Supported the translation of concepts of intersectionality into partners' organisational policies.

Illustration by Ang Hui Qing for IWRAP Asia Pacific



Women Gaining Ground (WGG)

The Women Gaining Ground (WGG) consortium is a platform that enables us to facilitate opportunities for movement building on international platforms beyond the CEDAW framework.

Alongside consortium partners CREA and Akili Dada, the WGG consortium focuses on sexual and gender-based violence against women, and strengthening women's leadership and participation in decision-making. We collaborate with 15 strategic partners across five priority countries: Bangladesh, India, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda.

Our achievements in 2024

In 2024, WGG had two specific goals:

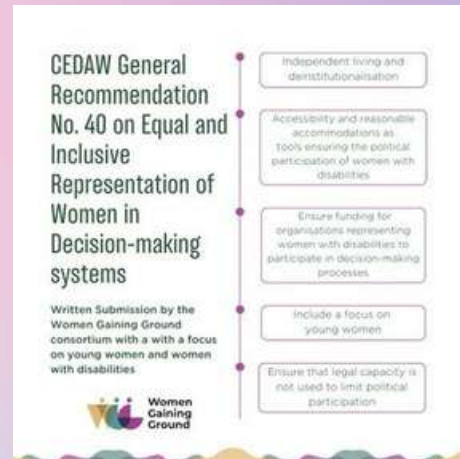
- Increasing the leadership and direct participation of women with disabilities and young women in the international human rights system and space; and
- Tackling the lesser-discussed aspects of working intersectionality on GBV and movement building.

To that end, this year, we collaborated with a partner on a submission to the UN Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, on the issues of the human rights to freedom of expression, association, and assembly, ahead of the group's thematic report for the 56th session of the Human Rights Council.

We also provided written commentary on the text of General Recommendation No. 40, emphasising the need to incorporate a stronger disability rights perspective, especially as it relates to women with disabilities.

We engaged in capacity building, including refresher training for Bonhishikha, introductory training to gender and macroeconomics, and CEDAW support for Rwanda partners ahead of the state's review at the 88th session.

Through WGG, IRAW Asia Pacific also participated in various international human rights forums, including the Abortion and Reproductive Justice Conference; Feminist Faultlines; the Asia Pacific Feminist Forum; the Convention on the Rights of Persons With Disabilities (CRPD) 17th Conference of State Parties (CoSP); and the AWID form.



Global South Women's Forum 2024

IWRAW Asia Pacific's response to the demands of our collectives in the Global South for feminist-led solidarity platforms and safe learning and sharing spaces for activists that address the rights and development framework that has potential to positively shape women's lived realities despite challenging externalities.

The ninth edition of GSWF 2024 was convened by IWRAW Asia Pacific in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 1-3 October 2024, in collaboration with the Women Gaining Ground consortium, on the theme of **'Dreams of Disability Joy and Justice.'**

The three-day event aimed to popularise and share the conversations from the 2023 GSWF, and featured participation from disability rights and feminist activists across South and Southeast Asia, East Africa and the Pacific.

In 2024, GSWF aimed to:

- strengthen activists' understanding, learning, and analysis of emerging and contemporary political issues from a disability justice lens;
- increase the visibility of feminist approaches to disability rights and justice in the Global South;
- examine ways in which our conversations can inform the advocacy, accountability, and norm-setting of the disability justice movement and other social justice movements; and
- build a collective political agenda and strategy rooted in feminist practices and disability justice which can form the basis of long-term advocacy strategies.

GSWF 2024 was structured according to three themes:

1. Disability in the Context of a Changing World
2. Transformative Leadership, Participation and Collective Care
3. Building a Common Political Agenda and Ways of Working

GSWF 2024's opening plenary "We're All In This Together" brought together activists from the LGBTI+, labour, Indigenous movements to explore the concept of disability justice through the lens of ongoing and contemporary issues such as conflict, capitalism, the growth of the anti-gender influence, and the contexts of human rights defenders with disabilities. The plenary emphasised that disability justice is a lens for analysing different structural issues, rather than a standalone issue in and of itself.

Each day of GSWF comprised a series of guided conversations framed around different themes. Each session was designed to prompt conversation, honest reflection and introspection on a variety of issues, such as disability justice across movements, transformative leadership, disability justice in conflict and post-conflict settings, collective care and accessibility.



