

# Enhancing Family Wellbeing & Economic Empowerment

Our online work to strengthen family safety & financial literacy



# Our Counselling Services From Jan - June 2021

Supported the wellbeing & rights of **648** women & children.



Phone Calls

**498**



Face-to-face sessions

**150**

## WCC Tele-Counselling WCC Tele-kaunseling

During the MCO Period  
Semasa tempoh PKP

Monday to Friday, 9am - 5pm  
Isnin hingga Jumaat, 9 pagi - 5 petang

WCC Penang  
011 3108 4001  
016 418 0342

WCC Seberang/PPW  
016 439 0698  
019 410 0698



防疫期间  
MCO காலத்தில்

## WCC 电话辅导服务 WCC தொலைபேசி ஆலோசனை

星期一至五, 早上9时至下午5时  
திங்கள் முதல் வெள்ளி வரை,  
காலை 9 முதல் மாலை 5 வரை

WCC Penang  
011 3108 4001  
016 418 0342

WCC Seberang/PPW  
016 439 0698  
019 410 0698



WCC Penang Island  
**380 cases**

WCC Seberang/PPW  
**268 cases**



Domestic Violence

**206 cases**



Child Sexual Abuse

**80 cases**



Adult Sexual Assault

**42 cases**



Marital &  
Relationship Issues

**169 cases**



Info, Legal Advice  
& Others

**152 cases**







## Living On My Own Terms

In this **CLIENT'S STORY**, read how Shan overcame social and cultural stigma to leave her abusive marriage.

Shan\*\* was a university graduate earning a good income. Her first marriage ended in divorce. A year later, she entered into an arranged marriage with a man who was also divorced. Although she didn't know him well, all she wanted was to get married again by the age of 30. Her future mother-in-law was not happy when she discovered that Shan was a divorcee. Yet, Shan's fiancé persisted. Shan felt loved when he went against his mother's wishes and married her. She felt "rescued".

Shan and her new husband had two children within the first three years of their marriage. Conflicts began to arise. Shan's husband saw it as his wife's duty to care for the children and do domestic work despite both having full-time jobs. To make matters worse, he would always turn to his mother and complain about Shan.

Shan's mother-in-law, prejudiced against her from the start, constantly interfered. Shan's husband began using harsh and humiliating words when they fought. He and his mother kept blaming Shan for failing at her first marriage and blamed her for their marital problems. Shan was hurt, lost, and confused. At times, she thought her husband's behaviour was common male behaviour that had to be put up with. Shan didn't realise that she was experiencing domestic violence.

Shan struggled with the cultural norms of her Indian community. For Hindus, marriage is an important social institution. It is considered sacred and essential for a woman. Divorce is seen as a sign of failure. Women are expected to stay on in a marriage as long as their husbands do not beat them.

Thus, Shan convinced herself that she should stay on, even though she felt helpless and depressed. Shan also felt that leaving would be selfish, because her children needed their parents together. On top of that, the thought of getting divorced for the second time was unbearable.

The final straw came when Shan's husband beat her during one of their fights. She came to WCC for help, beset with fear, anxiety, and depression. She didn't know what to do. WCC's social worker worked closely with Shan to help her process her thoughts and plans. She also conducted couple counselling for Shan and her husband. The counselling process enabled Shan to reflect on her problems from different perspectives. Eventually, Shan was able to admit that he was not the right man for her. She also learnt not to blame herself for the breakdown of their marriage.

Shan came to understand that taking charge of her life was far more important than saving a toxic marriage. She saw that if her children kept being exposed to her being abused by their father, they might internalise the same behaviour and become disrespectful, and her son might become abusive himself in future.

Shan overcame the stigma and moved on. She made up her mind to file for divorce. She told us, "If I didn't receive counselling from WCC, especially for my mental wellbeing, I would still suffer from destructive thoughts. **Now I know I am happier as I've learned to live life on my own terms without worrying about how people perceive me.**"

