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Press Release

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Timor-Leste celebrates International Women’s Day – ‘It’s time to stop violence against women’

On 8 March 2013 Timor-Leste celebrates International Women’s Day as an important occasion to acknowledge the contribution of women from Timor-Leste and other nations as well as the obstacles they face in achieving equality. The theme for this year’s International Women’s Day is ‘It’s time to take action to stop violence against women’.

Violence against women is a worldwide problem which results in women suffering violations to their right to safety and dignity. In order to stop this violence contributions are required from a range of entities, especially the government.

Timorese women are extremely vulnerable to violence, such as domestic violence and sexual violence. Approximately 38% of Timorese women still suffer physical violence in their lives. For the last eight years the Women’s Justice Unit of JSMP has observed that most cases being tried in court are cases involving gender based violence.

“This situation is very serious and highlights the fact that hard work is required from the government, civil society and the people of Timor-Leste in general. It is unacceptable that Timorese women are not able to live free from violence” said the Executive Director of JSMP, Luis de Oliveira Sampaio.

In celebration of this important day, JSMP congratulates all women around the world, especially Timorese women who have sacrificed themselves to protect women’s rights and make a significant change in the lives of future generations.

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