This was done collectively with civil society partners and actors at the GSWF on border control in November 2023, and in 2024 the follow-up was through our three blog posts to popularise feminist but also multilateral and policy discussions on access to documentation in the context of stateless, migrants, and refugees, carceral violence and border regimes, and citizenship as a site of exclusion. Collectively, we examined our movements, principles and practices as well as gaps in funding, advocacy and solidarity.



“This is why I stress the importance of disability justice over disability rights. Justice goes beyond the individualistic, Global North framework of rights. It takes an intersectional approach, recognizing how marginalised identities are caught at the crossroads of systemic violence. In the Global South, people with disabilities face multiple layers of oppression, often shaped by colonial legacies and imperialist frameworks that dictate who is seen and valued in society.”

Ruby, Diverse Empowerment Foundation, Uganda



Interrogating borders and their impact on women's human rights

Within the [Interrogating Borders \(IB\)](#) programme, we recognise and work to counter the impact of borders in perpetuating global inequalities and stymying progress on equality and non-discrimination. The programme explores how intersecting forms of oppression are compounded by the presence of borders, while also calling attention to the excessive barriers faced by Global South activists in seeking physical access to high-level decision-making spaces, including UN processes.

Through the IB programme, we gain strategic thinking and understanding of where our role and mandate supports the ecosystem for rights and equality, and explore ways to move beyond the framework of citizenship as a foundation for rights claiming and accountability.

"I just wanted to thank you for all that you are doing. I have over the years had to apply for dozens of visas from so many countries, and the IWRAW assistance has been the best I have ever experienced."

- Prospective G2L participant whose visa was rejected

Our achievements in 2024

The IB team's activities this year focused on adapting and sharing key themes from the 2023 GSWF through knowledge and dialogue resources. These issues also featured in discussions with Columbia Law School students, as well as a successful funding proposal to Wellspring on trade and aid conditionalities, and their connection to the border industry.

- Throughout the year, the IB team held introductory calls with and support organisations working on border-related issues, emphasising CEDAW engagement and prospects for collaboration. These organisations included Border Violence Monitoring Network, Do Bold, and Front-LEX.
- In partnership with the Center for Reproductive Rights, we co-organised a side event on surrogacy during the 87th CEDAW session in February 2024 that addressed issues including transnational surrogacy and other border-related concerns.
- As part of the workshop series organised by the TrEAD programme, we provided training to African Sex Workers Alliance (ASWA) members on CEDAW and sex workers' rights.

- At the invitation of the United Nations Network on Migration and Immigration Detention Coalition, we delivered training on using CEDAW as an advocacy tool to end immigration detention.
- We co-organised the Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants' regional migrants meeting in Bangkok on Global Compact on Migration indicators, and proposed inclusion of groups working on issues for migrants, including refugees, in the Asia Pacific including East Asia and Central Asia.
- Ahead of Oman's country review at the 87th CEDAW session, we supported Do Bold in the preparation of their shadow report and provided training via G2L.
- In preparation for Malta's review, we developed a "CEDAW for migrant rights activists in a hurry" guide for activists.
- Our team connected and began collaborating with MENA-T Brasil, an NGO working on relocation of at-risk transwomen from the MENA region to Brazil.

Connecting gender equality to environmental justice

The [Connecting Gender Equality to Environmental Justice \(EJ\)](#) programme supports and creates spaces for civil society to engage within the CEDAW and UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) processes on the issues impacting their communities and livelihoods. Through the project, we work towards gender-responsive climate engagement and advocacy at the national, regional and global levels by collaborating with various networks on human rights, gender and climate change.

The Environmental Justice (EJ) programme supports and creates spaces for civil society to engage within the CEDAW and UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) processes on the issues impacting their communities and livelihoods. Through the project, we work towards gender-responsive climate engagement and advocacy at the national, regional and global levels by collaborating with various networks on human rights, gender and climate change.

Our achievements in 2024

In 2024, we worked with Asian CSOs under the Voice and Visibility on Environmental Justice Project that connects feminist and intersectional climate activists in Malaysia, Nepal, and the Philippines, with broader regional and global actors in the climate change networks and policy spaces.

- Our partner KAMY used the opportunity of the CEDAW review of Malaysia to work with a broad base of groups on climate justice and also on the rights of indigenous women, with resources and activity spaces for engagement with local groups.
- Our partner in Nepal, NIDWAN, engaged in other global spaces to connect conversations of the Voice and Visibility group.
- Our partner LILAK in the Philippines made a strong intervention during the CEDAW review of the Philippines in October 2023, and since then, their strength and advocacy reach have been recognised with the Dutch government's Tulip Award.

