



A Personal and Professional Journey towards Gender Equity/Equality

Batticaloa Declaration-2015

Gender Support Group, Eastern University Sri Lanka, Batticaloa

We acknowledge and understand that prevailing masculinities, sexism, male dominance and male privilege are the foundation for all forms of violence against women and sexual and gender based violence.

We will challenge our individual sexism and the role that we play in supporting men who are abusive. We knew that our silence affirms violence. When we choose not to speak out against men's violence, we are supporting it.

We will no longer collude with violent men; we will take a stand to end sexual and gender-based violence even if it means getting out of our socially defined roles.

We will challenge the traditional images of manhood that we have accepted uncritically and which prevent us from actively taking a stand to end violence against women.

We promise to educate our sons, male students and other young men about our responsibility to end sexual and gender-based violence.

We accept that violence against women will not end until men become part of the solution to end it. We invite men to take up that responsibility and take an active role in creating a cultural and social shift that no longer tolerates violence against women.

We take responsibility for creating appropriate and effective ways to develop social structures, systems, mechanisms and practices to educate and hold men accountable.

We will create systems of men's accountability to women in our community. Violence against women will end only when we take direction from those who understand it most, women.

– Gender Support Group Eastern University Sri Lanka, Batticaloa,

Sri Lanka –

“Addressing / Preventing Practices of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) in South Asian Institutions of Higher Education”. Conference, 2015, Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), Eastern University Sri Lanka.

