

## Bengkel "Menangani Keganasan Rumah Tangga"

Pada 21 Mei, Pusat Kesedaran Wanita (WCC), Pulau Pinang dan Pusat Perkhidmatan Wanita (PPW), Seberang Perai telah menganjurkan bengkel 'Menangani Keganasan Rumah Tangga' di Hotel Seri Malaysia, Kepala Batas. Bengkel ini merupakan tajaan MMK Pembangunan Wanita, Keluarga dan Komuniti serta EED.

Bengkel ini yang diketuai oleh Pengarah Program, Prema Devaraj telah memulakan sesi dengan mengalu-alukan kedatangan seramai 45 peserta wanita yang datang dari Pulau Pinang, Perak dan juga Kedah.

Pegawai Projek, Tasha Merican dan Nadia Ali memulakan sesi pertama bertopik "Gender & Keganasan terhadap Wanita". Sesi ini merangkumi satu aktiviti yang menjelaskan perbezaan diantara gender dan seks, dan bagaimana stereotaip gender mengakibatkan keganasan atau diskriminasi ke atas wanita.

Seterusnya, Pegawai Projek Mangleswary Subramaniam memberi ceramahnya yang bertajuk "Keganasan Rumah Tangga". Dalam sesi ini, Mangles menggunakan pelbagai contoh dalam penjelasannya terhadap jenis-jenis penderaan, impak penderaan keatas mangsa dan juga kepada kanak-kanak, kitaran keganasan dan juga tanggungjawab seorang pemberi khidmat.

*"Semua yang kamu cakap tadi tentang keganasan rumahtangga telah mengimbas semula perkara yang telah dilakukan oleh suami saya ke atas saya"* kata salah seorang peserta dalam tangisan.

Pada sebelah petang, Pekerja Sosial, Lee Sook Foong berkongsi dengan peserta mengenai "Prosedur Menangani Keganasan Rumah Tangga". Dalam sesi ini, Tasha dan Nadia berlakon dalam sebuah drama yang menceritakan keperitan perjalanan seorang mangsa keganasan rumah tangga yang memerlukan bantuan dan masalah yang dihadapinya. Sook Foong menggunakan drama ini untuk menjelaskan prosedur am tentang jenis-jenis bantuan dari agensi-agensi seperti hospital, balai polis, jabatan kebajikan masyarakat dan pertubuhan bukan kerajaan. Sook Foong juga berkongsi hak-hak dan bantuan yang boleh diterima oleh mangsa di setiap agensi tertentu.

Sesi terakhir dikendalikan oleh Lalitha Menon, Peguambela & Ahli Jawatan Kuasa WCC dan Ustazah Mahfuzah Bt Sa'aidin, Pegawai Khidmat Nasihat, Pejabat Agama Daerah SPS. Sesi ini memberi fokus kepada hak-hak wanita mengikut undang-undang sivil dan syariah dalam isu keganasan rumah tangga dan perceraian.

Bengkel ini diakhiri dengan penyampaian sijil dan buku terbitan WCC "Mengubah Arus Maklumbalas" oleh Presiden WCC, Mariam Lim. Pihak penganjur ingin mengucapkan ribuan terima kasih kepada Pejabat Daerah dan Tanah, Seberang Perai Utara ke atas sokongan yang diberikan.



# Parenting Workshops

While helping women in crisis, we realised that our clients, especially single mothers, face difficulties with their children. PPW and WCC, together with the cooperation of BOLD Association for Children with Special Needs, organised a parenting workshop entitled *Ilmu Keibubapaan* on 16 April at Dewan Dato' Haji Ahmad Badawi, Seberang Jaya. The workshop raised awareness among single mothers and low income women regarding their roles, relationships and skills as parents.

This workshop was conducted in Bahasa Malaysia by Leong Min See, counsellor and play therapist from BOLD. Min See used activities such as drawing, role play, meditation, and small group discussions to highlight significant points in parenting. She also discussed methods of handling stress and ways to improve communication.

*In one of the drawing session, a lady spoke of a 7-year old boy who had drawn a picture of a child jumping from a high rise flat and had ended up in hospital. It appeared that the child had been the subject of the drawing; he had been locked in the house by his father regularly and that triggered the incident. According to the child, "I first landed on an awning before I was saved by an angel. The angel grasped me and told me that he would place me gently on the road".*



Another similar workshop in Mandarin was organised on 25 June in Bahasa Malaysia. Alice Lee, an experienced counsellor from SEED Training and Counselling Centre pointed out that intense opposing feelings are a normal part of any strong emotional relationship. "Parents need to be aware of their feelings. It is essential for parents to learn effective ways of handling their negative emotions so that they won't lose control and cause further communication breakdowns in relationships with their children" said Alice.

From participants' feedback, we realised that single mothers are in need of more knowledge and parenting skills. Both speakers emphasised that parents could build healthier relationship if they had better self-understanding, especially of their own emotions. Ninety-three women attended the two workshops.

## Promo Gang

### @ Rock 4 Rights

On 2 April, Loyar Burok, MyConstitution Campaign and Saya Anak Bangsa Malaysia from Kuala Lumpur organised the Rock4Rights concert at Fort Cornwallis as the final phase of the MyConstitution Campaign by Bar Council. The concert featured many indie artists and performers. WCC was one of the many NGOs that set up a booth. The concert aimed to raise awareness of the Malaysia Constitution and importance of voting, especially among youth and young voters.

