



Women Peace and Security (WPS) Regional Convening

Twenty-five years on: Reigniting the WPS Agenda in Response to Growing Conflict and Climate Crisis

Tuesday August 26 &
Wednesday August 27 2025

wpscoalition.org

Twenty-five years on: Reigniting the WPS Agenda in Response to Growing Conflict and Climate Crisis

The Australian Civil Society Coalition on Women, Peace and Security is hosting a regional convening with civil society representatives from Australia, Asia and the Pacific regions on 26–27 August 2025 on the theme of 25 years on: Reigniting the WPS Agenda in response to growing conflict and climate crises.

The convening seeks to leverage the opportunity created by the 25th anniversary of the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 to amplify the voices of women peacebuilders from the region in calling for a feminist peace with climate action at its centre at this crucial time for the WPS Agenda.

Convening: Dates and location.

The WPS Regional Convening will be hosted on
Tuesday August 26 and Wednesday August 27 2025,
in the River Room at **Customs House, 399 Queen St, Brisbane, QLD**.

Convening: Objectives.

1. Strengthen network and alliance building among diverse women peace builders and feminist climate activists in Australia, Asia and the Pacific regions, including First Nations and diaspora groups
2. Reflect on 25 years of progress on the WPS agenda and reignite an inclusive feminist agenda for peace
3. Identify regional priorities for an integrated and strengthened response to climate, gender, peace and security

Acknowledgement of Country

The Australian Civil Society Coalition for Women, Peace and Security acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and pays our respects to their Elders. We recognise their cultures, heritage, and right to self-determination.

Day 1:

Tuesday, August 26, 2025.

**25th Anniversary of UNSCR 1325: What progress has been made?
Where are the opportunities and challenges as we look forward?**

TIME	SCHEDULE
MORNING	8:30–9:00am Arrival and check in. Morning coffee available.
	9:00–10:00am • Opening and Housekeeping • Welcome to Country • Objectives and table introductions
	10:00–11:15am Session 1 Plenary: Twenty-five Years on: Reigniting the WPS Agenda for Feminist Peace
	11:15–11:45am Coffee break
	11:45am–12:30pm • Breakout session (30 mins) – Looking back: What have we achieved? • Report back – 1 key take-away (15 mins)
	12:30–1:30pm Lunch break
	1:30–2:45pm Session 2 Plenary: Building an Inclusive WPS Agenda
AFTERNOON	2:45–3:15pm Coffee break
	3:15–4:20pm • Breakout session (45 mins) – Looking forward: Where are we going? What strategies do we need to advance the WPS agenda? What do we need to prioritise? • Report back – 1 key take-away (20 mins)
	4:20–5:00pm • Reflections and recap • Close of Day
	5:30–6:30pm Cocktail reception
	6:30–8:30pm Public event 25 years of the WPS Agenda: Opportunities and Challenges Moving Forward • Bandana Rana – Keynote: Looking Forward • Michelle Higelin – Climate and WPS • Norul Mohamed Rashid – Learning from WPS Convening attendees are asked to please register separately if you are planning to stay for the public event.

Welcome to Country: Songwoman Baringa

Baringa Barambah Meeanjinu is a Songwoman of the Turrbal People and is the daughter of Turrbal Elder, Maroochy Barambah. She grew up on her ancestral homelands of Meeanjin (Brisbane) learning the traditional laws and customs from her elders. She is passionate about working with Indigenous communities to improve social, cultural and economic outcomes.

Session 1: 25 years on: Reigniting the WPS Agenda for a Feminist Peace

As the 25th anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 approaches, persistent conflicts in the Gaza, Myanmar, South Sudan, Ukraine and the Democratic Republic of the Congo serve as stark reminders of the ongoing failure of governments to uphold their WPS commitments—particularly in preventing gender-based violence and protecting those most vulnerable during times of crisis. The exclusion of women from peace processes remains widespread, with their voices notably absent from many current conflict resolution efforts. While there has been some progress toward more inclusive approaches to relief and recovery, the increasing frequency and severity of climate-related disasters underscores the urgent need for gender-responsive and inclusive climate and humanitarian action. Without this, hard-won gains in gender equality risk being reversed. This milestone anniversary, taking place at a time of alarming levels of conflict and environmental concern, represents a significant moment to ensure the foundations of the WPS agenda are re-centered, and efforts to advance a feminist peace reignited.

