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2022
ANNUAL
REVIEW



VISION

WCC envisions an inclusive society free from gender violence and discrimination, and where women can actualise their full potential.

MISSION

WCC is committed to:

- Eliminating violence against women and children
- Empowering women and children
- Promoting gender equality and social justice

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    WCC Penang



www.wccpenang.org



DONATION

WCC is a non-profit, tax-exempt organisation and is totally dependent on donations to support our work.

**Name: Pusat Kesedaran Wanita
CIMB 8601023057**

*Any donation of RM50 and above will be issued a tax exempt receipt.

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2022 IN REVIEW

By Annie Yeap Lay Pheng, WCC President

The year 2022 began with uncertainty as the Covid-19 pandemic persisted. However, once the country moved into an endemic stage, WCC rapidly transitioned our work back to the physical mode after two years of largely online activities. WCC is indeed thankful that we were able to adapt and adjust our work on both virtual and physical platforms to pursue our mission to empower women and children.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

Reaffirming Strategic Partnership with Penang State Government

In April 2022, our Seberang Perai office, Pusat Perkhidmatan Wanita (PPW), marked a significant milestone when WCC and the Penang State Exco for Social Development and Non-Religious Affairs, YB Chong Eng, jointly signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to reaffirm our smart partnership on sustained state funding for the operation of PPW. Set up since 2009, PPW has helped thousands of sexual assault and domestic violence clients and conducted numerous awareness and prevention programmes in schools and local communities on the mainland of Penang.



WCC is also a strategic partner of the State Government under its Safe Family Policy launched in 2020. Since then, WCC has been working in collaboration with Penang Women's Development Corporation (PWDC) to train community level First Support Points (FSP) to handle domestic violence cases on the ground. In 2022, WCC conducted five training workshops for staff and community leaders of the Penang District Offices, Jabatan Agama, State Assemblypersons' service centres, and NGOs.

Passing of Anti-Sexual Harassment Bill

WCC applauds the passing of the Anti-Sexual Harassment Bill in July 2022. We were part of the Anti-Sexual Harassment Advocacy Group, comprising the Joint Action Group for Gender Equality (JAG), Engender, and Young Women Making Change, which actively lobbied for addressing gaps in the Bill. It has taken women's organisations over two decades to see this law come to fruition.

ONGOING WORK



SERVICE: With the lifting of restrictions on travel and physical interactions, clients were able to seek face-to-face counselling at our centres on Penang island and the mainland. We were also able to provide counselling and emotional support to clients, mostly children, at hospital wards. In total, WCC and PPW social workers handled 1,450 cases, comprising 518 face-to-face sessions and 932 new calls.

Building on our decade-long partnership with government hospitals in Penang, in 2022, PPW finally connected with Hospital Sungai Bakap, thus completing our collaboration with all six Penang state hospital One Stop Crisis Centres (OSCCs). These OSCCs continued to refer cases of domestic violence (DV) and sexual assault (SA) to PPW and WCC. For 2022, there was an increase of 25% in cases handled, amounting to 323 DV and SA cases combined. WCC also supported 82 of these cases in court in 2022.



OUTREACH: Our programmes to prevent child sexual abuse, namely *OK Tak OK* and *Cybersafety*, reached 4,000 children and over 2,200 teenagers through both physical and online platforms. We are grateful for the dedicated efforts of Dell Technologies' Women in Action employees in volunteering to conduct these programmes since 2021.

With the support of a grant from Intel, WCC ventured into educating over 500 children and teens from PPR low cost flats on Penang island and the mainland on body safety and prevention of sexual abuse. It was a new and challenging experience but a rewarding one as the children and teens who attended these sessions benefitted greatly.

In 2022, WCC produced 42 online posters in four languages (English, Malay, Chinese and Tamil) to raise awareness on violence against women and children, with an impressive reach of nearly 700,000 users. Our football-themed video, *Go!! (Goal!)*, aimed at raising awareness on the role of men in ending cyber violence, was launched in November to coincide with the World Cup season as well as the global 16-day campaign against gender-based violence. It attracted more than 100,000 viewers.



ADVOCACY: WCC took our advocacy work to the next level with the organising of a successful National Judiciary Dialogue on "Improving Court Processes for Child Sexual Crime Victims", which saw the participation of 20 members of the judiciary nationwide to discuss the challenges faced and ways forward to make court processes more child-friendly and to improve access to justice for victims.

WCC VALUE SHOP

WCC's social enterprise, our Value Shop, saw its fifth year of operation in 2022. In December 2022, the Value Shop team organised a two-day Jumble Sale which successfully raised RM50,000 to support WCC's work. While, sadly, we suspended our Value Shop in Bayan Baru in June due to

Covid-19 disruptions and other factors, our Tanjung Tokong Value Shop was able to pick up business and get back on track. We are thankful to our dedicated supervisors and amazing volunteers, generous public for their continuous donations of pre-loved goods as well as our supportive customers.



SPONSORS AND DONORS

WCC is deeply grateful to our donors, sponsors and patrons for supporting our work to empower women and children to end violence in their lives; educate children and teenagers to prevent sexual abuse; train government service providers to better handle cases and protect victims; and raise greater public awareness in reducing violence.

