

WORKING TOGETHER FOR CHANGE

Dell Giving On-boarding | Family Portrait Event | WCC Jumbo Sale

CHANGING MINDS & LIVES

Protecting Our Children | Working with Communities | Healthy Relationships

ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE

Improving Handling of Sexual Crimes | Updating Resource Materials

CHANGE IS POSSIBLE

Our Exciting First Half of 2019



WCC Happenings

WCC & Dell WORKING TOGETHER FOR CHANGE

WCC On-boarding as Dell Giving Organisation



In March, WCC was successfully on-boarded as an official Dell Giving organisation. The on-boarding ceremony was held on 19 March at Dell's Global Business Centre, in the presence of its key leaders including Corina Tan, General Manager of the Dell Penang site, Ed Loya, Senior Vice President of Human Resources for Corporate Services, and Dell Women in Action (WiA) Malaysia Chapter Leader Teoh Ean Na. Joining this special occasion were WCC representatives, president Susan Siew, immediate past president Mariam Lim and executive director Loh Cheng Kooi, as well as Penang Women's Development Corporation (PWDC) CEO Ong Bee Leng.

Family Portrait Event

On 27 May, WCC collaborated with Dell to organise a special Family Portrait event for 21 families comprising single parents and their children as part of our Mother's Day celebration. The event was held at the Caring Society Complex.

WCC arranged for the families' attendance, while 53 Dell volunteers were divided into hair and makeup artists, photographers and assistants. The mothers and teenage daughters had their hair and makeup done before each family was photographed together, while younger children participated in colouring activities to keep them busy.

Each family will later be presented with their portrait, nicely framed. The event was a meaningful one for all involved, especially the families who rarely had such opportunities for makeovers and professional photographs to be taken of them.



A Dell volunteer, Choi Quen, expressed:

“At first, some of the children came in and were not smiling, but after they had fun with various activities, it was so good to see them smile! I am glad that I had the opportunity to volunteer.”

WCC Jumbo Sale

On 22 and 23 June, WCC successfully organised a massive Jumbo Sale of donated pre-loved items at our Penang Office as part of our fundraising efforts in support of WCC's work.

The generosity of our donors was overwhelming : we received thousands of pieces of clothing, household items, accessories, toys and more. Working together with our staff, 170 volunteers from Dell and around 20 volunteers from the WCC Value Shop, we sorted the huge amount of donated goods in preparation for the sale, and handled the sale event as well. A Silent Auction of premium donated items was also carried out during the sale.

Response from the public was excellent, with hundreds of shoppers attending both days of the sale. We are delighted to have achieved our fundraising target, and our heartfelt gratitude goes to all our generous donors, volunteers and shoppers.



IWD 2019 Events with Corporations



For International Women's Day (IWD) this year, we were invited to join four corporations :

- On 1 March, WCC past president Mariam Lim spoke to 200 employees at Keysight Technologies' annual IWD celebration, themed "Balance For Better", celebrating the diversity of Keysight's workforce and the contributions of women in the company. Keysight employees also organised a donation drive for pre-loved clothing for the WCC Value Shop.

- On 7 March, Mariam was part of a Dell Penang IWD panel discussion on "Leadership Lessons from the Top : She Says, He Says" which also featured other invited industry leaders. Dell's WiA Penang Chapter also organised a rice soap sale where the total proceeds of RM7,082 were donated to WCC.
- On 8 March, WCC executive director Loh Cheng Kooi gave an IWD talk at Hewlett-Packard in Batu Kawan on "Rising Together for Gender Equality".
- Also on 8 March, WCC programme director Karen Lai spoke on "Empowering Women, Enhancing Communities" at the KPMG office for their IWD celebration.

On 30 March, WCC president Susan Siew, treasurer Mary Ang, programme director Karen Lai and volunteer Lalitha Menon participated in the inaugural "Inspiring Future Leaders Conference" organised by the Penang Women's Chamber of Commerce (PWCC). WCC also set up a promotional booth at the conference, which was attended by around 400 delegates and officiated by the Chief Minister of Penang, YAB Chow Kon Yeow.

Protecting Our Children: OK Tak OK



Educating our children on good touch and bad touch in order to prevent sexual abuse through WCC's *OK Tak OK* programme continues to be a part of our Outreach team's core work as cases of child sexual abuse (CSA) continue to rise. From January to June 2019, the WCC outreach team, including staff from WCC Seberang and volunteers, reached out to a total of 861 children from 10 primary schools and one children's home.



Working with Educators: Bijak Itu Selamat (BIS) Follow-Up Workshop

A *Bijak itu Selamat* (BIS) follow-up workshop was organised by WCC on 23 January at Hotel Ixora, Perai, Penang. This workshop was targeted at school counsellors who were already conducting the *OK Tak OK* programme in schools towards the prevention of child sexual abuse (CSA). A total of 40 teachers representing 36 schools attended the workshop.



The main objectives of the workshop were to provide support, motivate and sharpen the knowledge and skills of teachers in running the *OK Tak OK* programme. It also provided a platform for participants to share their experiences and challenges faced when they run the programme.

Topics presented included legal scenarios of CSA in Malaysia, tips in answering children's questions, and ways to communicate with children when they disclose CSA. WCC also invited some of our key volunteers to share their experiences when conducting the *OK Tak OK* programme in schools.



The participants felt that the objectives of the workshop were achieved and that they were better equipped to run the *OK Tak OK* programme in schools. Participants also agreed that such workshops should be held again in future as they found it highly beneficial.

“Semoga program ini dapat dikekalkan untuk membantu mereka yang memerlukan info berkenaan penderaan seksual”

– Peserta

WCC's heartfelt thanks goes to the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Malaysia for their funding along with the support from the State Education Department.

