



**Press Release**  
**31 August 2023**  
**Bobonaro Municipality**

**JSMP holds training for mobilizers on Human Trafficking and Gender Based Violence in Batugede Village, Bobonaro Municipality**

JSMP has continued to conduct training on Human Trafficking and Gender Based Violence for mobilizers in Batugede Village, Balibo Administrative Post, Bobonaro Municipality. This training was held over 4 days between 22 - 26 August 2023.

This training was officially opened by the Batugede Village Chief, Mr. Januario Moisés and was attended by the Executive Director of JSMP, Ms. Ana Paula Marçal.

During this training the participants conveyed their concerns or asked their most important questions such as a case of prostitution that has occurred for the purposes of seeking money and a friend has found clients for her and she has engaged in prostitution and then has not given money to her friend who has found clients for her. However, in the end the police arrested her friend who has found clients for her. Is this act categorized as human trafficking or not?

In response with these concerns, JSMP explained that this case is not categorized as human trafficking. This is because for it to be categorized as a crime of human trafficking it must fulfil requirements such as deceiving a person with the objective of making a profit or obtaining some benefits for that person or another person and/or a group.

“JSMP hopes that this training can further increase the ability of mobilizers about Human Trafficking and Gender Based Violence in Batugede Village, so that they can effectively contribute to the efforts of the Government of Timor-Leste to prevent and combat Human Trafficking and Gender Based Violence in Timor-Leste,” said the Executive Director of JSMP, Ms. Ana Paula Marçal.

Also, the participants asked about a case that occurred in Batugede where a child committed a crime and fled, and his mother and father were arrested by the police as assurance that their son would hand himself in. Is this legal or not? In a case of human trafficking and domestic violence where I have made a report, is there are law that protects me when I make a complaint?

In relation to these issues, JSMP explained that in a case committed by a child, where the parents have been arrested, this is against the Penal Code, because criminal responsibility is with the individual and the act can't be transferred to the parents to take responsibility for criminal acts of their son. Therefore, the acts carried out by the police to arrest the suspect's parents were illegal and also violated human rights because they used power to act arbitrarily. Therefore, a complaint can be made to the Public Prosecution Service and also the Ombudsman for Human Rights and Justice (PDHJ)

about their actions to be submitted to the legal process and they could also be subject to disciplinary action.

Meanwhile in relation to protection for those who make a report in cases, both for crimes of human trafficking and gender based violence, the Law on Human Trafficking and Law on Witness Protection also protects witnesses and complainants. For example by not divulging the identity of complainants during the investigation process and trials etc.

This four day training event was officially closed by the Batugade Village Chief, Mr. Januario Moises. When closing this event the Village Chief asked the participants who had received the training on human trafficking and gender based violence over the four days to spread the information that they had obtained to community members who were unable to participate in this training. He requested that in the future JSMP could continue to work together with village authorities to continue holding JSMP activities in Batugade Village successfully.

This training was attended by community members, village authorities, youths, LGBTIQ+, and persons with disabilities. There were 34 participants, comprising 21 women and 13 men, and 2 members of the LBGTIQ+ community and 2 persons with disabilities.

This training was conducted with the financial support of the Government of Timor-Leste, the Ministry of the Interior, that was directly managed by the United Nations agency UNWomen.

For more information, please contact:

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