The EJ programme team's events in 2024 largely focused on two of our first in-person convenings. These convenings align with IWRAW Asia Pacific's broader mission of creating feminist spaces, and provided a platform for us to bring together environmental justice feminists and activists, women environmental human rights defenders, rural and Indigenous women, fisherwomen, farmers and others from Asia, to create, learn and share their experiences of climate change and environmental degradation.

The IP2 Regional Convening on Intersectional Practices in Feminist Leadership for Water Governance under the OXFAM IP2 project ***The IP2 Convening had four key objectives:***

- to ensure effective learning and exchange through the nominated participation of women leaders;
- to carry out an ongoing needs assessment during the implementation of the activities;
- to build the feminist leadership capacity of women leaders and their communities; and
- to create a linkage or network with regional and international dialogues and events to ensure the participation of women leaders and their communities.

The two-and-a-half-day event focused on group exchanges, gathering opinions, and sharing among countries. Individuals were encouraged to personally reflect on how they can foster an understanding of feminist environmental justice; analyse the climate crisis through the lens of patriarchy, neo-capitalism, and neocolonialism; and plan multi-level advocacy campaigns at the community, national, and regional levels.



The Voice & Visibility Roots of Resilience Convening on Feminist Environmental Justice

The Voice & Visibility Convening aimed to bring together women’s voices from Asia, focusing on Indigenous women, women with disabilities, rural women, and women environmental human rights defenders. It attempted to visualise a feminist environmental justice approach to the impacts of climate change, especially in relation to Loss and Damage; and platform discussions on the current climate funding arrangements for the Global South and the impact of corporate capture on the protection and safety of women environmental human rights defenders (WEHRDs).

Through collaborative discussions and group activities, the convening facilitated the exchange of knowledge and strategies to confront the environmental challenges uniquely faced by the women and communities in the region.

Other Activities

Though IWRAW Asia Pacific did not attend the 60th UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies (SB60) session—the Bonn Climate Conference—in June, the EJ programme contributed constructively to the ongoing review of the gender action plan.



Instead, the EJ team hosted side events on the realities of Loss and Damage in the context of false solutions and corporate capture.

Aside from these we also participated in:

- CIWIL Strengthening NGO Participation in CEDAW Review & Reporting Process PRT 1
- ARROW’s Advocacy Institute Cohort 2: Environmental Justice, Climate Change, Food Security and SRHR
- Gender Just Climate Solutions (GJCS) Awards 2024 Evaluation process

It’s notable that, in 2024, all 24 states reviewed by CEDAW—including those supported by IWRAW Asia Pacific—emerged with Concluding Observations on their approach to women’s rights and gender inequalities in the context of the climate crisis and environmental degradation. For example, with regards to Kuwait, Brazil, Rwanda and Malaysia, civil society groups highlighted the rights of marginalised women and girls, and those with disability in the context of disaster and climate.



Advancing gender justice and equality in the world of work

The [women and work](#) programme is committed to addressing structural issues impacting women's rights to and at work. National labour laws often overlook sectors like domestic work and informal work, and the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated that existing protections were fragile and inadequate for frontline workers, especially in the health and care sectors.

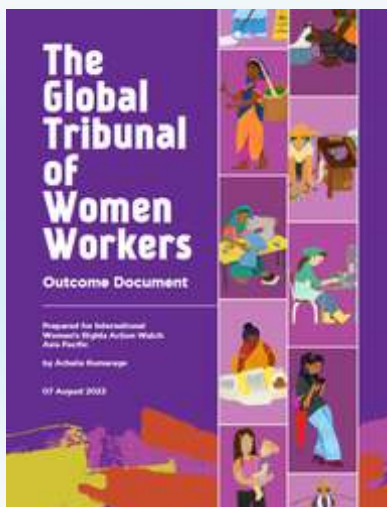
The World of Work programme, one of IWRAW Asia Pacific’s enduring pillars of focus, looks to tackle the structural discrimination facing women workers. We do this by forefronting the agenda for a dignified and decent world of work for women, and challenging the problematic narratives that dominate the discourse on women’s human rights in the world of work. By connecting the work of feminists and labour activists, we address concerns such as wage equality, decent work, access to social protection, right to unionisation, and collective bargaining.