### @ Time Out

On 18 June, Time Out Penang launched their magazine at Straits Quay. WCC and Penang Heritage Trust (PHT) were named as the beneficiaries. WCC set up a booth where promotional work was carried out by our volunteers Wei Lin, Ooi, Ching Yuh, Mun Hoe and Chia Yin.



### @ Osram

On 30 June, WCC set up an exhibition booth during Osram Health Week. We had many visitors and the majority of them were interested in knowing more on child sexual abuse; our 'Roda Tindakan' sold like hot cakes. Thank you to Sharon, Siew Eng and Ooi for manning the booth.

## Lecture on Violence Against Women

On 18 May, Annie gave a lecture on violence against women to medical students from the Penang Medical College. The medical students discussed gender roles and gender-based violence. The students felt that in general, women are caring, loving, responsible, and are able to multi-task. Women are also emotional, indecisive and unable to voice their opinions; where as men are stronger, more rational, hardworking, sensible and direct as well as egoistic, impatient, and untidy. Annie explained how these views might relate to gender-based violence. In addition, the medical students discussed how they can help abused women who seek medical treatment at the hospital by identifying and providing necessary information to women that need help.

## Talk on Gender Equality and Empowering Women

200 Girl Guides from all over the state gathered at the G Hotel for the Commissioners Conference and National Annual General Meeting, 5-7 June. The Penang Girl Guides, who coordinated the conference, invited WCC to give a 90 minute talk entitled, 'Gender Equality and Empowering Women'. Annie conducted the talk on 'What is Gender?' and spoke about gender-related violence against women. The girls participated and shared their opinions on gender-biased issues in their daily lives. During the Q & A session, a participant asked "So, now that we have listened to your talk, where do we go from here?" and Annie's answer was simple, "Start with YOU."

## Talk on Domestic Violence

After "Bengkel Menangani Keganasan Rumah Tangga" in Kepala Batas, WCC received several invitations to conduct talks on domestic violence. Puspanita, Seberang Perai Selatan invited WCC as one of the speakers for their joint program with Agensi Anti Dadah Kebangsaan on 29 June. Mangles and Sook Foong facilitated a discussion about the types of domestic violence, cycle of violence, impact on victims and children and type of help available. The organiser is interested in working with WCC in the future.

## Talk on Sexual Harassment

On 28 May, Annie conducted a talk on sexual harassment as part of a three-day camp jointly organised by SUARAM, Han Chiang College and USM Persatuan Tiong Hua. The talk was delivered in Mandarin to a group of 30 secondary school students. A number of students confided that they had experienced sexual harassment. Annie encouraged the children to seek help and not keep silent if they face sexual harassment.

# Women's Support Group



Every woman longs for understanding and respect, especially women who have been abused or betrayed. Often, these women find it easier to talk about their feelings and experiences in small groups. For this reason, PPW holds support groups for single mothers and low income women. In April and May, two women support groups were held. These groups discussed self-growth and development.

The first group was held on 2 April. Thirty women attended and discussed how irrational beliefs can lead to negative outcomes and stress. They learned ways to rationalize their thoughts and techniques to help them lead happier and more positive lives.



The second group was held on 7 May. Forty five women attended the folk art session where they were able to express their emotions through art. The women enjoyed a break from their busy routines and learned a new technique for expressing their emotions.

# Outreach Update



## Youth Conference

On 31 May, over 300 youth gathered at the Caring Society Complex for a three-day Youth Conference. WCC was invited to conduct a Youth Issues Workshop on *Respect: Relationship and Sex*. The outreach team, Prema, Mangles, Tasha, WCC intern, Wei Lyn and volunteers, Lerk Shih and Cindy, facilitated these sessions.

Tasha and Wei Lyn were in charge of teenagers in Forms 1 and 2. The teenagers discussed and presented their views whether 1) teenagers should be allowed to date; 2) teenagers should start dating before or after 15 years; 3) parents should worry about their teenagers dating.



Cindy and Mangles gave a talk to 85 Forms 3 and 4 students on *Dating, ICT and Personal Safety*. The students participated in a survey on ICT and completed evaluation forms. Students commented that they had learned much that would help them nurture healthier and safer relationships with the opposite sex.

Lerk Shih and Prema worked with teenagers 17 years and above. The participants were introduced to the concept of gender, how it impacts relationships and the problems which arise from the power differential between men and women. Participants carried out an exercise called "My Ideal Partner" which helped them explore what they expected from their partners and how it related to gender expectations.

## BIŠ programme at Shan's Home

Tasha, Mangles and Nora Beh visited Shan's Home on 9 April. Using props and other items available at Shan's Home, to the *Bijak Itu Selamat* session helped make the programme magical. Easy to understand stories of knowing how to protect ourselves and learning how to seek help in the forms of catchy songs and real-life sketches, entranced the children who were captivated by the visuals. The message on sexual and domestic violence awareness was further driven home during the discussion session. The childrens' depth of understanding and action assured us that we had planted the seed of sexual and domestic violence awareness in the lives of our future generation. What a moment! Our thanks to the caregiver of Shan's Home who was helpful and accommodating.