Our immense appreciation goes to:

- **Penang State MMK for Social Development for their annual grant to support our PPW operations**
- **Yayasan Hasanah Special Grant for our work in service, communications, and outreach**
- **Canada Fund for Local Initiatives for our advocacy work**
- **Ministry of Health for our mental health programmes**
- **Dell Technologies Strategic Grant for our project on digital inclusion**
- **Intel for helping us work with children and teenagers at PPR low cost flats**
- **Embassies of Netherlands and Switzerland for our special projects**
- **OCBC Bank, Neoh Foundation and Malaysian Crime Prevention Foundation**
- **Individual patrons and charities who gave generously in support of our work**

As always, thank you to the wonderful staff, General Committee, and volunteers, whose time, effort, and unfailing dedication have kept WCC's work on an upward trajectory.

Thank You
for your kind support!

You can call me “Ayah”

Alia* is 17 years old. She is an only child, and lives with her widowed mother. Her father had passed away when she was very young. When she was 13 years old, Alia joined a Peer Support Group where she met Cikgu Majid*. When Cikgu Majid learnt that Alia had lost her father, he became very caring towards her and asked her to call him “Ayah” (Father).

One evening, Cikgu Majid offered Alia and her friends the use of the counselling room for their group study session. When the session was over, Alia stayed back to help Cikgu Majid clean up the room. Suddenly, Cikgu Majid gave her a hug. He continued to hug her several times. A week later, he went further. He hugged Alia from behind, inserted his hands under her blouse, and groped her breasts. He also kissed her cheeks and lips.

Alia was extremely upset and stressed by these encounters. From being a cheerful person, she became very quiet. She was disturbed by the incidents and experienced nightmares. Her school performance started to deteriorate badly. One day, Alia braved herself and disclosed what had happened to her class teacher, Puan Maimunah*. The teacher immediately informed Alia's mother and they took Alia to lodge a police report. Cikgu Majid was remanded by the police and eventually charged in court.

Alia was brought to the One Stop Crisis Centre (OSCC) of the government hospital for a medical check up. She was then referred to Pusat Perkhidmatan Wanita (PPW) for counselling. The PPW social worker taught Alia breathing techniques and coping skills to help overcome her trauma and nightmares. Initially, it was very hard for Alia to handle her emotions, but after practising deep breathing, and with continuous counseling sessions, she slowly managed to overcome her fear and nightmares. All this took place during the Movement Control Order (MCO) period and the sessions were held through online and telephone counselling.

The police investigating officer and Deputy Public Prosecutor also regularly updated Alia's mother on the status of the case. The court case was postponed a few times because of the MCO, but Alia was able to testify smoothly in court. Finally, after two years, Cikgu Majid was convicted and sentenced to six years' imprisonment with two strokes of the rotan.

The PPW social worker's counselling, the strong support from her mother and Cikgu Maimunah as well as the good support from the government agencies gave Alia the resilience and confidence she needed to go through her lengthy and difficult journey.

Alia has resolved not to let this incident hinder her from achieving her ambition. She managed to achieve good grades for her SPM examinations and is furthering her studies in Form 6.

**Names have been changed*





WCC Island Team: *S. Mangleswary, Lau Swee Li, Yeap Yen Ying, Asmar Hamariyah Bakhari & Sinthu Krishna*

PPW Team: *Ooi Say Tee, Salma Farhanah A.Rasid, Ooi Bee See & Nurmasliyana Abdul Rahman*

The year 2022 marked a significant milestone for WCC, with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Pusat Perkhidmatan Wanita (PPW) project, a smart partnership between WCC and the Penang State Government via the Exco for Social Development and Non-Islamic Religious Affairs, YB Chong Eng. Under the MOU, the state government allocates an annual grant to WCC to manage PPW.

Our counselling services also returned to normal, pre-Covid arrangements. Both our island and mainland offices saw an increase of face-to-face counselling but a decrease of new calls. PPW was able to collaborate with the fourth government hospital on the mainland, Hospital Sungai Bakap, enabling us to better support domestic violence (DV) and sexual assault (SA) cases in Seberang Perai Selatan.

We also strengthened our partnership with the Penang State Health Department, enabling referrals of DV victims to WCC by the health clinics' doctors and nurses.

COUNSELLING

Face-to-Face/Online Counselling

Clients	WCC Island	PPW	Total no. of clients
New Clients	341	177	518
Former Clients	42	16	58
Total	383	193	576

Table 1: Number of Face-to-Face/ Online Counselling Clients

As shown in Table 1, WCC Island handled a total of 341 new face-to-face/online counselling clients - an 86% increase from the previous year, largely due to the lifting of travel movements upon the easing of the Covid situation. Only 12% of the counselling sessions were conducted online as our clients preferred physical interaction. PPW handled 177 new face-to-face/online counselling clients, an increase of 24% compared to 2021, with 7% of the sessions conducted online. PPW social workers were also able to visit child sexual abuse clients at hospital wards.

Clients	WCC Island	PPW	Total no. of clients
New Clients	137	95	232
Former Clients	88	30	118
Total	225	125	350

Table 2: Number of Face-to-Face Follow Up Counselling Sessions

Table 2 shows the follow-up interventions for Island office increased more than two-fold. For PPW, it increased by 98%. These follow-up interventions were for domestic violence, child sexual abuse, and marital cases.

