



Media Release

COVID – 19 Global Pandemic – IAWP’s Response

The International Association of Women Police, like many international organisations are having to adapt to the COVID – 19 global pandemic and we want to ensure our members and supporters are fully aware of the steps we are taking during these very challenging times.

Our thoughts and condolences are very much with the families, friends and colleagues of all those who have died as a result of this virus.

First of all, we want to pay tribute to the police and other emergency services working tirelessly around the globe protecting their communities from the spread of this disease, many, as we know, are working without appropriate protection. We would also like to thank all those who are supporting emergency service workers during these very challenging times and re-enforce the message that the best way to help is by reducing social contact that enables the virus to spread so rapidly.

Many of our members are working on the front line, working long hours with little time to rest putting themselves at risk to protect others. Police and law enforcement organisations around the World are having to change the way they deliver services to their communities, and the need for communities to come together and help each other has never been more important. IAWP and other networks have a valuable role to play to help everyone cope and we will continue to provide much needed peer support and mentoring to our members through these difficult times.

We are concerned for all those women and children across the globe who are vulnerable to becoming victims of violence and abuse as increasing numbers of societies become ‘locked down’. We stand with UN Women and other organisations in raising awareness of their plight and advocating for governments, police and law enforcement organisations everywhere not to forget, whilst certain crimes are reducing in number, research tells us that crimes ‘behind closed doors’ will rise.

Annual Training Conference – Indonesia, 6th – 10th September 2020

Our 58th Annual Training Conference, due to take place between 6-10 September 2020 in Indonesia is a concern to many, not least ourselves and the organizing committee. The safety and well-being of all potential attendees is our paramount concern and with the impact on countries changing daily we know we need to make a decision about the feasibility of hosting our conference.

Meetings have been taking place between the President and her Executive Board as well as with the conference organisers and the Indonesian National Police as to the options available to us. Consultation will soon take place with the entire Board of Directors of the IAWP with an aim to have a decision made and communicated by 15th April 2020 at the latest.

President Deborah Friedl *“The Board of Directors of the IAWP have some very challenging decisions to make over the coming days and be assured that whatever the outcome it will be in the best interests of our members, conference attendees, our conference planners and our organisation. **We are All in this together.**”*

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Indonesia Conference

<https://www.iawp2020indonesia.org/>