**"In youth we learn; in age we understand."**

by Marie Von Ebner-Eschenbach

# Programmes with Churches

## @ Holy Spirit Church



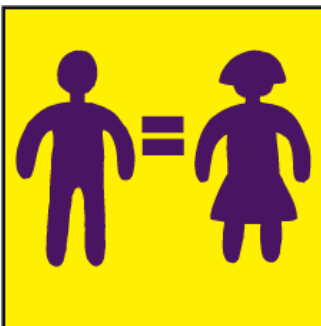
Holy Spirit Church invited the outreach team to facilitate programmes for their children, teenagers, and adults on 18 June. Annie, Prema and Tasha conducted the sessions for primary, lower, and upper secondary students.

WCC volunteers Cindy Ring Ruble and Naweed Harooni conducted a talk on *Child Sexual Abuse* (CSA) with parents. The parents learned about *Child Sexual Abuse*, perpetrators, laws, and what actions can be taken to prevent CSA. Parents indicated that the discussion increased their awareness and knowledge of CSA. Some parents expressed appreciation that their children were learning safety practices at the same time and felt that their children's participation in these sessions would make it easier for them to continue the discussion at home.

Tasha conducted a session on ICT while Prema worked with 35 15-16 year olds students on *ICT and Personal Safety*. The teenagers discussed ways to be safe when communicating via mobile phone or Facebook. Finally, Annie conducted a talk on children's personal safety to 40 Standard 5 and 6 students. Most children felt that they should seek help if they are sexually abused and inform headmasters, teachers, parents, neighbors and friends for help.

## @ St. Anne Church

On 15 May, the WCC outreach team conducted four programmes at St Anne's Church for participants in primary school to adults. Jennie and Sook Foong conducted a child sexual abuse prevention programme, "Bijak Itu Selamat" to a group of 50 children. Two groups of 50 secondary school children participated in the *Circle of Friendship and ICT* programme conducted by Nadia, Lerk Shih, Tasha and WCC intern, Wei Lyn. The groups discussed internet safety and knowing how to tell if a person is trustworthy. Prema conducted a session with 20 adults about child sexual abuse and the importance of being aware of this.



## Talks on Gender

The outreach team continued with their gender sensitisation programmes aimed at creating awareness among participants on gender stereotypes and how it creates unequal opportunities and discrimination against women. The team went to Surya College and SMK St. Xavier's on 30 May and 28 June. Overall, 150 students attended the two talks. Tasha, Mangles, and WCC intern, Wei Ling facilitated.

Participants from Surya College came from the nursing school and most agreed that gender stereotypes exist. One male student commented that he would not mistreat his wife or partner in the future. The presentation ran smoothly: thank you Mr Ramadasen and Azlinda for making all of the arrangements.

The outreach team visited SMK St Xavier's and conducted the talk to the Lower Sixth students. It was a good mixture of female and male students. Some male students commented that the session highlighted most on the women's plight. The team suggested adding a male facilitator to discuss gender differences in conducting this programme to build better rapport with male participants.



# Personal Safety Programme for Youth



The WCC outreach team was invited to give talks on *ICT: Be Savvy, Be Safe* to three different schools (SMK Simpang Ampat, SMK Batu Kawan and SMK (C) Chung Hwa) between April and June. The talks create awareness on ICT violence and teach youth how to protect themselves from internet predators. They reached out to almost 360 students.

- On 11 April, Kae Shih conducted the talk in Mandarin at SMK Simpang Ampat. On 13 April, Nadia returned and gave the talk in Malay to their Forms 4 and 5 students. The talk consisted of two parts; *Circle of Friendship* followed by tips on using information communication and technology wisely.
- On 5 May, Nadia, Wei Lyn and Tasha went to Convent Pulau Tikus (CPT) to deliver the same talk to Form 2 students. The facilitators discovered that the students of CPT use the internet everyday at home and all of them have Facebook accounts.
- On 13 June, Kae Shih and volunteers, Lim Cheng Hwa and Tze Cheng, conducted the discussion in Mandarin at SMK Batu Kawan. They used a short video to help students understand the importance of having friends and building trusting relationships.
- On 27 June, Kae Shih went to SMK (C) Chung Hwa to facilitate two sessions to Forms 1 and 2 students. The talk was conducted in Mandarin.

## Child Sexual Abuse Programmes

As part of the Kempen Rakyat's one-year campaign on child sexual abuse (CSA), WCC invited to conduct the programme for the community.

### @ Desa Embun Emas

On 17 April, Susan Siew and Cindy Ruble facilitated a session at Desa Embun Emas community hall where 12 participants attended. A good display of CSA resources from WCC and Kempen Rakyat, brochures and T-shirts were exhibited.



### @ Sunshine Cottage Children Home

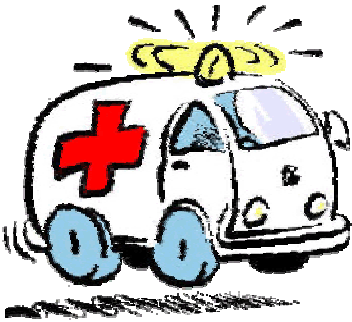
On 26 May, WCC visited Sunshine Cottage Children Home in Kulim, Kedah and conducted the child sexual abuse talk in Tamil. Approximately 25 participants from the Home's residents, staff and people from the neighborhood attended. Prema and Mangles facilitated the talk. Accompanying them were volunteers, Raadhe, Mala and Latha Vejjayan.