Types of Cases Handled by WCC Island & PPW

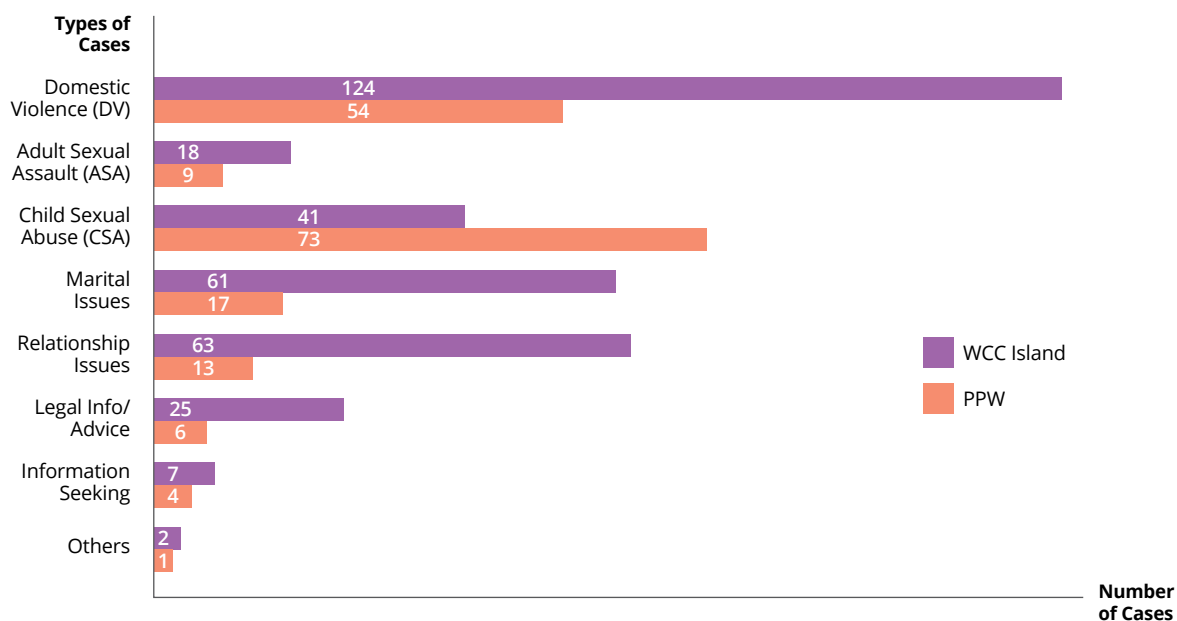


Figure 1: Types of Cases Handled by WCC Island & PPW

Compared to 2021, for the WCC Island office, it was of great concern that DV, CSA, marital and legal advice (divorce, maintenance, custody) cases doubled in 2022.

Similarly, for PPW, DV, ASA and CSA topped the number of cases handled in 2022, amounting to 77% of all cases handled. CSA constituted the highest percentage (41%), followed by DV at 31%. In 2022, the number of CSA cases handled by PPW was more than double that of 2021, as social workers were able to visit clients in hospital wards. Out of the 73 cases of CSA handled by PPW, 24 cases (33%) were victims aged 12 years and below, while 49 victims (67%) were 13 to 18 years old.

Since 2021, both offices have documented online violence against women and children. WCC also produced a new section in our website on online violence against women and children to help victims understand the issues and ways to seek help. This is available in four languages: English, Malay, Chinese, and Tamil. Of the 183 DV and SA cases handled by the WCC Island office, 28 cases contained elements of online violence. For DV cases, online stalking and harassment were the most common features, while for CSA, online grooming which led to sexual assault was more prominent. For PPW, 16 cases contained elements of online violence. Of these, 12 cases involved CSA, with online grooming being prevalent.

In 2022, the number of CSA cases handled by PPW was more than double that of 2021



Clients' Demographics

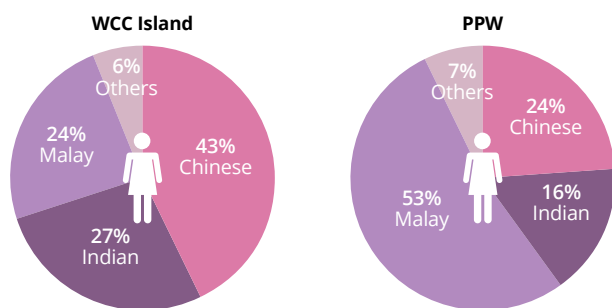


Figure 2: 2022 Clients' Ethnicity

Similar to previous years, in 2022, the majority of clients for our island office were Chinese, whereas for PPW, Malay clients formed the majority.

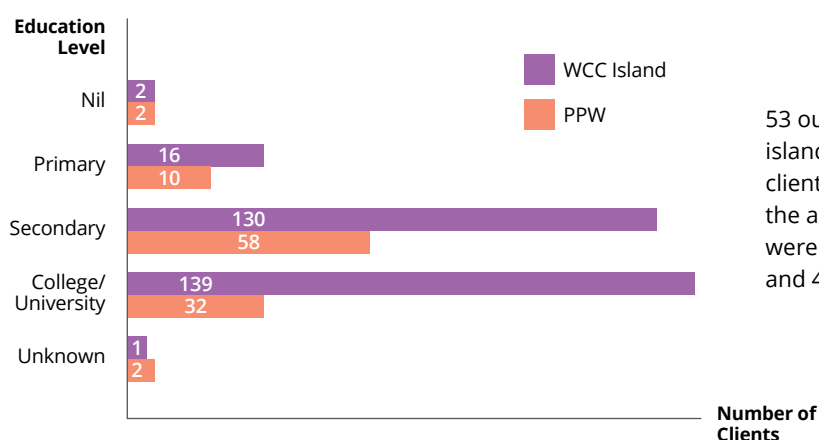


Figure 3: 2022 Clients' Educational Level

53 out of the total 341 clients at our island office and 73 out of the 177 clients at PPW were children. Among the adult clients for both offices, 48% were educated up to secondary level and 43% had tertiary education.