Our achievements in 2024

In 2024, our focus was on cross-movement building and sustaining the gains we have made in terms of connecting the women’s rights and labour rights movements, to feminist and multilateral spaces such as CSW and AWID. This work relates to the theme of the care economy that was surfaced at GSWF 2023 as a key component of the Global South’s labour context, wherein women remain the main—essentially unpaid and unprotected—providers of care.

We focused on continuing to strengthen partnership and regional collaboration to address the challenges faced by women workers, while also identifying and exploring new avenues and alternatives for advocacy at regional and global levels. One example of this involves a project with Oxfam DGD and 17 partners in Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia—as well as three ASEAN-level partners—on the social protection and care work agendas. As a result of the project, the Laotian participants produced a [group report](#) that was taken up as a [recommendation](#) by the CEDAW Committee to the state.

This year, we completed and shared the [Global Tribunal of Women Workers Outcome Document](#), which acts as a guide and resource for collective strategising and the basis of casework or legal responses.



We also developed resources and tools such as a Feminist Toolkit on Social Protection and the Global Tribunal Advocacy Toolkit to support the advancement of women’s human rights in the world of work, as well as a Feminist Toolkit for Women Workers specifically tailored to those working in informal sectors in agrifood and agriculture.

CEDAW-specific advocacy continues to be a central part of our World of Work programme in 2024.

- We held a regional workshop on “CEDAW, Social Protection, and Decent Work,” and supported representatives from Malaysia, Singapore, and Laos as they prepared for their upcoming CEDAW reviews in 2024.
- We delivered a workshop in Phnom Penh with 30 representatives from organisations working on women workers’ issues across Southeast Asia.

In order to strengthen our advocacy work, we hosted our Annual Regional Meeting and Consultation events in Phnom Penh (2023) and Yogyakarta (2024), which involved the participation of trade unions, women workers organisations, and a diverse cohort of feminist groups and activists.



Transforming economics and development through a feminist approach (TrEAD)

Our **TrEAD** programme interrogates the economic growth and sustainable development agendas. It seeks to critically analyse and challenge dominant global macroeconomic and development discourses which harm and undermine the human rights of women and girls, by mobilising women's rights organisations around a feminist agenda rooted in the priorities of marginalised groups of women.

Our TrEAD programme demystifies the impact of global macroeconomic and development structures on the daily lives of women. Now in its fifth year, the programme continues to interrogate how the economic growth and sustainability agendas could harm and undermine the human rights of women.

The programme uses the concepts of substantive equality, non-discrimination, and state obligation to surface these concerns at CEDAW reviews, and mobilise women's rights groups around a feminist agenda rooted in the priorities of marginalised groups of women.

Our achievements in 2024

At the start of the year, it quickly became clear just how intertwined macroeconomics and women's rights are. Out of all 24 countries reviewed by CEDAW in 2024, ten received recommendations on the impact of macroeconomic policies on marginalised women. Capacity strengthening on the gendered impact of macroeconomics continued this year in three ways:

- Ongoing work on Gender and Macroeconomics with the Bretton Woods Project and Action Aid to support women's groups at the CEDAW review;
- Working with partners to use the SDG Toolkit as a framework that links development and rights policies; and
- Using our Gender Equality and Macroeconomics (GEM) Toolkit for analysis and advocacy on macroeconomic issues that affect women.

We partnered with The Feminist Macroeconomics Alliance – Malawi (FEAM) to convene a two-day dialogue on the connection between CEDAW, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and macroeconomic policy, specifically in relation to Malawi. The event featured feminists from Malawi and beyond who engaged in group work and deep discussions.

We also laid the foundation for the production of bite-sized animated videos designed to elaborate the nexus between CEDAW, the SDGs and macroeconomics.

The video series aims to enhance the accessibility of the CEDAW-SDGs tool, with a focus on gender equality and macroeconomics.

Our TrEAD fellowships continued in 2024, and we worked with two new team members: a feminist sustainable development fellow; and a part-time activity coordinator working on a tool to integrate macroeconomic analysis into country reviews.

Our team engaged in a series of workshops throughout the year, including the TUKO HAPA Workshop Series on GEM, CEDAW and sex workers' rights, delivered in partnership with ASWA. The workshop series aimed to enhance capacity within sex worker communities and feminist organizations to advocate for intersectional, human rights-based policies. We also supported our partners with presentations on feminist, human rights-based budgeting approaches and the role of macroeconomic policy in peacebuilding and transitional justice processes.