In this session, panelists will take stock of the current status of the WPS Agenda, reflecting on progress over the past 25 years and ongoing challenges, as well as reflecting on future priorities for the agenda, as part of the 25th anniversary.

Moderator: Ludmilla Kvitko

Speakers: Norul Mohamed Rashid, Sharon Bhagwan Rolls, Sandra Creamer, Mitra Khakbaz

Session 2: Building an Inclusive WPS Agenda

Over the course of the 25 years since the adoption of UNSCR 1325 and the subsequent resolutions that together comprise the WPS Agenda, there have been persistent efforts by civil society actors, academics and affected individuals and communities to push for a more-inclusive WPS Agenda. These voices have drawn attention to the exclusive nature of the WPS agenda, which has struggled to account for identity markers beyond gender, including race, ability, sexual orientation, migration status, age, ability and more. Instead, the WPS agenda has tended to ‘treat women as a homogenous group’ while also ‘perpetuat[ing] racialised hierarchies of knowledge production.’ Efforts to advance a more intersectional agenda and support localisation are some of the ways these shortcomings can be addressed, although significant gaps in implementation remain.

This session will explore how the WPS Agenda can be a driver for inclusive responses to gender, peace and security. Diverse leaders engaged in this work will be invited to share their experience working on WPS issues and recommendations as to how meaningful inclusion can become the norm, as opposed to the exception, in implementing the WPS Agenda moving forward.

Moderator: Melissa Monteiro

Speakers: Carolyn Kitione, Emily Dwyer, Clare Gibellini, Baw Meh Thaw

Day 2:

Wednesday, August 27, 2025.

Climate and WPS

	TIME	SCHEDULE
MORNING	9:00–9:15am	Recap and agenda for the day
	9:15–10:30am	Session 3 Plenary: Climate Change & WPS
	10:30–11:00am	Coffee break
	11:00am–12:15pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Breakout session (45 mins)<ul style="list-style-type: none">– What priorities should be at the forefront of our efforts to advance climate, gender and security?– How can we leverage a potential Australia/Pacific COP31 to elevate the WPS agenda?• Report back – 1 key take-away (30 mins)
	12:15–1:15pm	Lunch break
	1:15–1:55pm	Session 4 Plenary: Strengthening Regional Collaboration on WPS
	1:55–2:30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Breakout session (25 mins)<ul style="list-style-type: none">– What are the priorities for strengthening WPS regional collaborations?• Report back – 1 key take-away (10 mins)
	2:30–3:00pm	Coffee break
	3:00–4:00pm	Session 5 Plenary: Developing Key Recommendations
	4:00–4:30pm	Closing remarks – Bandana Rana, Dirk Platzen

Session 3: Climate and WPS

Since the link was first officially made by United Nations Security Council Resolution 2242, there has been a slow but increased response to the relevance of climate concerns within the WPS Agenda. Although the essential role of women in contributing to climate solutions and in securing and sustaining peace is well recognised, only recently have sustained efforts been made to “join the dots between climate change, gender equality and peace and security.” However, the urgency of doing so is increasingly evident, and efforts have been made to provide a detailed roadmap to support governments in doing so, including by civil society who have played a leading role in this space.

Moderator: Michelle Higelin

Speakers: Naomi Woyengu, Najeeba Wazefadost, Sara E. Davies, Ethel Sigimanu

Session 4: Strengthening Regional Collaboration on WPS

Across Australia, Asia and the Pacific, feminists, climate, youth activists and First Nations organisations and diaspora groups, amongst others, are actively working to advance various aspects of the WPS Agenda within their respective communities, such as prevention of sexual and gender based violence, young women’s leadership and representation. In some instances, there is collaboration across these groups but in many ways, national and international facing organisations, including in Australia, are operating in silos. How can this important milestone for the WPS Agenda galvanize greater collaboration among alliances for greater impact at this critical juncture?