Income Level	WCC Island	PPW
> RM3,000	34%	13%
RM2,001 - RM3,000	15%	13%
RM1,001 - RM2,000	22%	30%
< RM1,000	5%	13%
Nil	20%	31%
Adult Students	4%	None

Table 3: 2022 Clients' Income Level

As with previous years, almost 50% of the adult clients of WCC Island office and 74% of PPW adult clients earned RM2,000 and below. Nearly a third of them had no income.

“Terima kasih kerana telah membantu saya untuk menghadapi masalah ini selama 3 tahun. Saya sekarang mampu untuk berdikari dan membesarkan anak-anak saya sendiri tanpa mengharap orang lain.”

– Domestic violence client

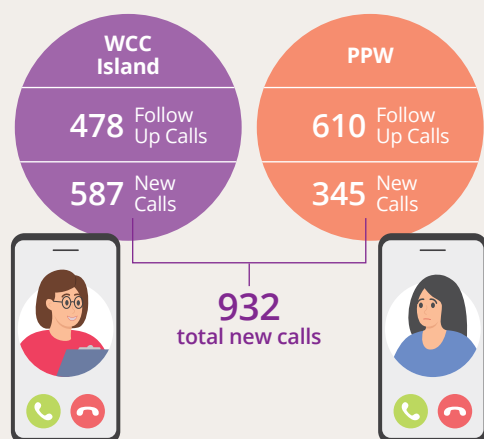


Figure 4: Telephone Calls Handled by WCC & PPW

Telephone Counselling

In 2022, we received a total of 2,020 new and follow up calls. Compared to 2021, there was a reduction of 5% in new calls for our island office. Although, like in 2021, around a third of our new calls in 2022 came from other states, the overall percentage of such calls had dropped. As for PPW, there was a decrease of 19% in new calls and 12% in follow-up calls. Of PPW's 345 new calls in 2022, the majority (55%) involved clients referred by OSCCs. Continuous promotion of PPW's services is important to address the decrease in new calls.

Overall, around half of the total calls handled by both offices involved domestic and sexual violence against women and children, with domestic violence making up the majority.

HOSPITAL SUPPORT

Since 2008, WCC and PPW have been working with One Stop Crisis Centres (OSCC) at the Emergency and Trauma Department of government hospitals in Penang to provide counselling and emotional support for victims of domestic and sexual violence. Beginning with Hospital Pulau Pinang (HPP), we gradually expanded our services to other hospitals including Hospital Balik Pulau (HBP), Hospital Seberang Jaya (HSJ), Hospital Kepala Batas (HKB), Hospital Bukit Mertajam (HBM) and, finally, Hospital Sungai Bakap (HSB) this year.



Figure 5: OSCC Cases Handled by WCC & PPW

In 2022, the total number of OSCC cases we handled increased significantly by 25%. This is of great concern as it reflects an increase in incidences of violence against women and children in local communities.

SERVICE ADVOCACY

In 2022, both offices provided a total of 516 service advocacy interventions. These included providing legal information and liaising with the police investigating officers, social welfare officers, and child protectors for updates on cases and to ensure the safety of the clients. When suspects were charged, interventions included accompanying clients in court as well as following up with Deputy Public Prosecutors. A total of 20 new cases in our island office received court support in 2022. For PPW, 33 new cases received court support.



Legal info/advice

WCC Island	130
PPW	165
Total	295



Follow up with agencies

WCC Island	56
PPW	112
Total	168



Accompany client for pre-trial briefing

WCC Island	3
PPW	0
Total	3



Attend court on behalf of client

WCC Island	0
PPW	3
Total	3



Accompany client in court

WCC Island	10
PPW	22
Total	32



Others

WCC Island	9
PPW	3
Total	12

Figure 6: Service Advocacy Interventions in 2022

OTHER SERVICES



E-mail and Social Media Enquiries

In 2022, our overall number of social media enquiries on Facebook Messenger, Instagram and Twitter declined slightly compared to 2021, from 43 to 36.



Shelter

In 2022, WCC sheltered four domestic violence clients and their two children. Two of the clients decided to reconcile with their husbands and the other two proceeded to leave their husbands.

TRAINING AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT



Safe Family Policy Training Workshops and Posters

In line with the Penang State Government's Safe Family Policy to reduce domestic violence in the state, WCC and PPW staff conducted three First Support Point (FSP) training workshops in Bahasa Malaysia in partnership with the Penang Women's Development Corporation (PWDC) for 27 Pejabat Agama representatives and 50 representatives from various District Offices. These workshops were sponsored by the MMK for Social Development and Non-Islamic Religious Affairs.

With the support of the Netherlands Embassy, we also conducted two advanced FSP training workshops for 45 existing FSPs, covering in greater depth topics such as patriarchy, intersectionality, the criminal justice process, and communication tips for supporting DV victims. In order to publicise FSP services widely across Penang, multi-lingual posters were developed and printed for distribution to various state constituency service centres so that members of the public are aware of the availability of FSP services and how they can seek help.

Collaborative Online Training with Malaysian Association of Social Workers (MASW)

WCC collaborated with MASW to conduct a one-day online training on handling child sexual abuse cases using a rights-based approach for 30 social welfare child protectors nationwide. WCC was also invited to speak at a national seminar organized by MASW and Institut Sosial Malaysia. We shared about the extensive work done by WCC to protect children on both online and offline platforms. Around 300 welfare officers, social work practitioners, counsellors, and NGO workers participated in this seminar.