Child Safety Training Workshop



On 16 February, WCC collaborated with Johor Women's League (JEWEL) to conduct a one-day child safety workshop for 58 teachers from SK Sri Amar and SK Bukit Mutiara, in Johor Bahru. The purpose of the workshop was to raise awareness on the importance of child safety as well as to train them in skills to handle related issues. The workshop was conducted by WCC staff S.Mangleswary and Sara Ayuni.

The first part of the workshop focused on exposing the teachers to child development and growth so that they could understand the difference between the normal behaviour of a child, and behaviour that could indicate that the child was being sexually abused. This was followed by a session on how to teach children about bodily safety. The teachers were presented with many creative approaches such as songs, dance movements, pictures and storytelling to teach children about body parts and ways to stay safe. The second part of the workshop looked into understanding child sexual abuse and a teacher's role in reporting and supporting child victims.

Learning to Be Safe Online: Cybersafety Programme



With current technology, it is of utmost importance that all students are educated about staying safe online. WCC's Cybersafety programme is not only designed to help students be responsible and respectful online users but also to help them learn to protect themselves from being bullied or harassed online.



During the first half of the year, WCC was invited to run its Cybersafety programme in 4 schools and one children's home in Penang, reaching out to approximately 172 secondary school students.

The programme began with the facilitator explaining the concepts of cybergrooming, cyberbullying, cyberstalking, and sexting. Each concept was supported by a video clip and explanation on methods of prevention.

After that, the facilitator spoke about how to build healthy relationships - setting boundaries among friends, whether physical touch means love, how one defines trust and segregating trust levels based on the type of friend. Interactive activities and Q&A sessions were included throughout the session.

Role-play sessions were also carried out with students by acting out scenes of how they would approach and befriend someone they met in real life and online. The facilitator explored with the students the differences between an online friend and a real friend. The last session focused on the students' negotiation and conflict management skills.

At the end of the session, the facilitator emphasised the importance of telling a trusted adult if the students found themselves in trouble, or if they knew of a friend who needed help. The students were attentive and very responsive throughout the programme and it received positive feedback from the students, teachers and volunteers.

Learning About Healthy Relationships: **Respek, Relationships & Me**

From January to June, WCC received invitations from four schools to conduct our *Respek* talk for their students, and reaching out to 206 teenagers. This talk educated young minds about healthy relationships and raised awareness about toxic masculinity. The two-hour programme consisted of interactive activities such as showing videos, group discussions, presentations by participants and a Q&A session.



Each *Respek* session included the green and red card game, which helped the students understand the concept of sexual harassment and appropriate behaviour between both sexes. A few students volunteered to demonstrate appropriate versus inappropriate behaviour to the others. Two real-life cases were shared with the students to enable them to better understand preventive measures should they encounter such incidents.

WCC staff Nisham Kour conducted a two hour session on "Relationships & Me" for 38 Indian students in SMK Permai Indah on 19 April. The facilitator began by exploring the concept of love; how do young girls define love and why they choose to have an early love relationship. Then, a short video, "Vayasu" was played. The video showed how the antagonist took advantage of and exploited the female character.

Nisham then discussed with the students the potential risks of having an early love or sexual relationship, including the consequences of engaging in an early sexual relationship, and ways to protect themselves. The students' personal values and goals were explored to help them acknowledge their abilities and strengths in achieving their dreams. The students actively participated in the programme and thoroughly enjoyed it.



WCC was also invited by the Penang Wadda Gurdwara to give a talk to a small group of young teenage girls during the Vaisakhi celebration week on 13 April. WCC staff Nisham Kour, Yeap Yen Ying and Hastiny Subramaniam facilitated a two-hour session on "Relationships & Me" for them. The first part of the programme was a discussion about love relationships, followed by a screening and discussion on WCC video, *Mabuk Cinta*.

The video is about two teenagers developing a love relationship while in secondary school and the lengths the girl goes through to please her boyfriend in the relationship. The facilitators then led a discussion with participants on the importance of building a healthy relationship. The participants enjoyed the programme and gave positive feedback:

"Good talk. I have learnt a lot. Thank you! Hope to get more talks from WCC".

Talks on Gender Based Violence: Working with Community Nurses

On 20 June, WCC conducted a session at Pejabat Kesihatan Barat Daya on the different roles taken by WCC in assisting domestic violence victims. The talk was attended by 23 community nurses. Fun and interactive methods such as role play and storytelling were used during the session.

Participants expressed the constraints faced when assisting victims. Issues highlighted were mainly on the lack of knowledge of available referral options and resources, as well as skills to handle victims. At the end of the session, the nurses were made aware of how WCC can help in providing support for such victims.

Working with College Students



WCC conducted two lectures on gender-based violence on 25 February and 29 April respectively for students of Penang Medical College, and another one on intimate partner violence with psychology students from Distd College on 22 March. A total of 62 students benefited from these talks.

The purpose of these lectures was to raise awareness on gender-based violence and to challenge victim blaming attitudes. A participatory learning methodology was used, where the students were encouraged to be more engaged in the discussions. Overall, the students said that they were able to understand the issues better.

Memperkenalkan Peranan WCC Tentang Keganasan Rumah Tangga



Pada 13 Mei hingga 17 Mei, pihak WCC telah dijemput untuk memberikan ceramah sempena Minggu Kesedaran Mental dan Keganasan Rumah Tangga di 8 buah Klinik Kesihatan Daerah Timur Laut tentang peranan WCC dalam mengendalikan keganasan rumah tangga.

Pekerja Sosial WCC, Noor Faizah Abu Hassan telah mewakili WCC untuk menyampaikan ceramah yang bertajuk "Keluarga Bahagia Tanggungjawab Bersama" kepada sebanyak 280 orang awam yang datang mendapatkan rawatan di klinik-klinik tersebut. Beliau turut dibantu oleh Pekerja Sosial Kanan, S.Mangleswary dan beberapa orang sukarelawan WCC.

