



Media Briefing

22 September 2026

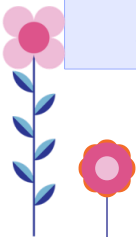
3pm BKK / 1:30pm IST / 2pm BDT / 10am SAST





Agenda

Time SAST	Topic	Person
10:00-10:05	Opening	Irene Widjaya, Southeast Asia GBV Prevention Platform
10:05 - 10:15	SVRI Forum 2026 - Overview	Lizle Loots and Elizabeth Dartnall, SVRI
10:15-10:25	Accreditation application and On-site arrival	Afnan Ghazi and Kazi Rubaiyat Kabir (Anik) - Big Blue Communications
10:25-10:35	Interview process and daily materials	Clara Roig, SVRI
10:35-10:47	Guidelines on responsible representation and reporting of violence against women and violence against children	Diego De La Rosa, UN Women Asia Pacific and Md Abu Naser, UNFPA Asia Pacific
10:47 - 10:57	Q & A	Ayesha to moderate
10:57-11:00	Closing and thank you	Irene Widjaya, Southeast Asia GBV Prevention Platform



Speakers



Irene Widjaya
The Southeast Asia
GBV Prevention Platform
Regional Director



Elizabeth Dartnall
SVRI Executive Director



Lizle Loots
SVRI Forum & Partnerships Lead



Afnan Ghazi
Big Blue Project Manager



Kazi Rubaiyat Kabir
Big Blue Media and PR Specialist



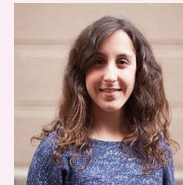
Md Abu Naser
UNFPA Asia-Pacific
Donor Communications, Advocacy and
Knowledge Management Expert



Diego De La Rosa
UN Women Asia-Pacific
Regional Coordination & Communications
Specialist on Ending VAW



Facilitator: Ayesha Mago
SVRI Global Advocacy Director



Clara Roig
SVRI Communications Manager





SVRI Forum 2026

The world's largest abstract driven conference on violence against women, violence against children and other forms of violence driven by gender inequality

5 to 9 October 2026 | Centara Grand and Bangkok Convention Centre at CentralWorld, Thailand

Media briefing | Lizle Loots and Elizabeth Dartnall



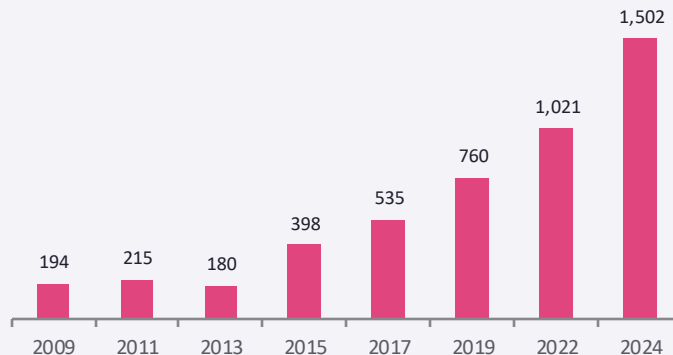
Co-hosted with the Prevention Collective: the UN Joint Programme on GBV Prevention in Southeast Asia (UN Women and UNFPA) and the Southeast Asia GBV Prevention Platform, supported by Australia's DFAT

How we got here: 2009 to 2026



- **2009, born from a gap.** There was no global space for sexual violence research. The first Forum drew 194 people from 28 countries.
- **2011, grew with the field.** Expanded to violence against women, violence against children, and their intersections.
- **2013, went global (outside South Africa), starting in Bangkok.** Then Brazil, Mexico back to Thailand, with majority-world leadership at the centre.
- **2024, Cape Town.** 1,502 delegates from over 110 countries and 495 presentations.
- **2026, the 9th Forum, back in Bangkok.** A record 2,186 abstracts, 193 reviewers in 40+ countries, 680+ presentations, 760+ speakers across these presentations.

Delegates per Forum



4,805

delegates over eight
Forums

142

countries represented

218

bursaries awarded



Why this Forum matters more than any before it



A field under pressure

Funding cuts, the loss of data systems and a political backlash against gender equality mean people are doing this work with fewer resources, in harder places. This is where the field regroups and decides what comes next.



Who is in the room

At Forum 2024, 67% of delegates came from low- and middle-income countries. These are researchers, practitioners and survivor-advocates closest to the violence, who rarely reach major international conferences.



Built by the field, not for it

The programme is co-created from the abstracts received. This year, to make room for more voices, presenters were limited to one abstract-driven slot each. Science, advocacy, wellness and art sit side by side.



