

## **E6 Breakout Session:** The ethical practice of client-centered lawyering

### **Role Play and Fish Bowl Observation**



#### **Case Scenario 1**

Maria is a seventeen year old, a single mother of a two year old boy, Mike. She is pregnant with her second child. Maria a high school student, has been dating Greg for three years. Over the course of their relationship, Greg has been verbally, emotionally and physically abusive, culminating in a recent incident where he threatened to kill Maria and her unborn child. Maria's parents are not interested in helping her resolve her problems with Greg, as she had run away from home and continued the relationship with Greg much against their wishes. Her friends have suggested that meets a lawyer. She is very confused and wants to do what is best for her child.

#### **Case Scenario 2**

Rani is a fifteen year old girl who has been working for three years as a domestic worker in John's house. She has no labour contract and receives a monthly payment of 5000 MMK in cash. John is a rich and powerful landowner, who has connections with local politicians and the police.

On a particular day at work in John's house, a pot of hot, boiling water falls on Rani. She suffers from second-degree burn injuries and has to pay for her medical expenses. She is unable to work as she is severely disabled. She approaches John to pay her medical bills and pay compensation for the accident that occurred during work.

When John is approached for compensation, he vehemently denies that she was employed in his house. He claims that she often came to his house to play with his children and the accident occurred during that time. He discourages Rani from filing a complaint in the local police station or court and offers a one time payment of 4000 Myanmar Kyats.

Rani is desperate and wants to be compensated for the accident.

# 4<sup>th</sup> Asia Pro Bono Conference and Legal Ethics Forum Session Presentation Plan Template

**Name of Session:** The ethical practice of client-centered lawyering

**Session Description/Aim:**

This session will explore the concept of client-centered lawyering as a means of ensuring access to justice and furthering the objectives of a noble legal profession. With reference to a range of holistic teachings and core legal skills and values the session will focus on how lawyers can achieve the objective of acting in a client's best interests while ensuring a client's ethical well-being.

**Total Session Minutes: (60 min)**

**Facilitator:**

Miriam Chinappa, (Avocats Sans Frontières 'ASF') mchinnappa@asf.be

**Co-Presenters:**

1. Marlon Manuel, (Alternative Law Groups, Philippines) mjmanuel19@yahoo.com
2. Miriam Chinappa, (Avocats Sans Frontières 'ASF') mchinnappa@asf.be
3. Phallack Kong, (Panasastra University of Cambodia) phallacklaw@gmail.com

**Session Plan:**

Activity Step	Activity Description	Time (Min)	Presenters	Materials Needed
1.	Introductions	5	Miriam will introduce the session. The Presenters will introduce themselves and their work on client-centered lawyering	
2.	Brainstorm: Facilitator seek views from audience - what is client-centred lawyering?	5	One of presenters to write up	Flipchart, pens

3.	One presenter to provide a definition & origin of terms, the principles of client-centred lawyering, the difference in approaches of justice-centred lawyering and client-centred lawyering in lawyers ethical obligations, briefly concept of client autonomy.	5	Marlon	PowerPoint (will bring this to Mandalay)
4.	Small group discussion 5/6.  Two questions: What are the range of holistic teachings and core legal skills required by lawyers to achieve this approach?  What are the range of values required by lawyers to achieve this approach?	10	Marlon and Miriam	The two questions projected on ppt
5.	Feedback from groups on both questions.	5	Marlon and Miriam	
6.	What if there is a conflict between what the client wants and what you feel is best? How do you balance acting in a client's best interests while ensuring a client's ethical well-being? Client autonomy etc.  One presenter to explain this idea & theory.	5	Phallack	Power Point
7.	A role play and fish-bowl observation with small groups to discuss Provide 2 (time permitting – perhaps only one) case study	10	Miriam Chinnappa	6 copies of each case scenario to be printed

	examples of potential conflict for groups to work through.			
8.	Feedback on case studies or role play.	10	Miriam, Marlon and Phallack	
8.	Wrap up	5	Miriam Chinnappa	
<b>Total Time:</b>		<b>60</b>		

The ethical practice of client-centered lawyering

## **Group Discussion Questions**

1. What are the range of holistic teachings and core legal skills required by lawyers to achieve this approach?
2. What are the range of values required by lawyers to achieve this approach?