Ceramah ini dimulakan dengan pengenalan mengenai WCC dan bagaimana WCC membantu mangsa keganasan rumahtangga, termasuk usaha untuk menyatupadukan semula keluarga demi menghentikan keganasan. Penceramah juga berkongsi maklumat mengenai bagaimana dan di mana peserta-peserta boleh mendapatkan bantuan sekiranya mereka melihat sesiapa yang mengalami keganasan rumah tangga.

Sambutan daripada para peserta amat menggalakkan dan ada peserta yang mendekati pihak WCC untuk maklumat lanjut bagi mendapatkan bantuan.

"Program seperti ini harus terus dijalankan kerana isu rumahtangga dianggap sangat sensitif dan kebanyakan mereka tidak tahu di mana mereka boleh mendapatkan pertolongan",

– Peserta

OSCC Interagency Meeting

The first One Stop Crisis Centre (OSCC) interagency meeting this year was held on 8 April. The meeting was attended by 53 representatives from government hospitals, health clinics, the police and welfare departments. WCC's representatives S.Mangleswary, Ooi Say Tee and Noor Faizah Abu Hassan shared about the positive impact of WCC's collaboration with the main and district hospitals, where clients experiencing domestic violence and sexual assault have been able to access their rights and receive the needed support.

Discussion then followed on the different awareness programmes on child protection that were conducted by the various agencies present.

Mangles shared about WCC's *OK Tak OK* programme, which was well received. WCC was also requested to present on all its other outreach programmes at the next interagency meeting as the participants were interested to see how WCC can support outreach work for their agencies.

Working with Local Communities



The Sri Satya Sai Baba Centre of Brown Garden collaborated with WCC on 4 May to organise a two-hour pilot workshop on enhancing communication between couples. It was attended by 20 couples. The couples were taught simple self-practice methods that can be used in their daily life. They also learnt to identify their own and their partner's love language and to show more appreciation towards each other.

The interactive and creative activities introduced during the workshop had the room filled with laughter and participants said they looked forward to more sessions like this.



A separate programme on safe and healthy relationships was conducted in collaboration with MPKK Lengkok Bawah. The 28 April programme saw 20 participants being taught how to use their feelings to identify whether they were in a safe relationship. The crowd was a mix of single and married participants of different ages. Some of the older participants shared their insights on married life, emphasising the importance of mutual respect.

Promotional Booths



WCC volunteers and staff were kept busy running 15 promotional booths from January to June, including several during the month of March in conjunction with International Women's Day. Promotional booths are important avenues for WCC to reach members of the public and various target groups in order to raise awareness about our services and programmes.

Majlis Berbuka Puasa

Pada 8 Mei, pihak Eastin Hotel Pulau Pinang telah menjemput seramai 25 orang ibu tunggal dan anak-anak mereka untuk bersama-sama berbuka puasa di Eastin Hotel. Pihak hotel turut memberikan "duit raya" kepada 11 orang kanak-kanak yang hadir. Majlis tersebut amat bermakna untuk para ibu dan anak-anak yang hadir sebagai peluang untuk merapatkan silaturahim di bulan Ramadan.

CHANGING LIVES

Story One – Puan S: Enduring Violence for Family's Sake

When Puan S visited WCC in Nov 2018, she was scared, confused and deeply traumatised. She broke down several times during her first session with WCC's social worker when she related numerous episodes of extreme violence perpetrated by her husband.

Puan S suffered all forms of violence including physical, emotional, sexual and financial violence as well as social isolation. The violence started within the first year of marriage when her husband attacked her with a "parang" and cut her thigh. After the incident, Puan S went back to her parents' house but they urged her to reconcile. Puan S eventually gave in when her husband promised to repent and reminded her of the need to keep the family unit together. But the cycle of violence repeated itself, worsening after each episode. Her husband stopped her from visiting her family members and held her ATM card.

Her husband has 3 wives, and he only came to her house once a month for 2 hours at a time. He treated the visits as an obligation. There was no interaction between husband and wife or between father and children. He would just sit on the sofa playing with his phone.

Puan S lost her self-esteem as a result of her violent marriage. She had willingly sacrificed everything for the sake of maintaining the image of a "happy" family and to avoid the stigma of being a single mother despite the fact that she held a senior position in a company and was earning a high salary.

After counselling sessions with WCC's social worker who empathised with her situation and reaffirmed her ability to raise her two children on her own, Puan S understood that she had been blind-sided into accepting the cycle of violence and abuse for the sake of keeping

up a false front. Puan S then realised that her marriage had irretrievably broken down due to her husband's acts of violence, neglect and infidelity. She decided that it was time to move on. She has now regained her self-worth and confidence and has decided to leave the toxic relationship by initiating divorce proceedings.

Story Two – Mavis: Working Through Marital Differences

Mavis* has been married to her husband for two years. When Mavis' husband wanted something, he would do everything in his power to get it, but when it came to her wishes, or her family's, he would selfishly make excuses and avoid fulfilling them. Mavis felt disrespected.

When Mavis became pregnant, she was extremely taken aback to learn that her husband was not happy about her pregnancy, as he was not ready to be a father. As a result, she had to attend numerous pre-natal checkups on her own, which worsened their relationship.

Mavis admitted that she was always jealous as she felt insecure about her husband's whereabouts and friendships with other women. They also constantly argued over this. The extreme stress Mavis faced affected her daily routine. She knew that even if she and her husband tried to stay together, their poor communication patterns would repeat themselves. However, both Mavis and her husband came from families where divorce was considered a cultural taboo.

Mavis sought help from WCC for counselling. The social worker who attended to Mavis helped her explore her coping mechanisms and encouraged her to practice "thought-stopping" and "diaphragmatic breathing" techniques to help Mavis regain control of her thoughts and emotions. Mavis began focusing on herself and started diverting her negative thoughts by getting busy with preparations for her baby. Not long after, she and her husband began reconnecting slowly. There were improvements in their relationship as they continued to work on it.

*Not their real names.