CEDAW-related work continues to be a central part of the TrEAD agenda. As part of IRAW Asia Pacific's ongoing collaboration with the Women and Media Collective (WMC), the team organised a series of workshops to support organisations in the development of a collective shadow report on the economic crisis in advance of Sri Lanka's CEDAW review in February 2025. We also hosted a validation workshop in Negombo to finalise each section and build consensus on the priority issues and recommendations that will be included. In 2024, we also worked on shadow reports on arms trade to Gaza ahead of Canada's review, and various Gender Equality and Macroeconomics (GEM) issues for Benin's review.

The TrEAD team also participated in two key events at the 86th CEDAW session, which centred on finance through a feminist lens:

- AWID's pre-CSW68 "Feminists Unpacking Finance" webinar, where we spoke on demystifying macroeconomic issues and framing them critically from a feminist perspective.
- NOOR's webinar, "Social Protection Systems: By Whom and For Whom?" where panellists examined the co-optation of social protection programs by far-right agendas and how such systems are weaponized to enforce patriarchal norms and cultural hegemony.

The TrEAD team are also active members of the ESCR-Net Economic Policy Working Group and the Global Alliance for Tax Justice's Tax and Gender Working Group, along with other civil society networks and Global South feminist alliances. Through the group, we ensure that our work is connected to diverse, like-minded movements with common agendas, demands, and collective strategies.

Another vital pillar of our work is the CEDAW and Macroeconomics Working Group, which IWRAW Asia Pacific established to strengthen accountability within the global economy, with a focus on the use of the CEDAW Convention as a key tool for feminist advocacy. Throughout 2024, we worked on developing a briefing note focused on CEDAW Article 13 and feminist macroeconomic analysis, which we aim to finalise and disseminate in 2025.

In terms of our engagement in broader networks, we worked with the Feminist for People's Vaccines (FPV) network in partnership with the Global Campaign against Racism (CAR) in the submission of an Alternative Report for the UK's review by United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD). The report covered the impact of the UK's conduct in the multilateral system on the right to health, with specific examples on access to medicines and intellectual property barriers with trade agreements; the UK's role in the debt crisis, particularly in Africa; and its role in maintaining the genocide in Palestine.



Illustration by Ang Hui Qing for IWRAW Asia Pacific

Communications

Our communications strategy strengthened our outreach and accountability to our partners. Despite challenges within the social media landscape, IWRAW Asia Pacific maintained a strong social media presence, emphasising strategic engagement, collaboration and joint advocacy with movements including those of sex workers, Indigenous peoples, and queer activists.

In 2024, IWRAW Asia Pacific's Communications Team continued to provide support to the various programme teams, working across a broad range of contexts, mediums and projects.

For the **Global South Women's Forum**, the team put together a [microsite](#) that acted as a key source of information on the conference, as well as a teaser video designed to boost awareness. The team also created an official video to document the event.

The team worked on specific messaging including:

- The 2024 [CEDAW Elections](#);
- [Nakba Day](#);
- [International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia](#);
- The 87th, 88th and 89th CEDAW sessions;
- [International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People](#);
- IWRAW Asia Pacific at the AWID Forum 2024;
- The 68th Commission on the Status of Women; and
- The Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing30 Review

Joint Advocacy

Joint advocacy is an essential component of IWRAP Asia Pacific's work as a movement builder. The Communications Team provides support in producing solidarity statements and social media campaigns.

- IWRAP Asia Pacific, WGG and Country Partner joint submission to Independent Expert's report against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, in relation to the human rights to freedom of expression, association, and assembly. The name of the collaborating organisation is redacted as the report was submitted anonymously due to security concerns
- SRI's Joint Civil Society Statement on Abortion at the 57th Human Rights Council session
- From Lebanon and Palestine, One People, Same Cause, and Two Demands - Regional Coalition for Women Human Rights Defenders in South West Asia and North Africa (WHRDMENA)
- Collective Statement in Solidarity with Palestine: Demand embargoes and sanctions on Israel - ESCR Net
- Demanding the IMF to stop imposing harmful conditionalities in Kenya amid the global debt crisis - ESCR Net
- Demanding the IMF Stop imposing harmful conditionalities, austerity measures and neoliberal policies that negatively impact impoverished countries - ESCR Net
- Joint statement delivered by the International Drug Policy Consortium on the decriminalisation of sex work to the UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights at the 56th Human Rights Council Session
- Open letter: Urge Bangladesh government to end the crackdown, curfew and restore communications
- Stop the IMF and World Bank! 80 years of Misery, Devastation and Debts: Reparations Now!
- Open Letter to the G7 on Escalating Climate Finance Demands
- TB-Net's Joint letter on the cancellation of the 98th pre-session of the Child Rights Committee
- Joint Statement: Egypt must immediately release the peaceful political activist Mohamed Adel
- Progressive International's Letter Calling on States to Support South Africa's Genocide Convention Case Against Israel at the ICJ
- CESR's Submission to the UN Ad Hoc Committee for a Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation.
- Support Don't Punish's social media campaign on ending the war on drugs