Talks for Medical and Social Work Community

In 2022, both WCC and PPW offices gave talks on handling domestic violence and sexual assault victims to a total of 718 medical personnel, social work practitioners, and students from various institutions. These talks were conducted both virtually and in-person at Hospital Pulau Pinang, Hospital Balik Pulau, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Tunku Abdul Rahman University College, Methodist College Kuala Lumpur, University Technology MARA, Young Woman in Leadership Development, Hospital Kepala Batas, Hospital Sultan Abdul Halim (Sungai Petani), Hospital Seberang Jaya as well as Pejabat Kesihatan Daerah Seberang Perai Tengah and Selatan.



Community Talks

In 2022, both offices also conducted webinars and physical workshops on online violence, DV, and women's empowerment, reaching out to 350 persons in total. We worked on this front with various partners like Keysight, Western Digital, North Malayali Samajam, Hindudharma Mamandram, Flour Power KL and Butterworth Buddhist Association.

Media Engagement

In order to increase publicity on and visibility of PPW's work, three interviews were conducted with China Press, Sin Chew Daily and Kwong Wah respectively. Topics covered were related to public awareness on child sexual abuse issues, PPW's services, and support needed for domestic violence survivors.

The WCC service team across both offices will continue to strengthen our strategic partnership with the OSCCs in hospitals and the Penang State Health Department to expand our services to women and children in need of help. We will also continue to support the Penang State Safe Family Policy by monitoring the progress and impact of FSPs in supporting DV victims on the ground.



Outreach Team: Yeap Yen Ying, Salma A.Rasid, Sinthu Krishna, Ooi Bee See, Nadila Daud & other staff

The first half of 2022 saw WCC continuing our virtual programmes as Malaysia gradually transitioned into the endemic phase of Covid-19. With the lifting of movement restrictions in the second half of the year, WCC was able to slowly resume our physical activities.

In 2022, the WCC outreach team successfully conducted a total of 33 webinars and talks to empower online viewers, venturing into new topics such as entrepreneurship and digital life skills while continuing to raise awareness on violence against women and children (VAWC).

WCC also conducted 6 trainings for educators and NGO staff on understanding, handling, and preventing VAWC. We continued our popular *OK Tak OK* and *Cybersafety* programmes in schools, Program Perumahan Rakyat (PPR, or low-cost) flats, and children's homes, benefitting a total of 3981 children and 2240 teens.



RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS

Webinars and Online Talks

In 2022, WCC successfully organised 8 webinars and 7 online forums in various languages. These were funded by Dell Technologies, Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI), and Hasanah Special Grant (HSG). WCC engaged with a wide range of strategic partners to organise these programmes. Some webinars included a sign language interpreter to reach the deaf community. The details were as follows:

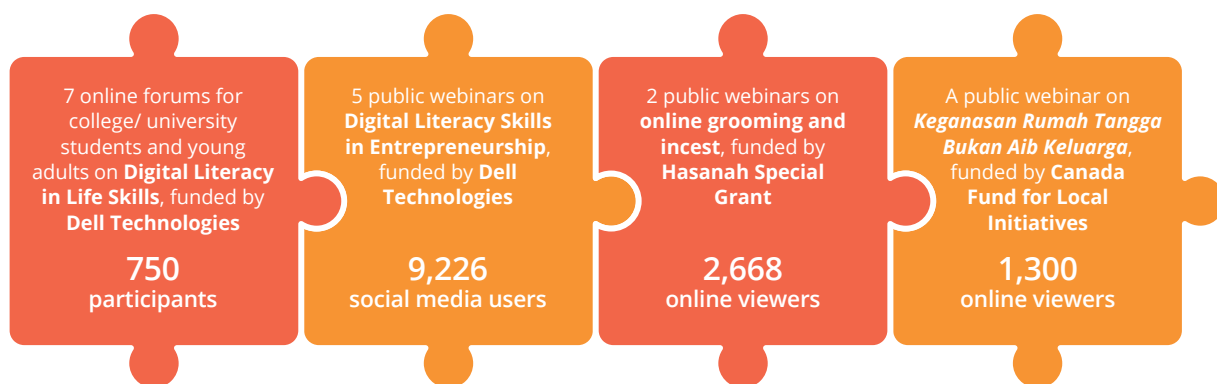


Figure 7: Beneficiaries of WCC Webinars and Online Forums

WCC also accepted 18 invitations as guest speaker for various webinars on topics relating to VAWC. These webinars were organised by local partners such as various Jawatankuasa Pembangunan Wanita dan Kanak (JPWKs), universities & colleges, MNCs, Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri, Klinik Kesihatan Pulau Pinang, and various NGOs, such as Inner Wheel Club of Alor Setar and StandUp Malaysia. These enabled WCC to have a nationwide impact.

PREVENTING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Training Educators, Schools, and Facilitators

In the first half of 2022, WCC conducted two online training workshops for 41 educators nationwide to enable them to conduct WCC's child sexual abuse prevention programmes (*OK Tak OK* and storytelling) in their own locality. Out of these 41 educators, 13 went on to conduct WCC's programmes in their communities and schools, reaching 372 children.



Upon the reopening of schools, several teachers reported sexual assault cases in their schools to WCC. This pressed home the need for the kinds of training we offer. In the second half of the year, with the support from the MMK for Social Development, WCC trained 58 school counselling teachers from Chinese primary schools on handling child sexual abuse cases.