Moderator: Ludmilla Kvitko

Speakers: Sharon Bhagwan Rolls, Leonésia Tecla da Silva, Ritah Nanyonga, Erika Isabel Bulan Yague

Session 5: Working Session on Developing Key Recommendations for Action

Moderators: Sara E. Davies, Linh Nong Dieu

Moderators.



Michelle Higelin

Executive Director, ActionAid Australia and Co-Chair, Australian Coalition on Women, Peace and Security

Michelle Higelin is the Executive Director of ActionAid Australia, which is part of a federation working to advance women's rights and end poverty and injustice in over 70 countries globally. Michelle has nearly three decades of experience working in the area of gender equality and human rights in Australia and internationally, including as the Deputy General Secretary of one of the largest women's rights movements globally, the World YWCA. Michelle has served on global advisory groups to the United Nations Population Fund and the World Food Programme and convened the NGO Working Group on Peace at the United Nations in Geneva. Michelle is the Vice President of the Australian Council for International Development and is a Co-Chair of the Australian Civil Society Coalition on Women, Peace, and Security. She has a Master in International Relations and a BA Communications.



Ludmilla Kwitko

Co-Chair, Australian Coalition for Women, Peace and Security; Associate Professor (Honorary), Gender Institute, Australian National University; Asia-Pacific Regional Representative, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)

Dr Ludmilla Kwitko is Associate Professor (Honorary) at the Gender Institute, at the Australian National University; and Asia-Pacific Regional Representative on the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) International Board. She has extensive experience working as a practitioner, policy analyst and researcher in advancing the women, peace and security agenda with domestic and international partners, including previously as Gender and Community Development Adviser to AusAID; on the first NATO Civil Society Advisory Panel on WPS; and as WPS Coalition civil society representative to the Australian Government's Inter-Departmental Committee on the First National Action Plan on WPS. Ludmilla serves as Co-Chair on the Steering Committee of the Australian Civil Society Coalition on WPS. She has a PhD in Sociology and Masters Degrees in Urban-Regional Planning and Sociology (University of Hawaii).



Melissa Monteiro

Chief Executive Officer, Community Migrant Resource Centre and Steering Committee Member, Australian Coalition on Women, Peace and Security

Melissa Monteiro, is the CEO of the Community Migrant Resource Centre (NSW) with over twenty five years' experience in the community sector. Melissa is passionate about resettlement and social justice issues and her areas of expertise include building the capacity of small and emerging communities, leadership skills development, women, and youth mentoring. Melissa is a member of the Steering Committee of the Australian Civil Society Coalition on Women, Peace, and Security.

Speakers.



Adj. Prof. Sandra Creamer AM

Lawyer, Indigenous rights activist and CEO, Australian Women's Health Alliance

Adjunct Professor Sandra Creamer AM, CEO of the Australian Women's Health Alliance, lawyer with an Order of Australia for her leadership for First Nations women and peoples on issues of health, climate change, rights and self-determination. Sandra Creamer is also an Adjunct Professor of Public Health at the University of Queensland. Sandra is currently the Chair of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Council to inform the development of the next National Plan to end family, domestic and sexual violence in Australia and support the implementation of the Closing of the Gap Target 13. Sandra is the Chair of the Indigenous Peoples Rights International, and a Board member of the International Indigenous Women's Forum (FMI) and is a Seventh Generation Advisor.



