

MEDIA RELEASE

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Launch of documentary on eliminating domestic violence

Today the Australian Ambassador to Laos, HE Lynda Worthaisong, launched a documentary on the elimination of violence against women and children, as part of week-long activities in Laos to help raise awareness about this serious social issue.

Speaking at the event, Ambassador Worthaisong said, “This documentary is intended to be used as a tool to support advocacy work on domestic violence, which is a serious issue for all countries. Women and children need to feel safe from the threat of violence in their own homes and societies.”

“In Laos, as in Australia, it is sometimes society’s attitudes that perpetuate violence – where acts of domestic violence can in some contexts be thought culturally acceptable. The only way to change these mind-sets is through education and awareness-raising” Ambassador Worthaisong said.

In Laos, as in Australia, domestic violence is endemic in society. Recent studies in Laos have estimated that one in five women experience physical violence within the home, with one in three experiencing emotional violence.

The documentary was prepared in support of White Ribbon Day – the International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women, which was observed on 25 November.

The film was produced in cooperation with the National Commission for Advancement of Women, and will be distributed nationally as part of the commission’s domestic violence awareness campaign. It will also be broadcast on Lao national television.

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