

Powerful talk on family violence in Timor-Leste

by Ashlee Betteridge
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A powerful and moving TEDx talk from Timor-Leste highlights the intergenerational challenge of tackling family and sexual violence.

In her address to [TEDxDili](#), activist Bella Galhos, a survivor of family violence, shares her personal story of growing up in a violent household, the struggles her mother faced in trying to separate from her father and the way the wider normalisation of violence contributes to the problem. She makes a call for change in Timor-Leste, and also lays out her plan for a 'green school', where children can connect with the natural environment.

A [gender assessment on Timor-Leste released last year](#) showed the high levels of violence against women, and the level of acceptance. The report showed 86% of Timorese women believed a husband could be justified in beating his wife for reasons such as neglecting children, arguing, going out without telling him, burning food or denying intercourse.

You can [watch](#) Bella's talk below. (Note that it contains descriptions of abuse).

Author/s:

Ashlee Betteridge

Ashlee Betteridge was the Manager of the Development Policy Centre until April 2021. She was previously a Research Officer at the centre from 2013-2017. A former journalist, she holds a Master of Public Policy (Development Policy) from ANU and has development experience in Indonesia and Timor-Leste. She now has her own consultancy, Better Things Consulting, and works across several large projects with managing contractors.

Link: <https://devpolicy.org/powerful-talk-on-family-violence-in-timor-leste-20150518/>