Sara E. Davies

Professor of International Relations, Griffith Asia Institute and Deputy Director, Centre of Excellence for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (CEVAW)

Sara E. Davies, is a Professor of International Relations, Griffith Asia Institute, Griffith University, Australia and Deputy Director (Indo-Pacific Research) of the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Sara leads the Impact of Shocks on Violence Against Women workstream for CEVAW. Sara's research examines how to scale up prevention and protection capacity for at-risk populations during shocks including conflict, mass atrocities, and infectious disease outbreak events. Recently, her research has been dedicated to the study of early warning reporting conditions to prevent conflict-related gender-based and sexual violence; and community capacity-building for disease outbreak emergencies in South-East Asia and South Asia. Sara is a member of the Steering Committee of the Australian Civil Society Coalition on Women, Peace, and Security.



Linh Nong Dieu

Senior Program Manager, Myanmar, International Women's Development Agency (IWDA)

Linh Nong Dieu is an international development professional with experience in the non-governmental, not-for-profit sector in Southeast Asia, the United States, and Australia. Linh offers in-depth knowledge in historical, social, and political contexts of Cambodia, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam. She is passionate in post-colonial feminism and women, peace and security in the Global South and an advocate for the decolonisation approach to development and peacebuilding initiatives. She was previously Rotary Peace Fellow at The University of Queensland, and is currently Program Manager of the Myanmar portfolio at IWDA. Linh is a member of the Steering Committee of the Australian Civil Society Coalition on Women, Peace, and Security.



Emily Dwyer

Co-Founder, Board Director and Head of Strategy, Edge Effect

Emily Dwyer is CEO of Edge Effect, an LGBTQIA+ humanitarian and development organisation. She began her career as a radio journalist in Australia and Southeast Asia before moving into humanitarian work in Afghanistan in 2004, focusing on media, civil society, and peacebuilding. From 2008, she held regional and headquarters roles with international organisations. After affirming herself as a trans woman, Emily co-founded Edge Effect, leading efforts to build evidence, policy, tools, and programs that include people with diverse SOGIESC (sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics). This work involves partnering with LGBTQIA+ CSOs to strengthen their communities and improve engagement with mainstream humanitarian and development organisations, while promoting inclusive, rights-based approaches across the sector.



Clare Gibellini

Chair of the National Disability Research Partnership

Clare Gibellini (she/her) is a prominent disability and human rights advocate with lived experience of multiple disabilities, including Autism. She is Chair of the National Disability Research Partnership and former Co-Chair of the Oversight Council for Australia's first National Autism Strategy. Clare's work is distinguished by her leadership in climate change, disaster preparedness, and gender equality. As Policy Officer at Women with Disabilities Australia and an independent advocate, she specialises in Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction, ensuring the voices of women and gender-diverse people with disability are central in climate and emergency planning. Clare is also a board member of the Centre for Australian Progress, the Chair of the WA Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability, and an emergency services volunteer, helping build community resilience. Internationally, she has represented Australia at the UN Conference of State Parties (2022–2025), and the Commission on the Status of Women (2024-2025), advocating for inclusive approaches to disaster risk, climate action, and gender equity.



Mitra Khakbaz

CEO, Immigrant Women's Support Service (IWSS) and Steering Committee Member, Australian WPS Coalition

Mitra Khakbaz is a seasoned advocate for positive social change, with over two decades of experience in senior non-profit roles. Specialising in humanitarian and development initiatives, particularly in the Asia Pacific region, Mitra has spearheaded numerous impactful projects. Mitra has led number of organisations responding to domestic, family and sexual violence and is currently CEO of Immigrant Women Support Services. Mitra is a board member of 100Women, Economic Justice Australia and chair of Nationality for All, an organisation leading advocacy work in addressing the impact of statelessness on impacted communities incorporating a gender and intersectional lens. Mitra is a member of the Steering Committee of the Australian Civil Society Coalition on Women, Peace, and Security.



Carolyn Kitione

Regional Representative, Shifting the Power Coalition

Carolyn Kitione is the Regional Representative of the Shifting the Power Coalition. She has been actively engaged in the Pacific women's movement for over 10 years. In her work, Carolyn facilitates collaboration among the Coalition's 13 women-led organisations to advance inclusive climate resilience and humanitarian action in the Pacific. As President of the Fiji YWCA, she is deeply committed to fostering intergenerational leadership and sustaining spaces for young women's leadership and engagement in decision making as disaster and climate frontline responders.