### @ MPSP Hall

On 12 June, The Women's Rights Awareness Association, the Bukit Mertajam clans & associations, organised a talk on child sexual abuse at MPSP hall. About 100 people from Jawatan Kuasa Kampung Kecil (JKKK), Rukun Tetangga, leaders from political service centers and parents attended. YB Chow Kon Yeow, a member of the Penang State Exco and State Assemblyman for Padang Kota, together with YB Chong Eng officiated. Annie represented WCC.

# Working with the Hospitals

## SCAN Seminar



On 9 & 10 May, Tasha attended the Suspected Child Abuse Neglect (SCAN) Seminar at Hospital Pulau Pinang. The SCAN team is comprised of pediatricians, gynecologists, psychiatrists, medical social workers, social welfare officers and the police. The SCAN team attends to child abuse/child sexual abuse cases reported at the Accident and Emergency unit or One-Stop Crisis Centre (OSCC) at the local general hospital. The speakers, professional doctors from the SCAN team, explained that members of this team were trained to help children feel comfortable when being examined and questioned in hospital. The SCAN team provides assessment, treatment and follow-up services to abused children.

During the seminar, Tasha presented a talk on *Peranan WCC Menangani Penderaan Seksual Kanak-kanak* on the second day. The audience enjoyed the video *Ok Tak Ok*. Tasha also met Staff Nurse Zakiah and Syafina, key people at OSCC in referring cases to WCC for the past two years. WCC's publications were well received.

## Dealing with Adolescent Patients

On 23 June, Dr Thiyagar Nadaraja from the Department of Pediatrics at the Hospital Sultan Abdul Halim, Sungai Petani, Kedah and Malaysia Pediatric Association invited WCC to speak at a workshop entitled *Dealing with Adolescent Patients*. Prema and Tasha gave a lecture on to 80 personnel from Sultanah Bahiyah Hospital, Sultan Abdul Halim Hospital and Kulim Hospital.

The participants received an overview of WCC and learned about our experience in handling rape victims. In the afternoon, the participants discussed gender differences and learned about the importance of working with young men to challenge the traditional ideology of masculinity which often promoted risk-taking behavior, misogyny, unsafe sexual practices, and violence. Prema pointed out that if we want men to think differently about women, they would have to be able to think about themselves differently first. We ended the day with a presentation on *Challenging Masculinities*.

WCC's materials were offered for sale. Thank you to our volunteers, Naweed and Ooi, who were in charge of sales.

## OSCC Meeting

On 31 May, Hospital Pulau Pinang organised their first One Stop Crisis Centre (OSCC) meeting with attendees from different agencies to discuss how the OSCC team could provide better support to victims of rape.

One of the issues discussed was extending the designation of 'cold case' to 96 hours (from the current 72) following an incidence of rape. Extending the time period is important because it may still be possible to detect drugs in the victim's body up to 96 hours post rape. Police are encouraged to bring victims reporting after 96 hours to the hospital on a working day because Medical Officers are not available after office hours.

The OSCC will also look into ways of improving the reporting system at the police counter in the hospital. Currently, victims are referred to the police station closest to where the rape occurred to lodge the police report. This often causes further stress to the victim.

Annie reported that from January to April, OSCC had referred 25 cases to WCC. WCC had attended 13 cases face-to-face and five via telephone calls while the rest of the victims could not be contacted.

Overall, it was a very fruitful meeting with medical personnel from OSCC, Forensic, Surgical, Chemistry, Pediatric and Medical Social Welfare departments from the hospital, WCC and Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat, coming together to look at the current support system and discussing how improvements may be implemented.

## Introducing Gender and Good Governance to Local Authority

On 16 June, Prema conducted a session with MPSP councilors and heads of departments at a workshop entitled *Introduction to Gender Equality in Good Governance in Local Authorities* organised by the Municipal Council of Seberang Perai in collaboration with KANITA, USM, and WCC. Dr Noraida from Kanita (also a WCC member) conducted the first session on *Gender and Substantive Equality* while Prema conducted the second session on *Gender, Good Governance and Local Government*.

Prema discussed the role of local government in providing services and meeting the people's needs. She pointed out that gender was often used as a way of talking only about women's issues and that the term gender referred to both men and women. Using a simple case study of safety on public transport, participants began to see that while men and women often faced similar problems in the community, their experiences were sometimes different.

Participants worked through different case studies involving safety issues, maintenance of parks and cleanliness of communities to identify the ways in which men and women were affected differently in these scenarios. Prema concluded the session by highlighting the absence of women's voice in local democracy and how it was necessary to hear these voices and concerns to adequately meet the needs of the people. Prof. Cecilia Ng and Dr. Noraida from Kanita and Sudandara Saminathan, a WCC exco member, facilitated.

## Baptist Seminary

On 9 June, Prema conducted a half-day briefing to the students of the Baptist Theological Seminary (BTS) on WCC's various youth programmes. The students were adult youth workers from a variety of countries including Bangladesh, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Thailand, and Malaysia. The session was interactive with participants asking lots of questions. Cindy Ruble and Poh Lerk Shih helped to answer questions and interact with participants. BTS purchased 17 sets of the *Bijak Itu Selamat* package and the *Respect* book. This briefing was made possible by Dr Rosalind Lim-Tan, Director of the Malaysian BTS HCD Institute and Dr Glenn Miles from Love146: End Child Sex Slavery and Exploitation.