What is on the programme

1,453 people currently registered from 113 countries and territories, expecting to have over 1500 delegates

686

Presentations

Oral, poster, five-minute over 61 sessions

769

Presenters

803

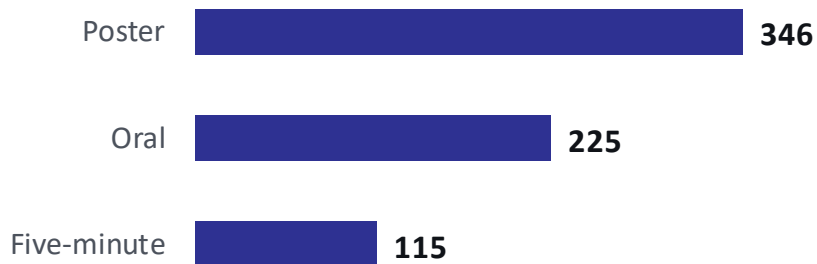
People with a role

Presenting, chairing, facilitating

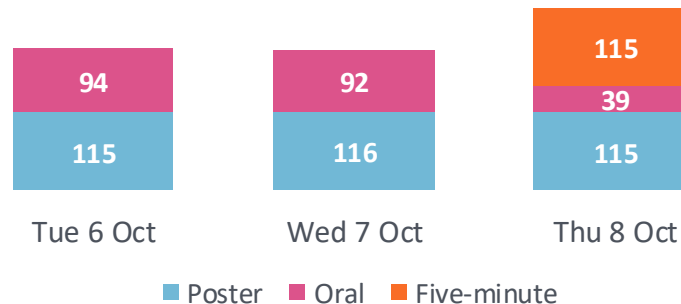
62

Session chairs

PRESENTATIONS BY FORMAT



FORMATS ACROSS THE THREE DAYS



TUESDAY 6 OCTOBER

Opening plenary: Evidence and Activism



What did the evidence make possible? Survivor-leaders, activists, researchers and government on how research became law, protection and change.



Joanna Maranhão

Brazil

Olympic swimmer and survivor advocate. Her campaign created the law bearing her name, extending Brazil's statute of limitations for child sexual abuse.



Olimpia Coral Melo

Mexico

Her campaign became Ley Olimpia, the reforms that criminalised digital sexual violence in Mexico. Founder of Defensoras Digitales de América Latina.



Diane Kambanei

Papua New Guinea

Director of the National GBV Secretariat. Leads PNG's national strategy, built on a 5,000-person survey and listening tours with survivors.



Dr Betty Barkha

Fiji and Australia

Gender, disability and inclusion advisor at Save the Children Pacific, working on the region's largest climate adaptation projects.



Saijai Liangpunsakul

Thailand | Facilitator

Founder of Stop Online Harm. Its Online Ambulance has supported over 1,000 survivors of online abuse across Southeast Asia.

Opened by Claudia García-Moreno, Chair of the SVRI Forum Scientific Committee.

Findings from the programme



Progress is too slow

Global IPV prevalence fell just 5.1 percentage points from 2000 to 2023, an annual change of minus 0.2 per cent. New WHO estimates, 168 countries.



The wider death toll

145,000 deaths worldwide were linked to intimate partner violence in 2023. Only 28,200 were partner homicides. The rest are not classified as femicide in the data.



Do protection orders work?

Of 9,691 South African women who had experienced severe IPV, one in five applied. Where an order was granted, 20.5% said violence stopped and 47.8% that it reduced.



Climate and IPV

Exposure to marine heatwaves was significantly associated with emotional, physical and sexual IPV among 9,097 women in five Pacific countries. Not previously examined.



Stories, and who to ask



After the aid freeze

Clinics closed and post-rape care collapsed across six African countries in 2025; in Honduras shelters shut as femicide risk rose. Physicians for Human Rights.



Sexual strangulation

Sexual strangulation among young people, driven substantially by pornography. Medical experts are clear it cannot be done safely, consent or not. Breathless, Maree Crabbe, Australia.



Deepfakes and the law

UK and Council of Europe reforms criminalising sexual deepfakes and pressing platforms to prevent them, alongside participatory research with Chinese victims on platform accountability.



Online abuse and public life

70% of politically active Brazilians surveyed faced online harassment within four weeks; in South Korea, fear of deepfakes predicted self-censorship. The question is who stops speaking publicly.



Femicide research

92 men who killed a partner, across eleven countries, on what preceded it. Ecuador follows the children left behind: 55% were forced to relocate. Handle with care.



Rugby in Fiji and Samoa

Get Into Rugby PLUS reaches 2,000 players and 100 coaches across 54 schools. Fiji Rugby Union's CEO on the safeguarding failures it exposed inside his own organisation.



