



 **Event: 4th World Conference of Women's Shelters (4WCWS) –**
November 5-8, 2019



The Garden of Hope Foundation



About: The Garden of Hope Foundation

- Non-profit that supports disadvantaged girls and young women, especially those trapped in the sex industry, survivors of sexual abuse and domestic violence, and survivors of human trafficking.
- Founded the Asian Network of Women's Shelters, and serves as the Asia representative of Global Network of Women's Shelters, which is the longtime organizer of the World Conference of Women's Shelters.
- Offers shelters and service centers across Chinese Taipei that provide counselling, temporary housing, employment support, social work and legal aid.
- Also offers job training, housing aid and emotional support for women after they leave the shelter.

Objective:

Empower and motivate people who work in relative isolation in the frontline, and – through solidarity and collective energy – advocate for women's rights and responsible action to support women's shelter organizations and combat violence against women. "



Event highlights:

- 4WCWS was hosted in Chinese Taipei – the first time the conference has been held in Asia – improving convenience for Asian countries to participate.
- Attendees benefited from translation/interpretation services in multiple languages, including Japanese, Korean, Chinese, Spanish and English.
- 50 percent of conference speakers were from Asia.

- NGOs from around the world were supported with funding and subsidies so they could attend the conference.
- The event featured seven plenaries, 112 workshops, and 121 experts speaking from cross-border, cross-regional, cross-ethnic and cross-cultural perspectives.
- Mexican actress Yalitza Aparicio Martínez, an Oscar nominee, spoke about her experience with gender discrimination in the workplace. Her comments, and by extension 4WCWS, were featured in several major Latin media outlets.



Event impact:

- 4WCWS introduced Lila.help, an intuitive platform that women and children around the world can leverage as a resource to find help and information in their region.
- Representatives of women's shelters forged relationships with their counterparts around the world, exploring possibilities to resource share and collaborate.
- For the first time, a Study Tour was organized so attendees could visit social welfare agencies and better understand Chinese Taipei's experience in violence prevention.
- Expanded programming incorporated new perspectives, such as workshops related to art as a form of expression and healing; and emphasis on LGBTQ shelter management, institutional sexual harassment, and shelters for women with physical or mental disabilities.