Online child sexual abuse and exploitation is worsening as children are more exposed to and dependent on digital technology in the wake of the pandemic. WCC has received feedback from teachers that increasingly younger students are involved in online dating and sexting.



Responding to this rising threat, in 2022, WCC trained 62 secondary school counsellors and officers from Pejabat Pendidikan Daerah Seberang Perai Selatan and Barat Daya on the issue, and on the roles of various parties such as schools, parents, and the welfare department in handling cases on the ground. We also conducted a similar training for 12 International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) staff on these issues. As a result, WCC

has developed a new training module to address online violence and introduce new methodologies to enhance the learning process.

Continuing the fruitful collaboration between WCC and the Dell Technologies Women In Action (WIA) team, WCC trained 25 new WIA members to conduct our *OK Tak OK* and *Cybersafety* programmes for children and teens in their communities.



OK Tak OK and Cybersafety Programmes for Children and Teenagers

In 2022, WCC successfully reached 3,981 students in Penang through conducting our signature *OK Tak OK* programme, especially those from Chinese schools from whom we received many invitations. With the re-opening schools, we resumed these programmes in physical settings, transitioning back to using smart boards and projectors after the past three years of online tools and platforms.



Worryingly, we have been seeing an increase of younger children becoming victims of online violence, including a case of a 9-year-old girl befriending a schoolmate online and sharing her secrets with him, only to have him threaten to disclose her secrets unless she sent him nude photographs of herself.

In response, WCC's *Cybersafety* programme, which was initially targeted at teenagers to help them protect themselves from and respond to online abuse, has now been adapted to cater to younger, primary school students. This year, we managed to reach 2240 students, partly through the sponsorship of OCBC Bank.

Reaching Out to PPR Communities and Children's Homes

With the sponsorship of Intel, WCC expanded the outreach of our *OK Tak OK* and *Cybersafety* programmes to B40 low income communities living in 6 Projek Perumahan Rakyat (PPR) flats in Penang as well as 6 children's homes, to raise awareness on child sexual abuse and prevention of online violence.

We conducted our *OK Tak OK* programme for a total of 324 children between 7 to 12 years old, teaching them to differentiate between good and bad touches. Our *Cybersafety* programme reached 179 children, covering topics such as sexting, online grooming, and cyberbullying. For this project, our existing *Lisa and Her Secret* online story book on child sexual abuse prevention was redesigned as a colouring book to better engage the children. We also produced a notebook called "What's on My Mind" to complement our *Cybersafety* programme.

To extend our networking with the PPR communities, WCC followed up with a parenting talk which was attended by 46 residents at the PPR in Desa Wawasan, Padang Lalang.

In summary, the WCC outreach team was relieved to resume physical programmes after a long spell of online activities. We were glad to expand our networks, adapt our work to changing needs, and widen our reach to new communities.





Advocacy Team: *Hastiny Subramaniam, Choong Yong Yi, Karen Lai & Loh Cheng Kooi*

2022 was an impactful year for the Advocacy team. We supported a total of 82 cases of domestic and sexual violence (45 new and 37 existing cases), an increase of 9 cases compared to 2021. We also successfully organised a National Judiciary Dialogue with judges handling child sexual crime cases across Malaysia, and were actively involved at the national level in the Anti-Sexual Harassment Bill 2021 campaign.

Saya selalu risau dengan keadaan anak saya dan proses mahkamah. Terima kasih sebab WCC selalu berada dengan saya sepanjang kes mahkamah berjalan dan bantu anak saya untuk hadapi situasi ini.

– Mother of 9-year-old child sexual abuse victim

SUPPORTING VICTIMS' ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Types and number of cases supported

Victim support, the core of our Advocacy work, is essential to reduce the impact of trauma for all victims of violence.

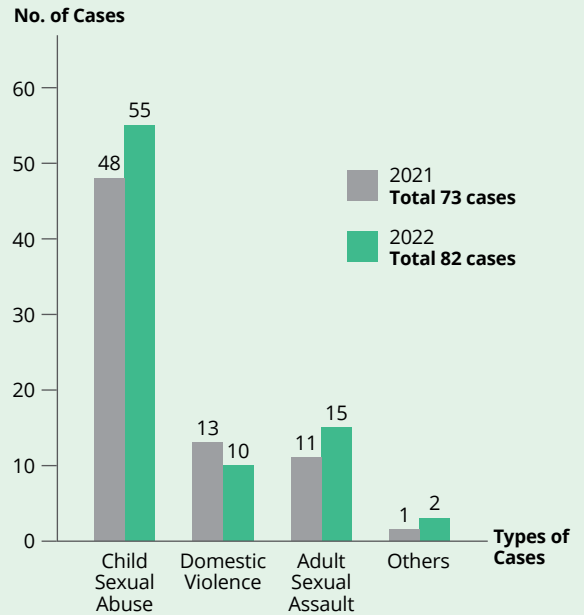


Figure 8: Types and Number of Cases Supported

Figure 8 shows the types and number of cases supported in 2021 and 2022. There was an increase of 9 cases in 2022. Appallingly, sexual assault cases made up 85% of the overall number of cases supported, most of which involved child victims.

