



**Press release**

Thursday November 20, 2014

### **'Virginity tests' for Indonesian women police officers**

The International Association of Women Police (IAWP) is today investigating reports that female police officers in Indonesia must undergo a virginity test before they are allowed to join the force.

IAWP president Jane Townsley said: "We are working with our members in the Indonesian national police force to support gender responsive policing, which includes ensuring women in policing are treated with respect and dignity. We will continue to support the women in the Indonesian National Police as agents for change to ensure policies and processes are fair and equitable.

"The IAWP strives to engender UNSC Resolution 1325 within Peace and Security, and policing is a fundamental part of this. If we cannot safeguard women in policing, how can we expect to safeguard women in the community?"

Jane said the association's mission was to strengthen, unite and raise the profile of women in criminal justice internationally.

"Our vision is for women's lives to be free from discrimination, for them to be valued for their contribution, and treated with respect and dignity," she added.

"We aim to be an example of excellence in securing a safe, harmonious workplace and society as partners in safety in the criminal justice system."

**ENDS**

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