Story Three – Kim: Betraying A Child's Trust

Kim* is 8 years old and like many other children her age, she is a lively and cheerful girl. One day, when her mother returned home from a short trip, Kim disclosed the ordeal she had been facing for nearly three years during her private art lessons.

Kim had been attending art tuition with Mr. Lim* who was a private tutor. The tuition would take place in Mr. Lim's home.

The first encounter occurred when Kim was 5 years old. It happened in Mr. Lim's bathroom. He had followed her when she went to the bathroom. He suggested that they play a "game" and subsequently removed her panties. He touched her private parts and asked if she enjoyed the feeling of being touched. Kim replied "No!" and he assured her that very soon she would learn to enjoy it.

The molestation continued throughout their lessons together. Mr Lim exposed Kim to pornography. He even suggested that they have sex but Kim rejected him saying that her parents might find out about it.

Mr Lim constantly told Kim not to reveal anything to anyone, especially her parents and her sister. Eventually, Kim stopped attending lessons with Mr. Lim.

Upon learning what had happened, Kim's mother, Mrs. Fong*, was shocked and devastated. She was adamant about reporting the matter to the authorities and wanted to seek justice for Kim. A friend of hers referred her to WCC.

WCC's social worker explored the case and explained to her that what Mr Lim did was a serious criminal act. She filed a police report against Mr. Lim. Mrs Fong was relieved to know that WCC would support Kim and the family all the way through the criminal justice process.

He started to beat, slap, kick and punch her body and face until it was swollen and bluish.



Story Four – Nurul: Drug-fuelled violence in the home

Nurul* was a mother of 4 children who enjoyed the first 10 years of her marriage. She had a responsible husband who was a loving father to their children. In their 11th year of marriage, everything changed. Her husband started behaving strangely and became violent. She didn't understand what was going on until the day she found a packet of drugs in their room. Despite Nurul knowing that her husband's siblings were drug addicts and that her father-in-law drank 'ketum', she never expected that her husband would succumb to drugs.

That one year felt like hell to Nurul. Her husband would beat her almost 2 to 3 times a week. One morning, over a minor matter, her husband pulled her into the middle of the paddy field. He started to beat, slap, kick and punch her body and face until it was swollen and bluish. After using her as an object to release his anger, her husband tried to undress her. Nurul managed to escape and brought her 4 children to her aunt's house. Her aunt then brought her to WCC for help.

WCC social worker held several counselling sessions with Nurul. She wanted to get out of her current life. She could not stand her violent husband anymore. As her husband was already arrested by the Agensi Anti Dadah Kebangsaan (National Anti Drug Agency) for rehabilitation purposes, Nurul was able to return home to her children. WCC's social worker helped Nurul plan for a new life for herself and her 4 children.

*Not their real names.

Training Stakeholders On Handling Sexual Crime Cases

Investigating Officers Training



On 18 February, WCC partnered with the Penang PDRM to organise a training session for police investigating officers (IOs) from its Sexual, Women and Child Investigation (D11) Division on handling child sexual abuse cases. The training was funded by the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI).

The one-day training was conducted at the Penang Senior Police Officers' Mess. The objectives of the training were to equip participants with the skills and knowledge to be more sensitised and responsive when handling child sexual abuse cases.

The training was attended by 36 police investigating officers (with equal numbers of women and men) from all 5 districts of Penang state.

Alongside trainers from WCC, speakers were invited from key agencies to expose participants to the issues arising in cases of sexual crimes against children. WCC Advocacy Officer, Nadila Daud, gave

ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE

an overview of WCC's work and important aspects of victim support services for children. Puan Baizura Kamal, Head of the Sexual Crimes and Domestic Violence Prosecution Unit of the Attorney General's Chambers, trained participants on the evidentiary requirements under the Sexual Crimes against Children Act 2017, especially on child grooming.

Bukit Aman's Head of Child Investigation Unit (under the D11 Division), DSP Saroja Egamparam, spoke in detail on police investigation procedures for sexual crimes against children. Participants were also exposed to the different perspectives and services provided by other agencies in investigating sexual crimes against children by two trainers, Dr Kwanhathai Darin Wong from the One Stop Crisis Centre (OSCC) Penang Hospital and Puan Nurul Huda from the Jabatan Bantuan Guaman (JBG).

To facilitate practical application of their learning, the participants were divided into groups to discuss case studies and make group presentations on how they would handle the investigation of the scenarios given in the case studies.

Overall, the training session was well received by the participants with many of them giving feedback that they were now more aware of how to handle child sexual crime cases.



Court Interpreters Training



On 23 February, WCC collaborated with the Chief Registrar's Office of the Federal Court of Malaysia to conduct a half-day training for court interpreters from the Penang, Kedah and Perlis courts on handling sexual crime cases in a sensitive and child-friendly way. This training was also funded by CFLI. The training was held at the Alor Setar court complex, and attended by 35 court interpreters and Subordinate Court Registrars from Penang, Kedah and Perlis.

The trainers were WCC Advocacy Officers, Nadila Daud and Hastiny Subramaniam. In the first session, the participants were exposed to victims' perspectives to understand their challenges in court. WCC's video "*Suara Saksi Rentan*" (Voices of Vulnerable Witnesses) was also shown.

The second session was on special measures including support facilities available for child victims in court, and the role of court interpreters in ensuring those facilities are provided for the victims. The participants were then given some case studies and discussed what their approach would be in the various scenarios. The session ended with a screening of one of WCC's videos, *Menghadapi Proses Mahkamah*.

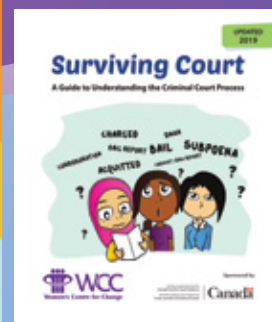


Many participants expressed that they had improved their skills and knowledge to be more child-friendly when handling child sexual crime cases in the courts.

We have updated our Surviving Court Booklet!