Status of cases handled and supported in 2022

Number
of Cases

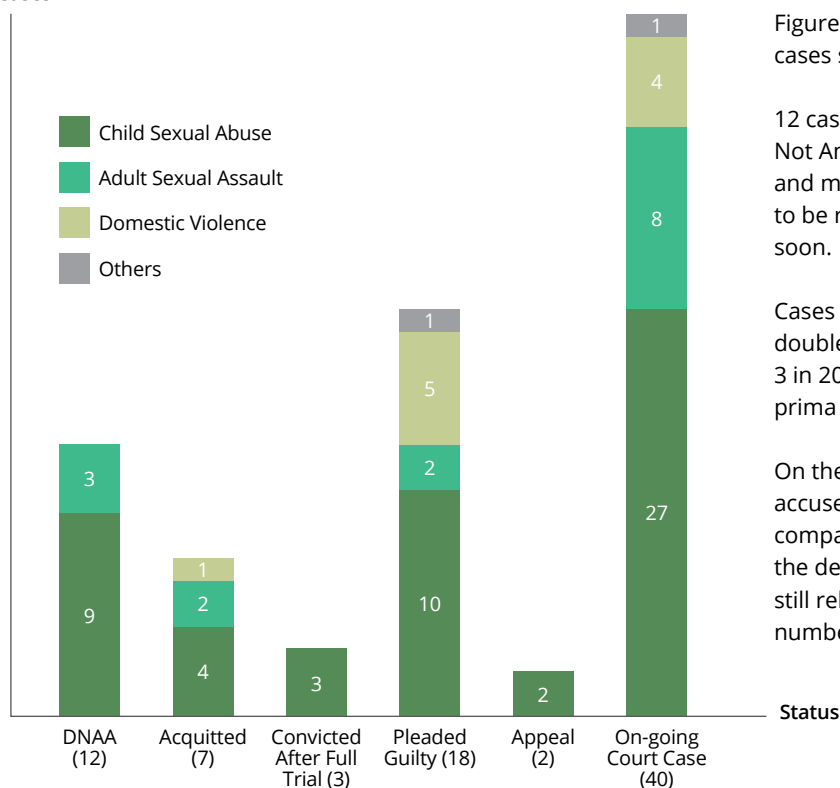


Figure 9 shows the status of the 82 cases supported in 2022.

12 cases were granted a Discharge Not Amounting to Acquittal (DNAA) and most of the accused are expected to be recharged by the prosecution soon.

Cases that resulted in acquittals have doubled, i.e., 7 in 2022 compared to 3 in 2021, largely due to the lack of a prima facie case being established.

On the other hand, in 2022, the accused in 18 cases pleaded guilty, compared to 25 cases in 2021. Despite the decrease, the total of 18 cases is still relatively high compared to the numbers in the years before 2021.

Figure 9: Status of the 82 Cases Supported in 2022

Our interventions

A total of 210 interventions were carried out in 2022, with the capacity of a single Advocacy Officer. Figure 10 shows the details of the interventions which helped us to monitor the progress of the cases, especially after the onset of the court process. Compared to 26 times in 2021, in 2022, the number of court support interventions more than doubled to 61 times. This is explained by the multiple lockdowns due to Covid-19 in 2021, which resulted in both WCC offices being closed for 7 months. In 2022, the team also increased the number of e-mails and letters to the relevant agencies, at 30 times compared to only 9 times in 2021.



Figure 10: Types and Number of Interventions in 2022

ADVOCATING FOR BETTER VICTIM SUPPORT



National Judiciary Dialogue on “Improving Court Processes for Child Sexual Crime Victims”

On 8 October 2022, the Advocacy team successfully organised a one-day national judiciary dialogue titled “Improving Court Processes for Child Sexual Crime Victims”, at St Giles Wembley, Penang. This highlight of our year, organised in collaboration with UNICEF Malaysia, saw

the participation of 20 members of the judiciary involved in handling sexual crime cases across Malaysia. Presentations from judges from the Putrajaya Special Court for Sexual Crimes Against Children and Kuching Sessions Court highlighted the data trends in both courts. Presentations from WCC, the Attorney General's Chambers (AGC), and UNICEF underscored the importance of victim support for child sexual crime victims in court processes. The Dialogue was funded by the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI).

Meeting with Parliamentary Special Select Committee (PSSC) Chair

On 20 June 2022, the Advocacy team had an online meeting with YB Dato' Seri Azalina Othman Said, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister on Law & Human Rights and Chair of the PSSC on Women & Children Affairs and Social Development. The meeting was aimed at exploring how WCC could work with the PSSC to improve support for child victims and witnesses in our justice system. WCC made a presentation which included recommendations to conduct a study on the Special Court for Sexual Crimes Against Children, institutionalise systematic training for police, deputy prosecutors and judges, and increase consultation with civil society organisations.

LOBBYING AND NETWORKING ON WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Lobbying for the Anti-Sexual Harassment Bill 2021

The long awaited Anti-Sexual Harassment Bill 2021 was finally passed in July 2022, and gazetted in October 2022. WCC, as part of the Joint Action Group for Gender Equality (JAG) has been actively campaigning for a sexual harassment law in Malaysia since the 1990s. Between February and July 2022, WCC, as part of the Anti-Sexual



Harassment Advocacy Group comprising JAG, Engender Consultancy, and Young Women Making Change, was actively involved in lobbying for revisions of the Bill. WCC contributed significantly to this campaign, including leading the lobbying of the PSSC on Women & Children Affairs and Social Development, coordinating the drafting of a Briefing Note for Members of Parliament, and producing a campaign video documenting the history of the women's groups' lobbying for the Bill.