## Advanced GRB Workshop

On 6-7 June, Prema attended a two-day training on Advanced Gender Responsive Budgeting organised by Good Governance and Gender Equality Society (3Gs) and Women's Development Research Centre (KANITA), USM Penang. This was a continuation of the first Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) workshop held in February.

This workshop conducted by Prof. Rhonda Sharp from the University of South Australia, aimed to enhance the capacity of participants to implement the 5-Step Approach to GRB, equipped the participants with additional tools and methodologies appropriate to Penang's Budget processes and strengthen the community of GRB practitioners in Penang. Most participants attended the February workshop and consisted of government officials, municipal councilors, academicians, and social activists.

## I'M A SURVIVOR

The hitting, the torture, the pain, and the tears...  
Something I lived through for a few years...  
The yelling, the slapping, the constant hate...  
All done by the man who I vowed as my mate...  
He locked me in a closet, he played Russian Roulette...  
Who was in charge, I'd never forget...  
He woke me with stabbings in the wall next to my head...  
He'd scare me awake and yank me out of bed...  
He said he'd find me if I ever left...  
My pride and my spirit, he committed that theft...  
He said he'd kill me if I found someone new...  
The fear of even thinking just grew and grew...  
Finally I escaped without blinking an eye...  
I was so happy, but had no tears left to cry...  
For awhile I was a victim of his controlling game...  
But now, I'M A SURVIVOR, with a life and a name...

~By Ladyinred~

Dedicated to all victims & survivors of domestic violence

(<http://www.lit.org/view/13710>)

# Rintihan hati seorang isteri..

Saya, Jaza berumur 33 tahun dan mempunyai tiga orang anak. Saya telah berkahwin ketika berumur 18 tahun dengan jejak pilihan keluarga. Tiga bulan selepas berkahwin, saya mula mengenali perangai sebenar suami.

Dia seorang yang panas baran, selalu memukul dan pernah sekali dia memukul ketika saya baru melahirkan anak sehingga perut saya bengkak. Dia dan ahli keluarganya juga melayan saya seperti hamba. Saya hanya dibenarkan makan selepas mereka makan dan kadang-kala terpaksa berlapar. Dia juga suka mengutuk bentuk badan saya dan sering mengatakan bahawa dia tidak berasa seronok ketika kami "make love". Hati saya sangat sakit dan berasa amat malu dengan diri sendiri. Namun, saya bersabar dan sentiasa berdoa agar suami saya akan berubah suatu hari nanti.



Saya pernah cuba melarikan diri pada tahun 2006 dengan abang saudaranya kerana tidak tahan lagi dengan penderaan suami. Namun begitu, dia berjaya mencari saya dan berjanji akan berubah dan akan menyayangi saya sekiranya saya pulang ke pangkuannya. Tetapi saya memang bodoh. Mulutnya sahaja berkata dia sudah memaafkan saya tetapi hatinya tidak. Setiap kali kami bergaduh, dia masih memukul dan mengungkit perkara lama. Ahli keluarga saya juga amat marah kerana mereka merasakan bahawa saya telah memalukan nama keluarga. Saya terasa seperti ingin membunuh diri tetapi saya bersabar demi anak-anak.

Pada Januari tahun ini, saya tidak sanggup bersabar lagi dengan keanasannya. Saya telah meninggalkan rumah bersama anak-anak dan berlindung di sebuah pusat perlindungan di Kuala Lumpur. Malangnya, dia berjaya menjejaki saya dan membawa saya pulang. Dia membogelkan saya dan mengikat tangan dan kaki saya dengan rantai besi. Dia kemudian menyuruh tiga orang lelaki untuk merogol saya sambil merakam perbuatan mereka dengan kamera video. Saya merayu pada mereka dan sangat bersyukur apabila mereka berhenti selepas meraba saya. Pada ketika itu, saya berasa seperti di dalam neraka.

Dia juga memaksa saya makan makanan yang mengandungi dadah dan menyuruh saya minum racun. Saya berasa sukar untuk bernafas dan muntah darah. Saya merayu untuk dihantar ke hospital tetapi dia langsung tidak mengendahkan saya. Pada malam itu, dia masih mengikat tangan dan kaki saya dan membiarkan saya tidur tanpa seurat benang.

Pada keesokan harinya, keadaan saya semakin teruk. Saya berasa sangat panas; dada seperti dibakar, telinga dan hidung mula berdarah dan berasa seakan-akan hendak pengsan pada bila-bila masa. Selepas suami keluar dari rumah, dengan berbekalkan segala kekuatan yang ada, saya berguling ke hadapan pintu lalu membuka pintu dan menjerit sekuat hati untuk meminta pertolongan jiran. Saya telah diselamatkan oleh polis dan dihantar ke hospital untuk rawatan.

Pihak polis berjaya menangkap suami dan dia telah direman untuk penyiasatan. Seminggu kemudian, saya kembali ke rumah perlindungan. Dengan bantuan pekerja sosial di sana, saya pergi ke Mahkamah Syariah untuk memohon penceraian dan hak penjagaan anak-anak. Tanpa melengahkan masa, saya meninggalkan Kuala Lumpur bersama anak-anak. Kini, saya berada di Pulau Pinang dan berasa sangat tenang dan gembira. Demi anak-anak, saya berjanji akan terus berjuang untuk maju sebagai seorang ibu tunggal.