Ritah Nanyonga

Coordinator, African Women Voices for Peace

Ritah Nanyonga is a Project Manager and Computer Scientist with over nine years in the development sector, specialising in women's rights, peacebuilding, and economic justice. She holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Project Planning and Management and a Bachelor's in Computer Science. Ritah transitioned from tech to social development out of a passion for empowering women, girls, and marginalized communities. She is currently Project Coordinator for African Women Voices for Peace at ActionAid Uganda, leading a multi-country project amplifying women's voices in peacebuilding. Previously, she helped form Uganda's first Women's Economic Empowerment Coalition, advocating for policy change, including the Market Amendment Act 2023. Ritah brings expertise in rights-based approaches, participatory methods, and monitoring and evaluation.



Dirk Platzen

Director, GEDSI Multilateral Section (GMS) Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion Branch, Development Policy Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Dirk Platzen is an Australian diplomat with an extensive track record working in academia and the Australian public service. Following work at universities in Germany and a PhD in Australia as an environmental scientist, Mr Platzen joined the Australian Department of Agriculture specialising in climate impacts on the Australian agriculture. Mr Platzen joined the Australian development agency AusAID in 2011 programming climate change projects across East Asia and the Pacific, with a focus on REDD+ in Indonesia and Papua New Guinea. He worked as director for monitoring and evaluation across the South and West Asian development program before joining the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet to support Papua New Guinea's hosting of the 2018 APEC summit. He returned to the department of Foreign Affairs and Trade as delegate to the G20 Development and Trade and Investment working groups. He has been DAC delegate at the Australian delegation to the OECD from 2021 to 2025 and is currently working as Director for multilateral gender equality, disability and social inclusion.



Bandana Rana

Expert Member, CEDAW Committee

Bandana Rana from Nepal has been a member of the CEDAW Committee since 2017 and served as Vice Chair from 2018–2020. She co-chairs the Committee's Working Groups on Women, Peace and Security and on General Recommendation 41 on Gender Stereotypes, and is a member of the Working Group on Inquiries. With three decades of experience promoting women's rights, she has focused on violence against women, gendered conflict transformation, peacebuilding, and engendered media. She was a key drafter of Nepal's National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 and has supported WPS NAP development across Asia. Former Chair of Nepal's National Women's Commission, she chairs the board of the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP) and has served on the UN Secretary-General's High Level Advisory Group for the Global Study on UNSCR 1325, the UN Women Global Civil Society Advisory Group (2012–2015), and the UNFPA High Level Commission on ICPD25 follow-up (2021–2023). She received the Woman of Distinction Award in 2016 for her global contribution to gender equality.



Norul Mohamed Rashid

Regional Policy Advisor on Governance and Peace & Security for Asia and the Pacific, UN Women

Ms Norul Mohamed Rashid has over 26 years' experience in human rights, gender, governance, and peace and security in conflict-affected countries and at UN Headquarters. She is currently Policy Advisor for UN Women on Governance, Peace and Security for the Asia-Pacific region. Her UN work has included post-conflict transitional justice in the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, integrating WPS in justice and rule-of-law initiatives, managing the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq's human rights office, and governance and peace programming with UNDP in Libya and Indonesia. She also served in the UN Executive Office of the Secretary-General on high-level policy development related to the SDGs, peace and security, and emerging global challenges. Previously, she was a State Counsel in Singapore. Ms Rashid holds a law degree from the National University of Singapore and an LLM in International Law from the University of London.