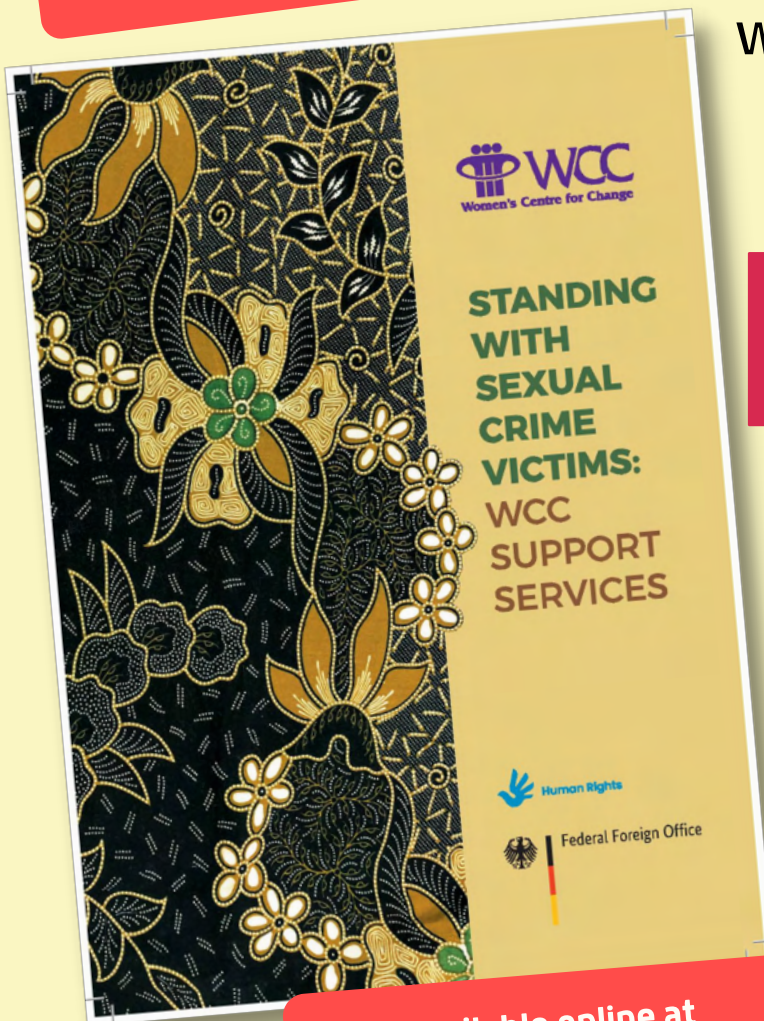
*\*\*Not her real name*

# STANDING WITH SEXUAL CRIME VICTIMS:

**WCC's latest  
research report!**

## WCC SUPPORT SERVICES

Showcases our decade-long work to improve access to justice for victims.



Available online at  
[www.wccpenang.org/books/](http://www.wccpenang.org/books/)

## Key Findings

Conviction rate increased  
from 4% to 30%

Discharge not  
amounting to acquittal  
(DNAA) rate reduced  
from 45% to 30%

**Thank you to the Federal Foreign Office of Germany for helping WCC document our victim support services.**

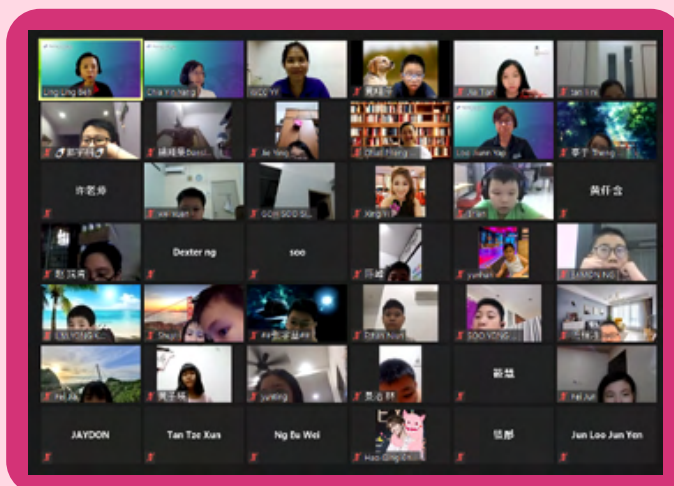
# Preventing Child Sexual Abuse Online



WCC's online story book, *Lisa & Her Secret*, was made more accessible for East Malaysia communities through translations into IBAN AND KADAZAN LANGUAGES.

Available online at [www.wccpenang.org/books/](http://www.wccpenang.org/books/)

With the support of Dell Technologies, we educated **700 CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS** online about good touch and bad touch and cyber safety.