Our booklets have been updated in line with the current laws with the support of Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives.

Available at **RM10** per copy.
Contact wcc@wccpenang.org



WARRIORS FOR CHANGE

Kanapathy Supramaniam and Wong Soon Lan are two of WCC's dedicated volunteers in our Outreach team. They help conduct OK Tak OK programmes in schools. Here, they share what they find most meaningful about their volunteerism with WCC.

Mr Kana

I've been with WCC for four years. I was involved with many organisations before that, including temple and charity activities. My job is very flexible so I have time to volunteer. I noticed that WCC was short of volunteers and felt moved to contribute my time and energy to this great cause.



I believe that if I can change even one child's life by educating them on 'good touch' and 'bad touch', I will be happy. This is what encourages me to continue volunteering and doing outreach. In fact, I get excited whenever I get a call from WCC, as I am eager to help!

Before I joined WCC, I had no knowledge of child sexual abuse. I have since learnt about how prevalent this issue is in Malaysia. It is rampant even in urban areas like Penang. Now, I educate my friends and colleagues about how to help their children identify "good touch" and "bad touch". It's a taboo topic in Asian culture and it is important that parents take the initiative to talk to their children about this.

I feel that I'm making an important difference in the community. When we go into schools, children can understand the limits of allowing other people to touch them. It is good for schools and parents to know that WCC is always there to support in cases of child sexual abuse.

A funny memory I have is when a WCC staff and I were looking for the school we were supposed to conduct the *OK Tak OK* programme at. We drove around for an hour. The GPS kept bringing us back to the same spot. Finally, we had to ask a postman and a TNB guy. They eventually directed us to the school. It was so remote!

There is a saying which inspires me: *"If you help someone you know, you will be blessed. If you help people that you don't know, all your*

descendants will be blessed." I hope those who volunteer will take this message to heart.

Soon Lan

I am a tuition teacher. Maybe because of this, I naturally feel very connected to children and it's easy for me to communicate well with them.



I became involved in volunteering with WCC because I want to prevent children from getting abused. I want them to know that if it does happen, then they should know where to get help. I always tell them, if anything happens, and your parents don't trust you and your friends laugh at you, WCC will always be there for you.

In the *OK Tak OK* programme that I am involved in I talk to children about "good touch" and "bad touch". You must impress upon children the gravity of the situation. They have to understand how abuse could affect their lives if it happens to them.

Every time a child comes to me and opens up, I feel so touched. I always thank God for letting the children open their hearts and come to me, to tell me something.

Volunteering means making a change – you need to really know what you want to achieve and what your purpose is. We don't care about money. You have to want to give back to society. This is my responsibility, as a human being. I must know how to protect the young and vulnerable.

I really want to thank WCC for providing such strong support to its volunteers, for listening to our voices. Thank you for giving me a chance to make a difference in people's lives.

*Interview by Maneesha Kaur Khalaе.
Photography by Chew Sherlyn.*

RAPED AND A SINGLE MOTHER AT 16

“I never thought that a person I knew and trusted would rape me. I was only 16 when I found out I was pregnant. At that time, I was “serabut” (confused and unclear)”.

Lily* knew Joe* from a long time ago through one of her friends. Lily was 16, studying in Form 4. Joe was 23 and unemployed. They became good friends. One day, Joe invited Lily to a hotel. Curious about the purpose of the invitation, Lily followed him. *“At first, I was confused about why he suddenly invited me to a hotel. But I trusted him and decided to follow him.”*

Once they reached the hotel room, Joe pushed her into the room and forced himself on her. She tried to run away from him but he managed to drag her back into the room. He pinned her down on the bed and raped her. He also recorded the act using his mobile phone. Lily was severely traumatised and cried in pain. Joe promised her that he would be responsible for what had happened and told her not to tell anyone about it.

After the incident, Joe frequently visited her at her house to ensure that she didn't tell anyone about the incident. He knew her vulnerability and took advantage of it. He kept assuring her that he would take full responsibility if Lily ever got pregnant. In one of their meetings, Lily managed to delete the recorded video from his phone. She was uncertain whether or not to tell her parents about the incident. However, she started to distance herself from Joe.

A few months went by and Lily noticed that she had missed her monthly period. She went to a health clinic for a medical check-up but was referred to a government hospital. The doctor who examined her found that she was four months pregnant. Lily had no choice but to disclose the incident to her parents. Her parents were very upset and angry at her for not speaking up earlier. At the same time, they were devastated. Lily felt ashamed and shattered. It was then that they decided to lodge a report about the rape.

At the One Stop Crisis Centre (OSCC) of the government hospital, Lily was examined and referred to WCC Seberang office for counselling. Lily blamed herself for causing a lot of trouble to her parents. She was unsure what to do at the first counselling session with a WCC social worker. WCC's social worker assured Lily that it was not her fault. Lily felt relieved and stopped blaming herself for what had happened.

An Investigating Officer (IO) from the police department was assigned to her case. Lily was informed by her IO that Joe had been arrested. She was once again shattered when the IO informed her that Joe refused to admit that he had raped her and would not take any responsibility for the baby. Lily and her family were approached by Joe's mother who proposed that Joe and Lily get married. Lily and her parents turned down the proposal in disgust. They were determined to take action against Joe.

Lily had no choice but to stop schooling and stay in a welfare shelter home until she gave birth. Unfortunately, the investigation of the case had to be delayed as a DNA test could only be performed after the baby was born. During this time, Joe was released under police bail. A few months later when the baby was born, the DNA test result turned out to be positive. The IO immediately transferred the case to the prosecution office so that further action could be taken.

**Not their real names.*

Lily went back to school. She focused on her studies and managed to complete her schooling. After that, she managed to secure a job, with which she was able to support herself and her baby. Her parents were also very supportive by taking care of her baby while she worked.

Lily was informed by her IO that Joe was supposed to be charged in court but had failed to attend court several times. The court issued a warrant of arrest against him and the police marked him as a wanted person. After about nine months, Joe was arrested and charged in court for statutory rape, and was not offered any bail.