A conference that takes care seriously



Wellness woven in

Space Bangkok runs the Wellbeing and Care Programme: one-on-one counselling, trauma-informed yoga and breathwork, an open art space, morning stretching and “Thai” Chi, quiet rooms. me too. International takes over the Brave Room on 7 and 8 October for Survivor’s Sanctuary Live. In 2024, 87% of delegates said support was there when they needed it.



Ten languages, live

Live AI interpretation and captions through Interprefy, on your own phone: Arabic, Burmese, English, French, Hindi, Mandarin Chinese, Portuguese, Spanish, Thai and Vietnamese.



Inclusion as structure

Disability access, language justice, food choices, spaces for survivors. Bursaries for participants from low- and middle-income countries (now closed). Trauma-informed and survivor-centred by design, which is also why we ask media to follow a few ground rules on reporting.

Why be there?



New findings, first-hand

More than 680 presentations from over 700 presenters



Sources in one place

Interviews can be facilitated on site with researchers, practitioners, survivor-leaders, policy makers and more, matching experts to your angle.



Thai and regional angles

Thai students and consent, Thai women and alcohol policy, teen self-generated sexual content, a film made on the Thailand–Myanmar border.



Access

Plenaries, parallel sessions, posters, the Salon film programme and the exhibition. A few participant-led events are closed; we tell you which.



The Forum Salon

Films and conversation all week, including “We’ve Waited Too Long” survivor stories with a panel including the founder of me too. International, and “Breathless Campaign” on sexual strangulation by Its time we talked



Materials

Press releases, daily highlights, speaker biographies within Whova (speaker generated), and guidance on safe, ethical reporting of sexual violence.

Get accredited

SVRI Forum 2026 | 5 to 9 October | Centara Grand and Bangkok Convention Centre at CentralWorld



Full programme, on the website and the Whova app

svriform2026.org



SVRI Forum team

forums@svri.org



Big Blue Team at the Forum



Sajid Chowdhury
Team Lead, Strategy and Narrative



Afnan Ghazi
Project Manager



Kazi Rubaiyat Kabir
Media and PR Specialist



Md Fayed Masud Kahn
Lead Cinematographer



Md Mohai Minul Islam
Cinematographer Support



Jestoni G. Sarco
Lead Photographer

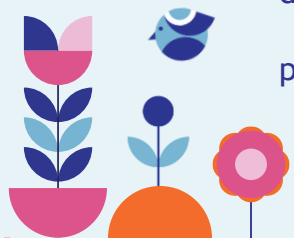


Anthony Galasan
Photographer Support



Accreditation application & On-site arrival

- **Apply by 25 September 2026** via the online form. Open to staff and freelance journalists on assignment; non-editorial and communications staff are not eligible. Each journalist must apply individually. A selection process will take place and accreditation is not guaranteed.
- **Collect your pass at the Centara Grand registration desk**; bring your press card or photo ID. Anik will meet you there and escort you to the Media Room for your badge and welcome.
- **Look out for the QR code on site**; it links to the media guidelines, programme and toolkit.
- **Familiarise yourself with the Conditions of Accreditation**: informed consent before recording any delegate, no photography where requested, and no reporting on unpublished research without the presenter's agreement.



Comms Materials & Interview Process

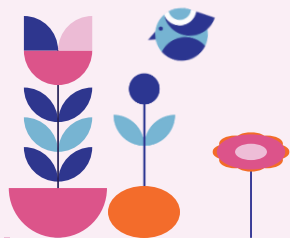
To support journalists covering the Forum, we will provide the following resources:

- **Daily digests:** will provide a summary of key takeaways from sessions and the plenary, including quotes from speakers and participants.
- **Set of images:** 20-25 edited, high-resolution photographs available for your use.
- **Video** of the plenary livestream (by SVRI comms manager)

At the end of each day, **we will send it to accredited media** and upload it to the **Media Centre:** www.svriforum2026.org/media-centre/

For interview requests, contact me at clara@svri.org

We will provide a **list of spokespersons** organised by topic of expertise.



Social Media

To follow the Forum, check our social media channels for:

- Livestream each plenary session (YouTube)
- Posts on the plenary sessions with key takeaways (LinkedIn)
- Reels with the Forum atmosphere and quotes from participants (Instagram)

LinkedIn
Sexual Violence
Research Initiative



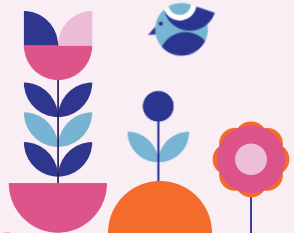
Facebook
Sexual Violence
Research Initiative



Instagram
@thesvri



YouTube
SVRI-Sexual Violence
Research Initiative



Responsible Representation and Reporting of Violence against Women and Violence against Children

SVRI Forum 2026 — Media Briefing Webinar | 22 September 2026

Diego De La Rosa, UN Women Asia Pacific · Md Abu Naser, UNFPA Asia Pacific



Responsible Representation and Reporting of Violence against Women and Violence against Children

- Guidance co-developed by UN Women, UNFPA and UNICEF (2020) on responsible representation and reporting of violence against women and violence against children.
- SVRI Forum is focused on various forms of violence against women and children. Stories of violence are common. Media may hear survivor testimonies and lived experiences, at plenaries, forum salons and on the sidelines.
- It is essential to report on such personal stories sensitively and with caution.