Sharon Bhagwan Rolls

Coordinator: Political Engagement, Pacific Women Mediators Network

Sharon Bhagwan Rolls is a Fiji Island feminist with close to four decades of experience at the intersection of gender, media, communications, and peacebuilding. She co-founded the Pacific Women Mediators Network and serves as the Pacific Regional Gender Focal Point for the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict, engaging in regional processes on gender equality and peace. She is also the Strategic Partnerships and Resource Mobilization Lead (SPRML) of the Pacific Island Feminist Alliance for Climate Justice (PIFA4CJ). She played a key role in leading civil society input into the development of the Pacific Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security (2012-2015), and was a Civil Society Advisory member of the 2015 UN Global Study on UNSCR1325, advocating for the integration of climate change into UNSCR 2242. Bhagwan-Rolls continues to support women-led initiatives addressing the climate crisis and peacebuilding including coordinating the Pacific Women Mediators Network engagement in the development of the Pacific Islands Forum Oceans of Peace Declaration and the WPS Guidance Note for Pacific Forum Leaders.



Ethel Falu Sigimanu

**Secretary, Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs,
Solomon Islands Government**

Ethel Falu Sigimanu has been a trailblazer in advancing gender equality and women's human rights in the Solomon Islands. She served over a decade as Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs and spent 23 years in various government ministries. She played a pivotal role in landmark legislation, including the Family Protection Act (2014) and the Child and Family Welfare Act (2017), and contributed to national policies such as the National Gender Equality and Women's Development Policy, the Women's Economic Empowerment Strategy, and the National Action Plan for Women, Peace and Security. Mrs. Sigimanu coordinated the Solomon Islands Family Health and Safety Study (2008–2009) and led the country's reporting to the UN CEDAW Committee, including the first constructive dialogue in Geneva in 2014. She serves on regional boards such as the Pacific Women Lead Governance Board and the SPC Human Rights Social Development Advisory Board. Now a freelance consultant, Mrs. Sigimanu continues to advocate for women's empowerment, addressing systemic barriers and driving lasting change across the Solomon Islands and the Pacific.



Leonésia Tecla da Silva

Steering Committee Member, Southeast Asian Women Peace Mediators

Leonésia Tecla da Silva has over 20 years of experience in peacebuilding and mediation, focusing on conflict resolution, women and youth empowerment, and social cohesion. She serves as National Consultant for Women, Peace, and Security with UN Women Timor-Leste, implementing the country's WPS agenda, establishing the first national network of mediators, and co-drafting Timor-Leste's second-generation UNSCR 1325 National Action Plan. Tecla was a lead mediator for internally displaced persons during the 2006 Crisis Reintegration Process and worked with UNDP (2009–2017) on social cohesion and women's participation in peacebuilding. She also consults for international organisations including Bridging Peoples, IRMA, Syspons Germany, DevTech, UNWTO, and UNV. Her work promoting women's inclusion as mediators and negotiators was recognised at Women4Multilateralism in Geneva in 2022, alongside Timorese human rights pioneer Rosa Muki Bonaparte.



Baw Meh Thaw

Advocacy Team Member, Women's League of Burma

Baw Meh Thaw is a young women's rights and human rights advocate with over five years of experience in community development, political empowerment, and gender justice. She currently works with the Women's League of Burma (WLB), supporting advocacy and capacity-strengthening initiatives that centre women's leadership from conflict-affected and marginalised communities. Originally from Karenni State, she previously coordinated projects with the Karenni National Women's Organization addressing sexual and gender-based violence, conflict-related sexual violence, and women's political participation. Baw Meh has delivered training on CEDAW and gender equality, contributed to research and advocacy, and represented her organisations in international forums. Fluent in English, Burmese, and Karenni, she brings strong skills in program coordination, stakeholder engagement, and cross-cultural communication, continuing to promote meaningful participation of women in peace processes.



Najeeba Wazefadost

Founder and Executive Director, Asia Pacific Network of Refugees (APNOR) and Global Independent Refugee Women Leaders (GIRWL)

Najeeba Wazefadost is a powerhouse advocate, strategist, and refugee leader. As the Founder and Executive Director of the Asia Pacific Network of Refugees (APNOR) and a founding member of Global Independent Refugee Women Leaders (GIRWL), she has transformed the landscape of refugee-led advocacy. A former refugee from Afghanistan with a background in Medical Science, Najeeba has spent over a decade building refugee-led networks, shaping global policy, and ensuring that refugees—especially women—have a seat at the table. She has been a pioneer in establishing advisory boards across government institutions, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and other global policy spaces to elevate refugee leadership. Her expertise spans policy development, program design, research, and high-level advocacy, with a focus on gender equity and meaningful refugee participation. Through her work, she continues to drive systemic change, ensuring that refugee voices influence decisions at the highest levels