Three years had passed since the time of the rape incident until the time Joe was re-arrested. Lily and her parents received a summons which required them to attend court to testify in the case. WCC's social worker and advocacy officer accompanied them to court, explained the court process and showed them the court room settings, which helped to reduce their anxiety.

On the first day of the trial, Joe pleaded guilty. He was sentenced to 5 years' jail and 1 stroke of the cane.

Lily shared what the experience in court was like for her:

"At first, I felt very anxious and was shivering most of the time. The (court) environment was very intimidating. It had been a painful experience and it was difficult for me to recall and tell the court what had happened 3 years ago. I felt very relieved when I heard that he had pleaded guilty."

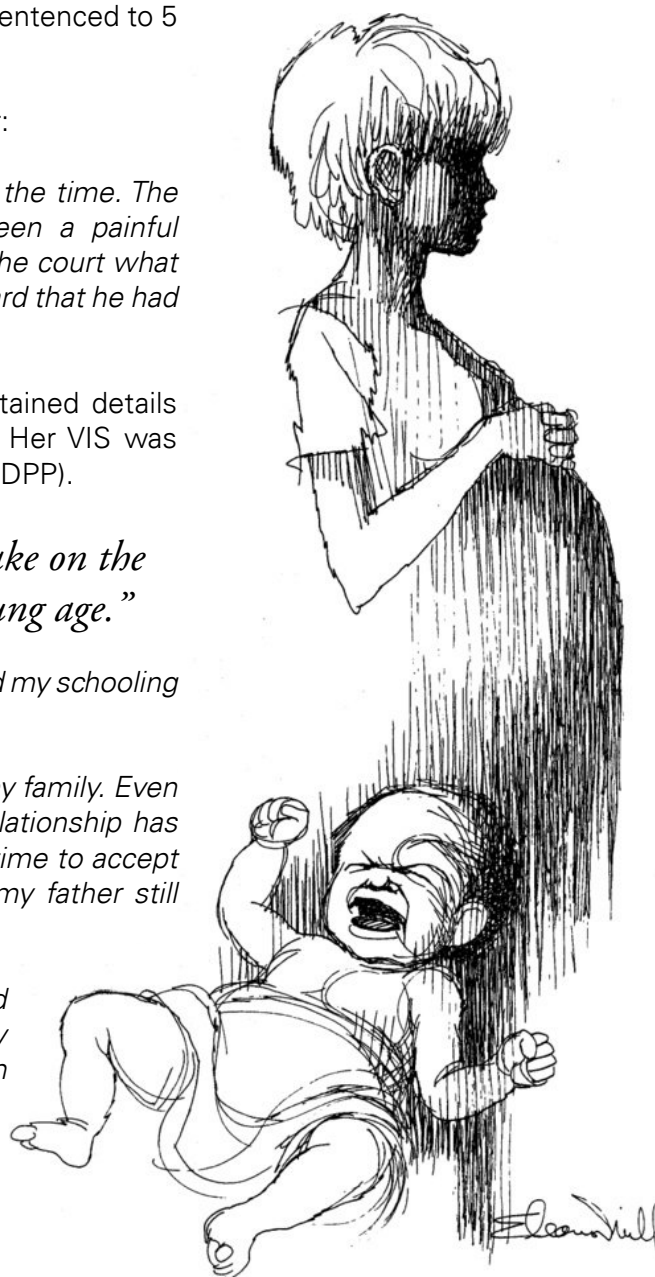
Lily wrote a Victim Impact Statement (VIS) which contained details of her suffering and trauma as a result of this crime. Her VIS was submitted to the court by the deputy public prosecutor (DPP).

"As a result of the incident, I was forced to take on the responsibility of becoming a mother at a young age."

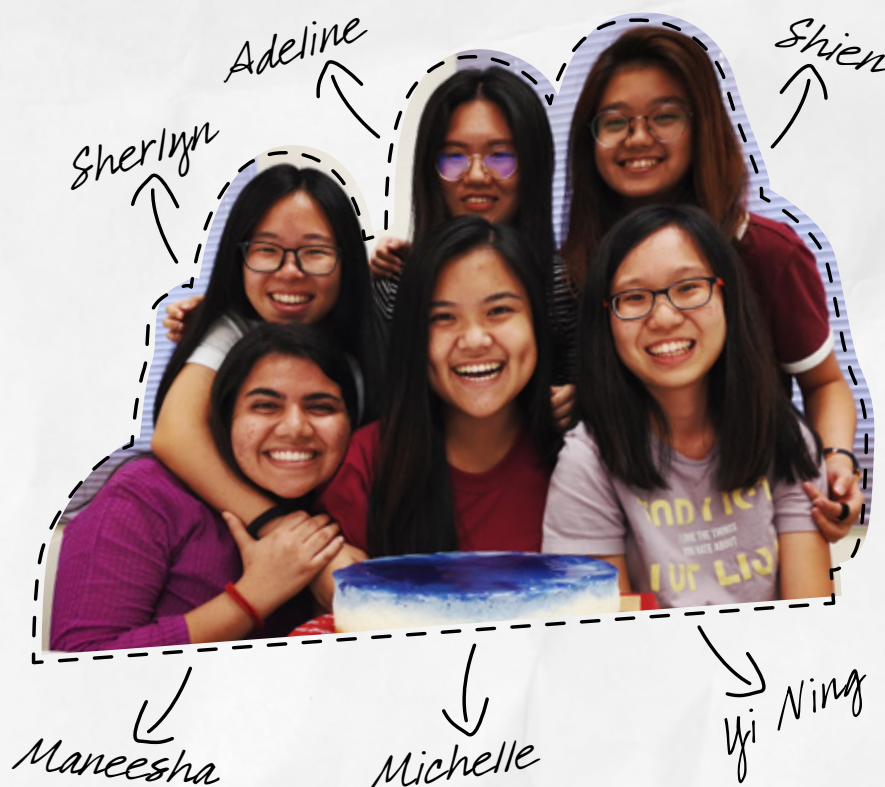
"I was put in a shelter home until I gave birth. This delayed my schooling for a year. Nevertheless, I still sat for the SPM exam."