Publications

Submissions



Written submission on the draft of CEDAW General Recommendation No. 40 (Women Gaining Ground).

This submission provides commentary on the draft text of CEDAW General Recommendation No. 40, with the intention of highlighting women with disabilities and young women.



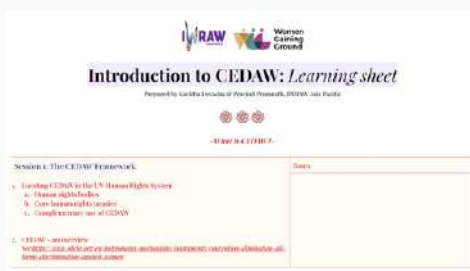
The UK's Extraterritorial Obligations and the Right to Health in a Time of Polycrisis.

This is report submitted on behalf of Feminists for a People's Vaccine Campaign (FPV) and the Campaign Against Racism (CAR), to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD Committee) in advance of its consideration of the 18th and 19th periodic reports of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

CEDAW Resources

As part of our work to expand access to knowledge about CEDAW, we produced content that has been localised for different regions and languages.

1) CEDAW 101 Cheatsheet



CEDAW Refresher Learning Sheet to support women's rights organisations document their learnings and knowledge gained during our CEDAW training sessions which was piloted during a CEDAW Refresher series hosted for Women Gaining Ground strategic partners in Bangladesh.

2) Rwandan Sign Language version of CEDAW 101 videos, adapted from the original videos by IWRAW Asia Pacific and produced by the Rwanda National Association of Deaf Women, a Women Gaining Ground strategic partner, on:

Substantive Equality



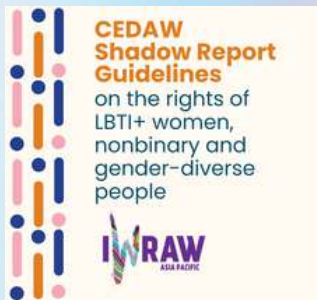
Non-Discrimination



State Obligation



3) CEDAW shadow report guidelines on the rights of LGBTI+ women, trans, non-binary and gender-diverse people



The guidelines provide article-specific guidance to NGOs who aim to engage with the CEDAW review process with a view to the rights of lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex women, and non-binary and gender-diverse people.

4) Portuguese language version of CEDAW Demystified videos, translated by UN Women Brazil on:

Substantive Equality



Non-Discrimination



State Obligation



Blog

In 2024, our blog continued to thrive with noteworthy articles and op-eds by our team, partners and allies on the current state of women's human rights, addressing contemporary manifestations of rights violations, and how there is much to be done for gender equality. Our blog posts included:

[A Home Where Everyone Can Thrive: Pursuing Climate Justice in Malaysia](#)



A call by Klima Action Malaysia (KAMY), a young feminist-led climate justice organisation based in Kuala Lumpur, for Malaysia to pay attention to gender-responsive and inclusive policies in climate action, not just as a global obligation but a national imperative to uplift all segments of society, especially those marginalised in traditional labour markets.

[WGG Blog 1: Examining the CSW68 space and discussions with a youth and disability justice lens](#)



Tasaffy Madani Hossain (Bonhishikha) and Ashrafun Nahar Misti (Women with Disabilities Development Foundation), from Bangladesh, share their experiences of attending and participating at CSW68 and examine the importance of integration of voices from youth and disability in civil society spaces.

[WGG Blog 2: Whose space is it? Deaf women in Rwanda reclaim CEDAW](#)



Dative Mukashema, Executive Director of Rwanda National Association of Deaf Women, a feminist Deaf women organisation, recounts her experience of attending the 88th session of CEDAW and why women-led disability rights organisations need to participate in the CEDAW process.