# Participation

## FTX Workshop



The Feminist Tech Exchange (FTX) workshop was an APC WNSP initiative and was held 20-23 April. Twenty participants from organisations such as SAWO, WAO, SUARAM, Centre of Independent Journalism (CIJ) and Sahabat Wanita attended. Nadia represented WCC. Ceekay and Bobby Sariano from Tactical Technology Collective, Philippines, were the workshop facilitators. They were experienced in the field of Cyber Security and have worked with NGOs from all over the world.

The first day was full of ice breakers, an introduction to cyber security and a discussion on *Feminist Practices and Politics of Technology*. This discussion focused on how women approach technology in relationship to their upbringing, skills, financial status and fear of technology. The discussion highlighted the power imbalance in technology between men and women.

On the second and third days, the sessions focused personal online protection. Participants were introduced to free software that can protect computers and mobile phones from viruses, spyware, and malware and were taught how to make secure and strong passwords for online accounts. Next, participants were also given a tutorial on Safe Social Networking and discussed internet security and privacy. Risks of using social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter and personal protection were shared. Likewise, all the participants agreed that internet security was important; however, most believed that there was no such thing as 'privacy' online.

On the last day, Jac SM Kee from APC WNSP, shared techniques on how to protect information and privacy online. Jac also discussed internet governance and the role of APC in empowering women with the knowledge and skills to use technology. The next speaker, Sonia from CIJ, elaborated about the laws in Malaysia on cyber crime and their limitations. She also discussed internet censorship and the importance of regulating the internet. According to Sonia, there is no such thing as "internet privacy" in the penal code. The Data Protection Act 2010 excludes government agencies and do not comply with EU standards. Overall, the FTX workshop was informative and useful. The materials and information that were gathered will be used in WCC's *ICT: Be Smart Be Savvy* programme.



## Microfinance Programmes: Transforming or Reinforcing Gender Inequalities?

On 14 April, Mariam, Annie, and Sook Foong attended a talk on "Targeting Women in Microfinance Programmes: Transforming or Reinforcing Gender Inequalities? Evidence from Ethiopia" by Dr. Hirut

Bekele Haile organised by KANITA, USM. Dr. Hirut is an Ethiopian gender activist and her key areas of expertise include gender and development-related research, gender auditing, advocacy and networking on violence against women. In KANITA, she is working on microcredit and a women's empowerment research project.

Microfinance services to women have been largely based on the assumption that credit facilitates or expands women's self-employment opportunities and consequently leads to their empowerment. With that assumption, Dr. Hirut spoke about how her study explores when microfinance is extended to women can affect the intra-household division of labor and decision-making power. Her study compares impacts across two microfinance

institutions which operate in contrasting socio-cultural, economic structures and program strategies.

Her study revealed that microfinance services have significantly increased women's bargaining power within the household, and at the same time, led to an increase in their responsibility for household chores and child care. Women borrowers are not only liable to repay the business loan, but they also remain responsible for domestic chores. In this situation, microfinance interventions reinforced gender inequalities. Dr. Hirut further stressed that in order to promote women's empowerment and minimise the decline of the position of women and girls, policy makers should allocate more resources to enhance women's entrepreneurial skill development and promote child care services, especially in rural areas. In addition, she also suggested that a microfinancing institution should (a) design locally specific loan products, (b) design strategies to ensure women's control over loans, (c) promote women's access to the market, and (d) regularly monitor the impact of microfinancing strategies on gender relations.

# Advocacy

## High Level Meeting on Achieving Women Targets

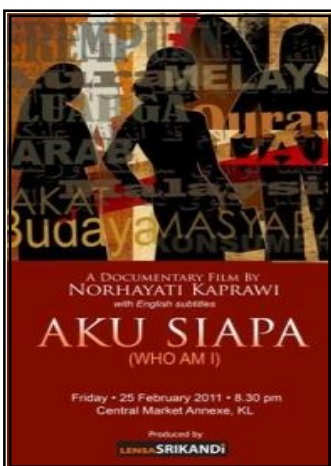
The Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development and NAM Institute for the Empowerment of Women jointly organised a high level meeting on Achieving the Targets of Malaysia's Policy on Women on 31 May at the Renaissance Hotel. Bringing women leaders and key corporate women together, the meeting dealt with four themes on a) Expanding Women's leadership and Participation b) Ending Violence against Women c) Enhancing Women's Economic empowerment and d) Making Gender Equality Priorities to Planning, Budgeting and Statistics. There were many suggestions and recommendations about how the situation of women can be improved in these four areas. Putting these recommendations into a reality remains a challenge. WCC executive director, Loh Cheng Kooi and member, Noraida Endut were participated at the meeting.

### Improving handling of CSA cases

Kempen Rakyat initiated a meeting with YB Phee Boon Poh, Exco for Welfare, Caring Society and Environment to discuss our concerns on the handling of child sexual abuse cases in Penang 2 June. Also present were the State Welfare Department Director, Encik Zuklifli Ismail and welfare officers from various districts as well as representatives from the police, Health Department and Penang Hospital. NGOs from various children's homes namely Children's Protection Society, St Joseph Home, Handicap Centre and WCC representatives attended. The lively meeting raised concerns on several sexual abuse cases that were poorly handled by agencies leading to frustrations of those helping. The meeting highlighted the need for improving their delivery systems and protocols and more sensitivity needed when handling such cases. WCC also raised the public's concern on status of the day care-cum-kindergarten where the co-owner has been found guilty of raping his 4 year old child under his care, which is still in operations.