Another impact is the damage to my relationship with my family. Even though they are supportive of me and my child, our relationship has deteriorated, especially with my father. He took a long time to accept the situation. He has lost his trust in me. Until now, my father still worries a lot when I leave home to meet my friends."

I will try to fix the relationship with my parents and rebuild their trust. I will also try and look after and educate my child well. I have accepted everything in my life with an open heart."



INTERN TO CREATE CHANGE



Interning at WCC has...

Altered my perception of gender-based violence

When I applied for my internship at WCC, I had no idea what I wanted to do after I graduated. Some of my friends advised me to go into corporate industries but I felt that I couldn't be happy in that job unless I was helping people. Now, I have learnt so much about the importance of providing counselling, legal and moral support to survivors of sexual or domestic violence.

The resilience and courage of the survivors that come to WCC is both astounding and beyond touching. I have learnt about intersectionality (thank you, Mangles!) and how different parts of people's identities affect how vulnerable they are. Even though I may not be directly involved in this line of work, my experiences here have strengthened my resolve to help the marginalised and needy.

Finally, I would like to thank every single staff and intern here for making me feel very welcome and making WCC a second home.

Maneesha Kaur Khalaria, BA International Relations and Economics, University of Boston, United States.

Changed the way I speak about survivors

Domestic abuse, sexual violence, and cybercrimes are topics that are continuously discussed in law school but with little to no emphasis on the effects of such crimes on the victim. I have to admit that prior to interning at WCC, I was probably desensitised to the struggles that victims of such crimes experience because I viewed them merely as nameless players in another case that I had to read. Interning at WCC has allowed me to meet with and learn about women and children who are actually going through these challenges in a personal way. WCC's work which focuses on improving the well-being of their clients has given me a renewed understanding of the physical, emotional, and psychological struggles that survivors of these crimes experience.

As a result, I have learnt to speak about these crimes and their survivors with sympathy and compassion that can only come from acknowledging the realities of the victims. WCC's work is truly inspirational and I hope that they continue their good work for many years to come!

Michelle Kong, Bachelor of Laws (LLB), University of Auckland, New Zealand.

Improved my knowledge on supporting the vulnerable in communities

When we encounter vulnerable people in the community, I believe that most of us want to lend a helping hand but are not sure how to. I used to be that way, until I started my internship at WCC. From this internship experience, I have learned the ways that WCC supports the vulnerable: from providing counselling services, to accompanying clients to court, and even providing shelter to those who need it. By supporting vulnerable clients throughout the journey of getting help and fighting for their rights, it assures them that they are not alone in this battle and that they are able to live a better life, even after all the violence and abuse. That is why everybody should increase their knowledge on ways to protect and help the vulnerable in the community and should support organisations that are established for this purpose. I believe that vulnerable people, if given the right help and support, will be able to actualise their full potential and eventually live a happy, fulfilling life.

Chew Sherlyn, Bachelor in Psychology, HELP University

Made me aware of the challenges faced by abused women and children

Interactions with clients who have gone through domestic abuse and sexual violence have made me aware of the realities and the challenges that these real-life survivors go through. These struggles that they face truly deny them the ability to live happy, healthy, and fulfilling lives. Nevertheless, interning at WCC has also shown me that there are ways to help them overcome these challenges. Through assisting in the talks that WCC carries out in primary and secondary schools, I have learnt that it is of utmost importance to educate students about protecting their safety both online and offline. By providing students with the right mindset, I truly hope that the future generation will grow up to not only be aware of the dangers in the world, but to also take initiative to eradicate these issues.

Chuah Yi Ning, Bachelor in Psychology, HELP University

Shown me that there is hope for the vulnerable

Prior to interning at WCC, it never occurred to me that women in the 21st century are still being deprived of their dignity or rights, especially in Malaysia, since I had never met such women. I have realised in my time as an intern in WCC however that not only is gender violence a reality, but that even the most highly educated person is not spared from experiencing some form of toxic gender stereotyping. It is even more painful when girls experience violence at the hands of others while thinking that it is their fault or that they deserved it. WCC's work in educating students through talks and seminars has shown me that there is hope for the future if we teach the next generation to respect each other, and to keep themselves safe from dangers. Seeing how the social workers help their clients gives me a sense of optimism that victims will be able to find hope out of broken hearts.

Adeline Seah Wei Xuan, Bachelor in Psychology, University Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR)

Taught me that change is possible

Interning in WCC has taught me that "change" comes from passion, motivation, strength, and belief. Throughout this internship, I have seen and read cases of women and children who have gone through difficult situations but were able to walk out from the darkness. WCC supports these survivors by providing counselling and legal support for victims, and by advocating for the rights of women and children as well as educating the community through workshops and school programmes.

Even though change is never easy, interning at WCC has shown me that when we work together as a team, we can truly strive for justice and create change.

Kam Shien-Yi, Bachelor in Psychology, HELP University

Compiled and edited by Michelle Kong

WCC IN THE MEDIA



4 Events



Various pre-loved accessories, household items and toys will be available at bargain prices for shoppers to choose from at the WCC Jumbo Sale at its premises in Burmah Road, George Town.

(From left) Midlands Berjaya Village Community Management Council chairman Rachael Tan, WCC Value Shop supervisor Lim Ai Lay, Ooi, WCC fundraising ambassador Datuk Annie Chin, Siew and WCC executive director Loh Cheng Kooi with some of the items for the Jumbo Sale.



STARMETRO, FRIDAY 21 JUNE 2019

Jumbo effort to raise funds for noble cause

Sale of pre-loved items to help abused women and children

GRAB great bargains from RM3 onwards in the upcoming jumbo sale by Women's Centre for Change (WCC) in Penang.