WGG Blog 3: The trouble with young women



Kalpana Khare, the founder of Gramonnati Sansthan who has been working on women’s rights and community development for over three decades in the Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh, reflects on the generational change she has experienced in her work in this region and why the mobile phone today has simultaneously become an instrument of many possibilities and freedom for young women but also a terror for families.

Building Inclusive Economies: The Intersection of CEDAW and Macroeconomic Policy



Insights from the CEDAW and Macroeconomics Working Group at IWRAW Asia Pacific, explores how the CEDAW process can provide an opportunity to address and promote structural and justice-oriented changes in macroeconomic policy making, contributing to the feminist demands for tax justice, debt justice, a fair and inclusive care economy, climate reparations, and other related issues.

Dispatches from the Global South Women’s Forum 2024 on Border CTRL

[Border CTRL 1: Access to documentation](#)

[Border CTRL 2: Carceral violence in border regimes](#)

[Border CTRL 3: Citizenship as a site of exclusion](#)



Charting forward: What lies ahead for IWRAW Asia Pacific

Towards the end of 2024, IWRAW Asia Pacific began to think about the future. Our 2020-2024 Five Year Strategic Plan was drawing to a close, and we needed fresh ideas to address an evolving world, where women's human rights are being increasingly challenged at every turn.

Now, more than ever before, we believe that our mandate on women’s human rights and CEDAW enables us to act in alignment with our movement to respond to institutional failures and a global geopolitics that diminishes the importance of rights, equality and active opposition.

Guided by these principles and the lessons we’ve learned over the course of the last five years (2020-2024), we are renewed in our conviction in our mandate and are charting a new way forward with our next five-year strategy: **Cultivating Rights Rooting Resilience**.

This strategy is set to trickle down throughout the entire organisation and reshape how our programmes are planned, implemented and monitored. Some of the changes include:

- The dissolution of our Advisory Committee as we reconsider new structures that represent partners, regions and feminist issues that are relevant to IWRAP Asia Pacific’s mandate.
- Within our Countering Human Rights Regression and UN Capture and Interrogating the Impact of Borders on Women’s Human Rights programmes, we are conceptualising a new thematic area of “**People, Power and Rights**.” This encompasses the realisation of rights for vulnerable communities, particularly those facing increasing criminalisation of their identities, deepening discrimination and human rights violations on the basis of disability, race, gender identity, nationality and/or migration status, among other signifiers. The theme also centres state obligations and their role in ensuring equality and non-discrimination.
- Our Connecting Gender Equality to Environmental Justice programme will merge with the TrEAD programme to form the “**Feminist Futures in Climate and Environmental Justice**” platform. Led by the the visions and voices of those more the most-affected communities, the programme will strive to uplift to feminist futures for climate and environmental justice by centering gender-just, reparative, commons-centred solutions and practices, linked to global mechanisms of accountability and the struggle for truly participatory and people-centred multilateralism.

- TrEAD will also connect with our World of Work programme to form our “**Transformative Feminist Economic Justice**” platform, which looks at ways to disrupt the status quo of economic strife and struggle; contribute to building tools that challenge deprivation and violations; and champion a Transformative Feminist Economic Justice approach that secures sustainable and dignified futures for young women and girls, while uplifting today’s older generations.

Our three new thematic focuses will be operationalised through three strategic pillars:

1. **Mandate and movements**
2. **Fortifying Norms**
3. **Forging Futures for Rights**

IWRAP Asia Pacific leaves 2024 and enters 2025 with all the strength, resilience, radical joy, care and a continued belief in the power of our feminist movements.

People

Staff

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Constanza Pauchulo
Hazel Birungi
Kavitha Devadas
Marisa Hutchinson
Molly Yew
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Pravind Premnath
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Shanti Uprety
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Siti Zainab binti Abdullah
Tulika Srivastava
Vashti
Zahirah Zainal



The IWRAP Asia Pacific staff, team in Melaka, June 2025. Back row, from left: Nine, Constanza Pauchulo, and Kavitha Devadas. Middle row, from left: Vashti, Siti Norbaya, Phang Lai Yoong, Nadia Rasidi, Tulika Srivastava, Audrey Lee, Thaaranni Manikam, Shanta Rani and Marisa Hutchinson. Bottom row, from left: Shanti Uprety, Pravind Premnath and Zahirah Zainal

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