### Capacity Building for Child Rights NGOs

The Malaysian Child Resource Institute (MCRI) invited WCC to join other Child Rights NGOs in Selangor to participate in one day's Expert Consultation on Capacity Building for Child Rights NGOs in Malaysia on 14 April. Recognising that child rights NGOs currently are poorly staff and lack training, participants discussed the proposed project of MCRI-UNICEF to map the capacity needs of these NGOs and the subsequent training of skills and knowledge on child rights for the staff and their volunteers in the hope of enhancing the capacity of these NGOs in the country. Participants fully support such an endeavour in the hope that it will bring about quality of service in children's homes and NGOs. Cheng Kooi attended the meeting on behalf of WCC.



### Tayangan Video 'Aku Siapa'

Pada 24 Jun, saya berpeluang menyaksikan tayangan "Aku Siapa" oleh Norhayati Kaprawi (Yati) yang dianjurkan oleh KANITA, USM. Yati, adalah seorang aktivis wanita dan juga seorang pembuat filem. Filem dokumentari yang ditayangkan selama 50 minit ini meneliti budaya pemakaian hijab oleh wanita dalam masyarakat Islam di Malaysia.

Pada pendapat saya, isu "berhijab" ini telah menjadi satu trend di kalangan wanita Muslim pada masa kini. Kebanyakan wanita Muslim ini tidak tahu mengapa mereka dikehendaki memakai hijab/tudung dan adakah wajib untuk memakai atau sebaliknya.

Saya terperanjat apabila wanita-wanita Muslim yang ditemuduga berkongsi pengalaman mereka di mana dalam era 1960-an dan 1970-an ustazah sendiri juga tidak bertudung dan "tudung" tidak pernah menjadi isu.

Tayangan ini membuat saya tertanya-tanya samada konsep "berhijab" ini adalah satu kewajipan atau satu paksaan yang dikenakan pada wanita Islam seperti saya. Apa yang pasti, konsep "berhijab" ini tidak patut dijadikan sebagai satu alasan untuk melindungi wanita seperti apa yang Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat berkata bahawa perempuan yang tidak menutup aurat patut dirogol!

Saya berharap isu seperti ini harus ditayangkan kepada umum kerana ianya adalah isu yg harus difikir dan diambil berat. Oleh itu saya berharap kita sebagai wanita harus berani menampilkan isu-isu yang kita rasakan penting agar suara dan pendapat para wanita akan dihormati oleh semua pihak. Saya juga berharap WCC akan terus memperjuangkan hak wanita.

# Letter to the Press

## A Giant Leap for Gender Equality

Press Statement by Joint Action Group for Gender Equality (JAG)

The Joint Action Group for Gender Equality (JAG) applauds Dato' Zaleha Yusof's decision in the Shah Alam High Court today in the matter of Noorfadilla Binti Ahmad Saikin v Chayed Bin Basirun & 5 Ors.

For the first time in Malaysian legal history, the court has held that the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) has the force of law and is binding on the Malaysian Government, and Article 8(2) of the FC must be read to comply with it.

In 2009, Noorfadilla had accepted the letter of offer to be a temporary teacher in a government school. When it was discovered that she was pregnant, the officer in charge retracted the offer. Noorfadilla then filed an application in court for damages, interest and costs, on the basis that the revocation of offer due to pregnancy is a form of gender discrimination. This is a prohibited ground of discrimination under Article 8(2) of the Federal Constitution (FC).

What constitutes "discrimination against women" and "gender discrimination" has not been decided in Malaysia prior to Noorfadilla's case.

Dato' Zaleha took the right step in referring to Article 1 of CEDAW to assist her in defining "discrimination against women". This includes both direct and indirect discrimination. She also referred to Article 11 of CEDAW which sets out the rights of women to work, and that pregnancy cannot be used as an excuse to stop women from working.

Direct discrimination is clear and has the purpose of discriminating. Indirect discrimination happens when the law, at face value, does not treat men and women differently. Even if the law does not intend to discriminate but results in actual discrimination against women, this is also indirect discrimination. The definitions of direct and indirect discrimination will be invaluable when women file cases of discrimination and equality in court.

The Court granted Noorfadilla damages to be assessed and interest. Noorfadilla's decision sends a clear and unequivocal message: withdrawal of job offer due to pregnancy is a form of gender discrimination, and this is prohibited under Article 8(2) of the FC.

The obvious is now law: women have a right to work even when they are pregnant.

Released by:

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*For and on behalf of the Joint Action Group for Gender Equality (JAG) which comprise:*

*All Women's Action Society (AWAM)*

*Perak Women for Women (PWW)*

*Sabah Women Action Resource Group (SAWO)*

*Sisters In Islam (SIS)*

*Women's Aid Organisation (WAO)*

*Women's Centre For Change, Penang (WCC)*

# Press Highlights...



**Sim:** We will study the needs of men and women in town planning, cleanliness and development of a safe city



**Dr Prema:** It's important for local authorities to adopt good governance



**Dr Noraida:** As the decision makers are always men, it is more likely they think and act from their perspective



**Rozali:** Sadly, gender bias still exists in the fields of economy, administration and politics

## MPSP to table gender responsive budget

THE Seberang Prai Municipal Council (MPSP) will for the first time table a budget for 2015 which ensures that the needs of both male and female are met equally.

