

GAINS of GENDER EQUALITY: Framing Discourses on Gender Equality and Women’s Rights Amidst Religious Resistance in Southeast Asia

An Inter-Movement Dialogue among Academics and CSOs from Southeast Asia

Day 1 | World Café | August 10, 2018

HIGHLIGHTS			
	Practices/Perspectives	Challenges	Strategies/Activities
Championing gender in human rights and Peace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept of Gender Equality should be questioned and sharpened to be more inclusive of diverse intersections (sexual orientation, gender identity, expressions, race, ethnicity, culture) • Men are not confident enough to champion gender equality • It is “painful” to be gender advocates and champions • Feminists champion gender in human rights and peace because they believe misogyny is morally wrong • Social Media has changed the paradigm of development work, thus the need for activists to respond to issues more efficiently • Youth as self-centered or more caring of the self • Feminists to be aware of “feminist fundamentalism” or exclusionary practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussing gender/rights/sexuality within the family • Discussing and advocating for gender equality and women’s rights to the community and stateless people as gender rights are often not their priority • Gender is assumed/silenced in the mainstream discourse • Practicing gender equality is different from theory, analysis, and simply talking about it • Men advocating for gender equality are seen as weak, feminine, and/or “gay”. • Advocates are tired and burned out 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To challenge and negotiate with authorities in a peaceful and meaningful manner while using language that is easy to understand • To localize concepts of gender and rights to better communicate and advocate in communities with traditional beliefs and values • To champion and advocate for gender not only at work but also at home and in everyday life • To work and influence people (e.g. the youth) to be advocates and champions of gender equality • To redefine masculinity • Advocates to tap the youth and the men in the social movement • Advocates to pause, listen, and rest • To continuously challenge dominant discourses
Achievement in women’s rights, human rights, and peace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender issues being recognized by Southeast Asian governments through the passage of laws • Seasoned feminists are able to pass on their expertise and witness their students become advocates • The convergence of CSOs and the Academe in championing for gender equality. • Feminist production of knowledge in challenging patriarchy • Language (English) as allowing ASEAN countries to discuss (contrast and compare) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender as an evolving concept, and gender equality as a continuous effort • The balance between negotiating peacefully and demanding loudly • The ability to challenge patriarchy at the public level • Gender equality in ASEAN remains unimportant • Language (English) as limiting the expression/ reflection of the local realities in SEA • Women stigmatized under an authoritarian leadership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To frame gender in the country’s context as the concept can be problematic in the eye of conservative governments and/or religious fundamentalists • To work with other social movements to recognize gender issues, while recognizing their advocacy as well (E.g. To include gender analysis in fisher folk’s issues, and vice versa) • To continuously understand issues and diverse analysis • CSOs to work with the community and

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	<p>pertinent issues on gender across the region</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Fake acceptance” of sexual rights, gender equality, and gender expression • Teachers do not have the capacity to discuss sexual reproductive health rights, and parents do not want their children to be taught sex education • Fundamentalism and violent extremism increasing within the region 	<p>simplify the language</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To create effective mechanisms to protect LGBT community
<p>New thinking on strengthening gender, human rights, and peace</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feminists and other social movements should be aware of “adultism” especially when working with the youth • The need to reclaim feminism to remove the stigma and exclusionary attitudes • Resistance as a form of recognition, no recognition means no impact – so the existence of resistance indicates there is impact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing mindsets in a traditional and conservative region • Communicating and creating dialogue with the grassroots groups and academics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To do Comparative Studies across cultures to understand how to better understand problems in specific contexts • To mentor and involve the youth as well as non-activists in the social movements • To create a website with a list of experts on women’s rights, gender equality and diversity, LGBT issues, among others, towards strengthening gender intersections in human rights and peace concerns in SEA • Use simple language or use creative mediums (dance, theater, song, art) to popularize Human Rights • Create safe spaces for dialogues and conversations on gender equality, human rights, and sexual rights • Need to create alliance and friendly relationships with those who are resistant, rather than framing the resistance in hostility • To do research and identify problems closely linked to experiences of grassroots communities before presenting solutions