**13 Cybersafety** sessions teaching teenagers how to stay safe online.

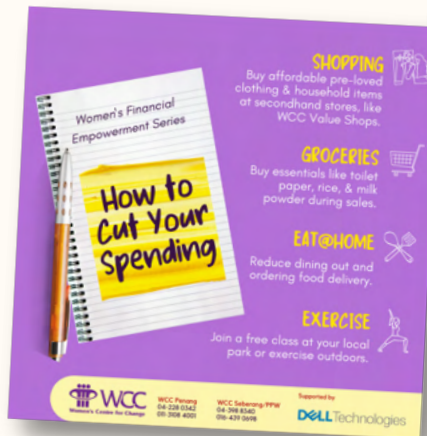
**14 OK Tak OK** sessions teaching children how to protect themselves and seek help.



# Women's Economic Empowerment



Through eight multi-lingual webinars, we reached over **33,300** **FACEBOOK USERS!**



20 online posters in four languages on financial literacy



REACHED OVER **110,000** **SOCIAL MEDIA USERS!**

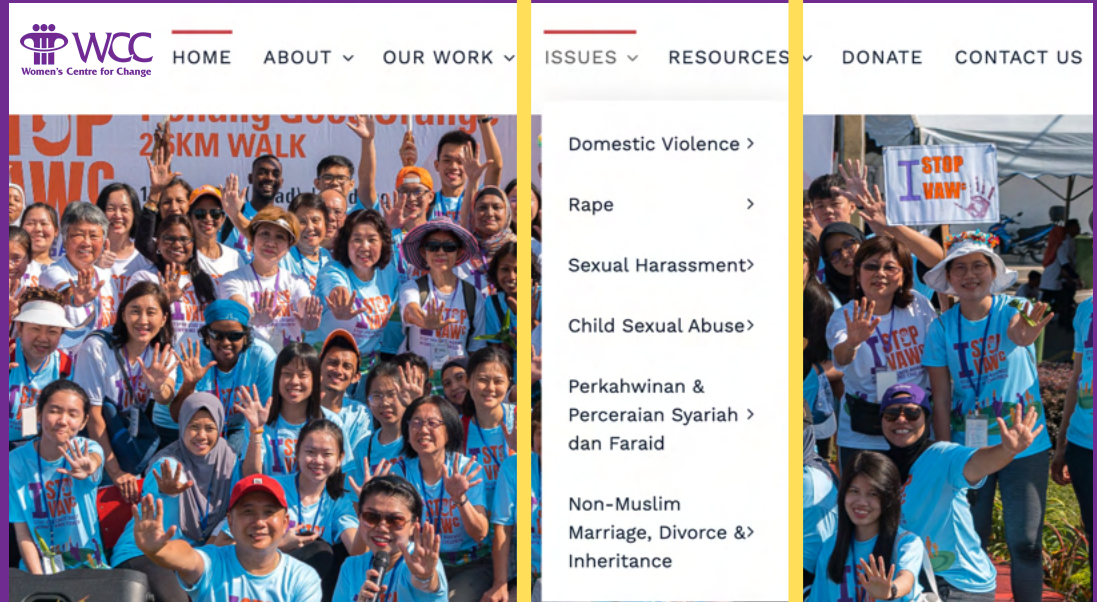


Thank you to Dell Technologies for supporting WCC in empowering women and their families!

# WCC's Website Issues Section Updated

- ✓ Mobile-friendly
- ✓ Simple to navigate
- ✓ Easy to understand

**Four languages:**  
BM, English,  
Chinese & Tamil



**Klik Untuk Dapatkan Bantuan**

Penderaan emosi dan ugutan ialah jenayah keganasan rumahtangga. Dapatkan bantuan sekarang.

Layari [www.wccpenang.org](http://www.wccpenang.org) untuk maklumat lanjut.

**உதவி பெற கிளிக் செய்யுங்கள்**

கணவன் மனைவியின் சண்டை எப்போது குடும்ப வன்முறையாக மாறுகிறது?

[www.wccpenang.org](http://www.wccpenang.org)-ல் "INFO" கிளிக் செய்யுங்கள்.

Click : [www.wccpenang.org](http://www.wccpenang.org)



**Click to Get Help**

Under the Domestic Violence Act, victims can seek protection from the abuser.