Council secretary Rozali Mohamad said council president Maimunah Mohd Sharif conveyed the council's interest on the matter to Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Mohd Sidek Hassan during a meeting at the Putrajaya International Convention Centre on Wednesday.

He said the council was working with a non governmental organisation — Good Governance and Gender Equality Society (3Gs) Penang as well as Universiti Sains Malaysia's

Women's Development Research Centre (Kanita) on a three-year pilot project to explore the various scopes to implement, which he described as a gender responsive budget (GRB).

"The concept of gender equality is a basic understanding to achieve good governance.

"Sadly, gender bias still exists in the fields of economy, administration and politics," he said after delivering an opening address at the MPSP's 'Introduction to Gender Equality and Good Governance in Local Authorities' working laboratory at the council headquarters on Thursday.

3Gs Penang executive director

Steven Sim Chee Keong, who is also an MPSP councillor, said among the basic approaches for the GRB would be to conduct an analysis on determining the needs of both sexes.

"We will study the needs of men and women in town planning, cleanliness, transportation and in the development of a safe city. These are basic good governance concepts but now we have to deliberately put them in the gender lens because they are often ignored," he said.

Kanita deputy director Dr Noraida Endut said there was a general assumption that what was decided as 'best' was best-for-all, without

looking through the gender lens.

"And, because the decision makers are always men, it is more likely that their considerations took into account mostly from the male perspective only. GRB is a deliberate way of budgeting, where you look at the impact of finances on men and women, as well as areas where they intersect such as their socio-economic background."

Women's Centre for Change (WCC) Penang programme director Dr Prema Devaraj said it was important for the local authorities to adopt good governance.

"When you look at the principles of good governance, these principles need to be gender responsive."

STAR - 18 JUNE 2011

## 出生暴力家庭 重蹈母親覆轍

# 主婦遭夫毒打 自殺不死

"暴力"事件在這個文明社會不但從未停止過, 反而在暗地裡不斷滋長, 除了現時鬧得沸沸揚揚的校園暴力事件令人矚目結舌之外, "夫妻床頭打架床尾和"、"家醜不宜外揚"等俗語, 千百年來亦滲透進每一對夫妻、每一個家庭生活中, 這樣的俗語背後也都透露出一個詞彙——家庭暴力。家暴現象存在於社會每個角落多年, 許多受害者皆選擇啞忍不發, 但是, 面對家暴選擇隱忍是對的嗎?

今日的女主角成長於一個暴力家庭, 目睹母親慘遭父親毒打的當兒, 她曾暗中告訴自己: 以後我絕不讓我丈夫這樣打我! 沒想到, 這樣的惡運竟還是降臨在她身上, 結婚二十年來她多次被丈夫用刀恐嚇勒頸, 強逼她行賄。最痛苦的是, 他多次在孩子面前撕破她的衣服, 羞辱她和威脅她。

不堪被折磨的二十年來, 她自殺過無數次, 腦海中每天想的就是怎樣死, 如何死, 更多次萌生帶著孩子們一起去跳海自盡的念頭……



向家暴說不 (四之一)

林春蓮

許神華、蔡承祖

婦女服務中心協理劉曉蘭(左) 讓受害人了解暴力是一項什麼樣的罪行, 並對問題的婦女應該如何尋求協助, 如何逃離和保護自己的安全計劃, 右為本報記者。



One of the articles of a client from PPW who had experienced of physical and mental abuse interviewed by a reporter from Guang Ming Daily. Since the articles were published, face-to-face and telephone counselling cases handled by PPW have increased significantly.

# Vacancy

## WCC Finance and Administrative Officer

### Job Requirements

1. Responsible for the preparation and maintenance of the accounts and finance of WCC
2. Involved in the preparation of budget proposals, financial reporting to donors and sponsors
3. Responsible for the overall administration of the WCC
4. Prepare monthly balance sheet and surplus/deficit reports, and other reports as and when required.
5. Perform bank reconciliation for all accounts and reconciliation of petty cash account.
6. Coordinate payroll processing.

### Qualifications

1. A degree or higher diploma in Accounting
2. Minimum 2-3 years work experience in accounting, bookkeeping and administrative support
3. Proficient in accounting software, Word, Excel and other basic computer skills (email, internet)

### Personal Qualities

1. Good written and oral communication skills
2. Good interpersonal skills

Interested candidate, please email directly to [wcc@wccpenang.org](mailto:wcc@wccpenang.org)

## PPW Project Officer

Pusat Perkhidmatan Wanita (PPW), Seberang Perai is looking for a person who is motivated, creative and energetic, works well in a team and committed towards the goal for the elimination of violence against women and children. PPW is a project of Penang state Women, Family and Community Development Committee and managed by WCC.

The person is expected to undertake the following responsibilities:

1. Provide counseling for women, especially Indian and Malay clients
2. Organise and conduct general awareness programmes and specifically for the Indian and Muslim communities
3. Liaise and network with government agencies and NGOs to improve services for women and children
4. Assist in the administration of the office.

### Job Requirements:

1. A degree in social work or any related field with at least two years working experience.
2. Strong interpersonal skills and ability to work in multi-ethnic environment.
3. Able to speak Tamil, Bahasa Malaysia and English is an advantage. Good writing skills is an asset.
4. A driving licence is an added advantage

Interested candidate, please email directly to [ppwsp@streamyx.com](mailto:ppwsp@streamyx.com) and [wcc@wccpenang.org](mailto:wcc@wccpenang.org)