Why media coverage matters for Ending VAW/VAC

- The media doesn't just report on violence against women and children — it shapes whether the public sees it as normal or unacceptable.
- Coverage can reinforce harmful stereotypes and gender norms (victim-blaming framing, invisible perpetrators, sensationalised headlines) — or it can challenge them and shift attitudes.
- Strategic, responsible reporting can pressure policymakers, inform survivors of available support, and build public pressure for prevention and response funding — not just document what happened.
- This is why “how” something is reported carries as much weight as “what” is reported.



Engaging survivors and speakers responsibly

- Informed consent isn't a one-time form — it covers how long content is used, where, and whether it can resurface in a different context later.
- Confirm what a survivor has specifically agreed to be quoted or shown on, even for on-the-record conference speakers.
- No pressure, no incentives, no assumptions about what they're comfortable sharing.
- Extra layer of care for children: guardian consent, and no interviews touching abuse without a child protection professional present.



Survivor-centred approach & 'do no harm'

- The survivor leads decision-making — their rights, needs and choices guide the response, and every experience is unique and intersectional.
- Do no harm in practice: identify potential harm before acting, discuss it with the person affected, and proceed only once harm is avoided or adequately mitigated.



Guiding principles for engagement

- Confidentiality — protect a survivor's name and identity; a breach can be life-threatening and create safety risks.
- Non-discrimination — engage without bias, regardless of who the survivor is.
- Respect — the survivor's right to decide comes first, including the right to refuse or withdraw at any time.
- Safety — weigh possible consequences, and never assume the violence won't re-occur.
- Before engaging a survivor, consult a GBV or child welfare officer — participation (or not) has no bearing on their access to services.



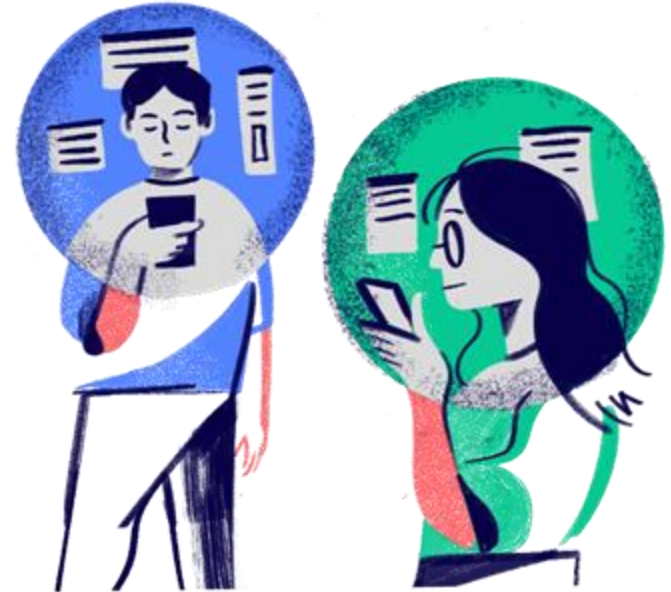
Language that holds accountability, not stereotypes

- “Survivor” as the working default, adjusted to the person's own preference.
- Keep the perpetrator visible in the sentence: killed by a partner, not “victim of homicide.”
- Avoid framing that invites the audience to question the survivor's choices, or that suggests the survivor was to blame or partly responsible.
- Physical violence isn't the only serious form — sexual, psychological, economic and technology-facilitated violence deserve equal visibility.



Representing violence without sensationalising it

- Name the type of violence and move the story forward, rather than narrating the act.
- Show survivors as people with agency, not as helpless figures.
- Weigh the risk to identity and safety carefully — obscuring a face isn't always enough if other details are identifying.
- Avoid graphic photos and details



Thank you



Scan to download
the guidelines

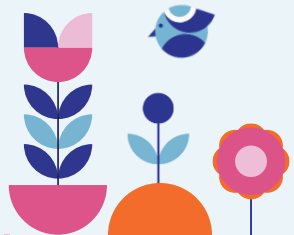


Responsible representation and
reporting of violence against women
and violence against children
GUIDELINES FOR MEDIA PROFESSIONALS

Q&A

Please state your name, media outlet and keep
your question to one short question and one follow
up question

Please raise your hand via Zoom





See you in Bangkok!



#SVRIForum2026