The fundraising event is sponsored by the service centre of Pulau Tikus assemblyman Chris Lee, in partnership with Dell Global Business Centre.

WCC president Susan Siew said the event will be held tomorrow and Sunday from 10am to 4pm at the WCC office at 241, Burmah Road.

"This event is to raise funds for WCC's work on abused women and children."

"We have a wide range of good quality pre-loved goods including clothing, household and kitchen items, toys, books and much more at unbeatable prices starting from RM3."

"These items were donated by the public. We were amazed by the generosity of people who donated thousands of pre-loved goods to us," she said at a recent press conference at the WCC office.

Also present was Garney Drive Village Community Management Council chairman Ooi Su Ching.

"There will be a silent auction of high-end items like handbags and golf sets."

Siew added that WCC was

"These items were donated by the public. We were amazed by the generosity of people who donated thousands of pre-loved goods to us."

Susan Siew

grateful to the nearly 200 volunteers from Dell Global Business Centre who assisted in sorting the donated goods for the sale.

"WCC currently runs a Value Shop in Island Plaza where donated pre-loved items are sold," she added.

Those attending the jumbo sale will be able to park their vehicles at the nearby Perkim building.

For details, call WCC at 04-2280342 or Candi Chong (012-4085330).

週末二手貨義賣

WCC盼籌3萬助受暴者

(檳城18日訊) 檳城婦女離家中心(WCC)將於本月22日及23日早上10時至下午4時,在該中心進行慈善二手貨義賣會,希望籌得3萬令用作該中心協助受

暴婦女及兒童的基金。該會主席蕭佩芬昨日在記者會上說,這場二手貨大賣會將有數千件價值優美的物品供民眾選購,包括各種日用品、衣服、廚房用具、

書籍、手提袋、飾品與玩具等,所有貨品的價格皆從最低3令起。

蕭佩芬說,這些物品多是民眾捐贈,但經過篩選後我們發現,有些物品只被使用過數次甚至多是還未开封的,屬於品質良好,不難造成破損的貨品。

她說,該中心自5月起開始接受熱心人士的物資捐

款,兩個月來獲得大量物品供售賣。

在義賣會期間,我們將為一些獨特的物品如手提包、高爾夫球套等進行拍賣。民眾只需在會上把所中意的物品寫下標意的價錢,并附上聯絡資料,拍賣會結束後得標者將獲通知。

該中心執行董事趙鴻桂說,這是一項大型義賣會,售賣的物品種類繁多,希望民眾可到該處「淘寶」。

與會者尚有該中心聯席大使章碧蓮安妮、該中心廉價店(WCC Value Shop)管理員林紫雲、葛尼鄉村社區管理委員會主席黃淑晶及Midland Berjaya鄉村社區管理委員會主席陳仁芳。

檳城婦女離家中心(WCC)地址:241, Jalan Burma, 10350, Pulau Pinang。(CYL)



WCC IN THE MEDIA

4 Events

STARMETRO, MONDAY 10 JUNE 2019



Koges and her daughter Nesiya smiling for the camera after the makeover session.



Aarbayah and her children looking happy and radiant for the family photo shoot.

Putting smiles on their faces

Single mums, children get makeover and photos taken for Mothers Day

By R. SEKARAN
rsekaran@thestar.com.my

THE smiles said it all as single parents, families and their children, dressed to the nines, posed while the cameras clicked away. The event was part of Mothers Day celebrations organised by the Women's Centre for Change Penang (WCC) and co-hosted with Dell Global Business Center Sdn Bhd.

Over 20 families from diverse backgrounds turned up for the meaningful event which ran from 9am to 1pm at the Caring Society Complex in George Town, recently.

A total of 53 Dell volunteers were divided up into teams to become hair and makeup artists, photographers and assistants.

The women participants and their teenage daughters were first given a makeover followed by a photo shoot session. Both indoor and outdoor photo shoots were taken with them happily posing for different shoots.

While the mothers and elder sisters were undergoing the makeovers, the toddlers participated in colouring activities facilitated by the friendly volunteers.

One of the participants, who wanted to be known only as Koges, 40, remarked that she was treated as 'queen of the day' and was grateful to be bonding with her daughter on this special, happy atmosphere.

WCC past president and volunteer Mariam Lim said it made her day to see so many happy faces, mothers and their children, feeling good about themselves.

"The event not only enabled a closer bond between the families, mainly single mothers and their children, but also bonding among the families and volunteers from Dell and WCC who were there."

"Such an event was organised as most of these families do not usually have the opportunity or means to have beautiful images of themselves and their children captured



Koges having her hair done while a Dell volunteer puts make-up on Nesiya.

“Seeing the mothers and children feeling good about themselves made my day.”

Mariam Lim

professionally," she said.

The families were allowed to choose their favourite photograph from the shoot to be framed for free.

To commemorate the fond memories of the photoshoot, each of the families will receive a photo frame later.



(Bottom pic) A participant being made up before the photo shoot.

SAVE THE DATE & JOIN US!

This year, in collaboration with the Penang State Government and the Penang Women's Development Corporation (PWDC), WCC commemorates the Penang Goes Orange campaign with the theme "I STOP VAWc" in recognition of every individual's role in stopping violence against women and children. At the same time, we also celebrate 10 years of our Pusat Perkhidmatan Wanita (PPW) Seberang office.

PGO campaign "I STOP VAWc" 2.6km Walk in Butterworth

Sunday, 17 November 2019

7.30 am to 10.00 am

Padang Dewan Dato' Haji Ahmad Badawi
Butterworth, Penang (flag-off and stage performances)



newslink

CHANGE IS POSSIBLE

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Cheque made payable to: Women's Centre for Change

CIMB Bank: 8601023057 or MayBank: 507068135616

Tax exempt receipt will be issued for donation of RM50 and above.