Naomi Woyengu

Director, HausKuk Initiative

Naomi Woyengu is a Papua New Guinean feminist leader, grassroots organiser, and Founder and Director of HausKuk Initiative Association Inc., a women-led organisation in Madang Province. With over a decade of experience in community development, she champions locally led solutions that amplify the voices of women, young women, and women with disabilities, particularly in climate justice, gender equality, and community resilience. Under her leadership, HausKuk Initiative runs programs such as ElevateHER and Rise Up! Young Women's Micro-Grants, and the Young Women's Climate Justice Program, building skills, confidence, and networks for young women leaders. Naomi has represented grassroots women in regional and international feminist networks and continues to mentor emerging leaders, fostering solidarity, resilience, and community-driven change.



Erika Isabel Bulan Yague

PhD Candidate or Lead Researcher – ASEAN YPS

Erika Isabel Bulan Yague is a young woman leader from the Philippines who is currently a PhD Candidate at Griffith University. Her expertise is in inclusion and youth in emergencies, peacebuilding and disaster risk reduction. She has a diverse professional background, working with UNICEF (New York) on young people's participation in peace and emergencies, and served as the ASEAN-UN Partnership Officer with UN DPPA-DPO in Jakarta. Erika has also worked with UNICEF and UNFPA at both Headquarters and in the Asia and the Pacific Regional Office. She has also served as an emergency responder and a government-elected youth councillor in the Philippines. Erika holds a Master's in Peace and Conflict Studies (University of Queensland), a Bachelor of Science in Community Development (University of the Philippines), and a Youth, Peace and Security Leadership Certificate (Columbia University).

Event logistics.

Location

River Room, Customs House
399 Queen Street, Brisbane QLD

Public transport

CityCat Ferry: Take the CityCat to the “Customs House” terminal – just a short walk from the venue.

Bus and Train: Multiple routes converge near Central Station (approx. a 5-minute walk), with buses stopping near Queen Street and the riverside.

Car parking

Riverside Centre ([Wilson's Parking](#))

(discounted)

Located at 123 Eagle Street, this car park is approximately a 5-minute walk to the venue and offers discounted weekend and lunchtime rates for Customs House guests. Tickets must be validated at Customs House to receive the rate. CustomsHousegyncan.org

Cathedral Square Car Park (First Parking)

At Ann Street & Raff Street, a secure 24/7 facility just minutes from Customs House.

167 Eagle Street (Secure Parking)

Offers hourly, early-bird, night, weekend, and multi-day options from approx. \$10–\$35.

Accommodation

The following hotels are the closest to Customs House:

Hotel	Distance
Brisbane Marriott Hotel	100 m
Oaks Brisbane Aurora Suites	100 m
Sofitel Brisbane Central	600 m

Wi-Fi

To access complimentary in the venue Wi-Fi please select the UQ Guest network and you will need to log on via your Google, Facebook or LinkedIn account.

Catering

Meals and refreshments are included for all attendees, as listed in the programme.

People with Disability (PWD) access

- **Entrance:** Left-hand side of the building via Riverside Terrace centre doors.
- **Lift:** Provides access to River, Queen Street, and Mezzanine levels.
- **PWD Toilet:** Located on the River level of the building.

Social media

Use our hashtag **[#WPSBrisbane2025]** to share updates.

Photography will occur – notify staff if you wish to opt out.

Contact information.

Primary

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Emergency

In case of emergency during the conference,
please call 000 (triple zero) for immediate
assistance.

Alternatively, notify one of the convening
contacts listed above for help.

AUSTRALIAN CIVIL
SOCIETY COALITION *for*

Women, Peace & Security.

wpscoalition.org