Check out our upgraded ISSUES section: [www.wccpenang.org](http://www.wccpenang.org)

**按此寻求帮助**

精神虐待为使用言语羞辱或做出让人恐惧等行为，是属于家庭暴力的其中一类型。

请浏览 [www.wccpenang.org](http://www.wccpenang.org)，并点击 INFO。

**Thank you to  
OCBC Bank for  
sponsoring the  
website  
upgrade!**



# WCC's Regional Activities



## Feminist Leadership in the Context of Covid-19:

Highlighted how WCC practises feminist values within our workplace and how we coped and transitioned into the digital world during Covid-19.

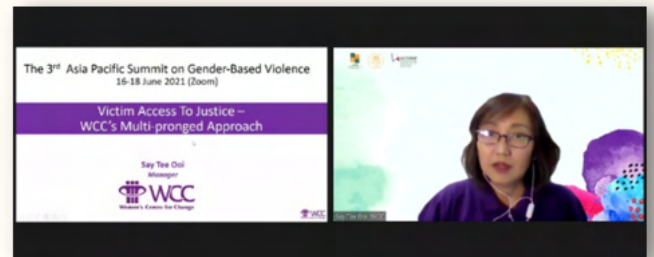


## The Right to an Effective Remedy for Victims of Sexual Violence:

Explained WCC's victim support work and challenges faced by victims in fulfilling their right to access justice.



**Surviving Covid-19 Pandemic & Beyond:** Shared data trends WCC observed during Covid-19 and our responses.



## The 3rd Asia-Pacific Summit on Gender-Based Violence:

Showcased WCC's multi-pronged approach in supporting victims' access to justice.







**Yeap Yi Li, pursuing her  
Bachelor of Laws at  
Taylor's University, shares  
her experience at WCC as an**  
*Intern For Change*

**“This internship has made me realise that raising awareness is just as important as the law to protect women and children’s rights.”**

I first learnt about WCC in June 2020, when I was doing my criminal law assignment on the Sexual Offences Against Children Act 2017. Although most of my classmates chose to intern in a law firm, I decided to intern at WCC because of its diverse work which is not limited to advocacy but includes outreach and services too. I believed WCC would provide me with a more diverse experience compared to a law firm.

It has been an enriching experience interning at WCC. Apart from doing research on cyber violence like child pornography and teen violence, I also helped in WCC’s fundraising work by producing a lecture video on domestic violence. I also learnt how to use Canva software when designing posters for WCC’s social media, co-moderated online workshops, collected food for clients from the food bank, attended counselling sessions, and volunteered at the WCC Value Shop. Overall, I am very grateful for the wide range of experiences during my internship at WCC.

Under the LLB programme, law students are often taught about the importance of the law, and how it should be reformed from time to time to ensure its compatibility and applicability in the society we are living in. However, this internship at WCC has made me realise that public awareness raising is just as important as the law to protect women and children’s rights. Also, understanding the cases handled by WCC has encouraged me to count my blessings because childhood trauma like sexual abuse affects lives permanently. Life is beautiful when we start to count our blessings, no matter how small they are.

I have learned so much from this internship and there is not a single moment that I have regretted choosing to intern at WCC. Thank you WCC!

# WCC in the Media



**Educating public on violence against women and children and how to seek help (The Star, 14 June 2021)**

**Raising awareness on domestic violence (Sin Chew, 8 March 2021)**



**How lockdown impacted children and the importance of educating them on personal safety (Minnal FM, 4 June 2021)**

Online Edition  
**newslink**

WCC Penang  
[www.wccpenang.org](http://www.wccpenang.org)

**Women's Centre for Change**  
Tel: 04-228 0342 | 011-3108 4001  
Email: [wcc@wccpenang.org](mailto:wcc@wccpenang.org)

**WCC Seberang / PPW**  
Tel: 04-3988340 | 016-439 0698  
Email: [wccseberang@wccpenang.org](mailto:wccseberang@wccpenang.org)

**Donate via e-wallet**

BRN:  
267885



Women's Centre for Change

The Women's Centre for Change, Penang is a non-profit, tax exempt organisation, dedicated to the elimination of violence against women and children. WCC welcomes donations in support of our work.

Cheque made payable to: **Pusat Kesedaran Wanita**  
CIMB Bank: **8601023057**

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