KPWKM Jawatankuasa Menangani Keganasan Rumah Tangga (JKRT)

The JKRT (Domestic Violence Committee) is a national level committee set up by the Kementerian Pembangunan Wanita, Keluarga dan Masyarakat (KPWKM). In 2022, the Advocacy team attended and gave important inputs in three meetings organised by the JKRT. In addition to the JKRT, WCC also sits on the Data and Advocacy & Capacity Building sub-committees of the JKRT. The JKRT's primary role is to monitor and improve the coordination among the relevant agencies and NGOs in handling domestic violence cases nationwide.

Media Advocacy and Awareness Talks

In 2022, WCC endorsed 16 media statements by JAG and other civil society organisations on women's and children's rights and other human rights issues, including sexual harassment, equal citizenship rights and gender equality.

The Advocacy team also gave 10 public awareness talks, mostly on the issue of sexual harassment, for various target groups, including the Malaysian Bar Council and multinational corporations. The talks were conducted online and in person. They helped WCC to build relationships with various stakeholders and to increase our visibility. All in, we reached a total of 600 people through these talks.



Moving forward, in 2023, the Advocacy team will continue providing victim support for domestic and sexual violence victims. Under our ongoing CFLI project, we will be organising multi-agency seminars for criminal justice system agencies and trainings for D11 (sexual, women and child investigation division) police investigating officers in the states of Johor and Sabah as well as producing a short video on sexual crimes against children to raise public support on the issue. We will also continue to engage at the national level to advocate for relevant legal and institutional reforms.

OUR PEOPLE

GENERAL COMMITTEE 2022



Patron	Y.A. Bhg. Toh Puan Dato' Seri Utama Khadijah Mohd Nor
Trustees	Lalitha Menon Chin Khuan Sui Yuslinov Ahmad

GENERAL COMMITTEE 2022

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WCC ISLAND STAFF

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Karen Lai Yu Lee

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Mangleswary Subramaniam

Senior Social Worker

Lau Swee Li

Social Workers

Asmar Bakhari

Sinthu Krishna Moorthy

Advocacy Officer

Hastiny Subramaniam

Liaison Officer

Nadila Daud (left April '22)

Project Officer

Yeap Yen Ying

Communications Officer

Masya Zabidi

Senior Finance Officer

Teoh Piek Fong

Operations Officer

Choong Yong Yi

PPW STAFF

Manager

Ooi Say Tee

Social Worker

Salma Farhanah A. Rasid

Teh Hui Hui (left February '22)

Ooi Bee See (joined March '22)

Nurmasliyana Abdul Rahman (joined July '22)

VALUE SHOP SUPERVISORS

Value Shop @ Tanjong Tokong

Lim Ai Lay

Ida Ooi (left February '22)

Eileen Lim (joined March '22)

Value Shop @ Bayan Baru (till June '23)

Linda Goh

Cindy Chew



WORKING COMMITTEES

Human Resources Standing Committee

Annie Yeap*, Susan Siew, Yeoh Siew Eng & Loh Cheng Kooi (ex-officio)

PPW Working Committee

Chin Khuan Sui*, Lim Kian Leong, Nazima Versay Kudus, Nurul Isma June & Ooi Say Tee (ex-officio)

Value Shop Working Committee

Mariam Lim*, Susan Siew, Annie Yeap

Lim Ai Lay, Ida Ooi, Eileen Lim, Linda Goh, Cindy Chew, Loh Cheng Kooi & Choong Yong Yi (ex-officios)

Victim Support Services Working Committee

Lalitha Menon*, Prema Devaraj, Melissa Akhir, Ahmad Munawir Abdul Aziz, Chang Mei Leng,

Karen Lai, Hastiny Subramaniam & Loh Cheng Kooi (ex-officios)

**Denotes chairperson*

APPRECIATION & GRATITUDE

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- Dell Giving Your Cause
- Dell Strategic Grant
- Embassy of Netherlands
- Embassy of Switzerland
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- Intel
- Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia
- Malaysian Crime Prevention Foundation (MCPF)
- Neoh Foundation
- OCBC Bank
- Penang State MMK for Social Development

CHARITY BENEFICIARY

- International Women's Day (IWD) NextGen & Entrepreneurs Charity Networking Dinner
- IWD A Happy Women's Day by Women Artists
- IWD by Lions Club of Penang Rising Star
- IWD eBay Malaysia Employees
- IWD Intel Virtual Fun Run
- IWD Keysight Women's Council
- IWD NI Run & Walk
- IWD POWIIS Primary Bake Sale
- IWD Spin-A-Thon by Fierce Fitness Penang
- Mariam Lim's Nyonya Kebaya Photobook Project



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- Western Digital
- Women in Network - Plexus (Penang Chapter)
- Zhulian Management Sdn Bhd

IN MEMORY OF (IMO)

- Estate of Mona Lim
- IMO Mona Lim
- IMO Lee Hau Chern
- IMO Lee Swee Sim
- IMO Rosemarie Kraemer
- IMO Teoh Saw Bee

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- Exabytes Network Sdn Bhd

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- Yeo Kok Hong
- Yeoh Siew Eng
- Yong Jing Ting
- Yuzainov bt Ahmad

***WCC is truly grateful for the donations in support of our work.
We apologise for not listing every individual's name due to limited space.***

PARTNERS AND SUPPORTING AGENCIES

- Agensi Kaunseling dan Pengurusan Kredit (AKPK)
- All Women's Action Society (AWAM)
- Association of Women Lawyers (AWL)
- Attorney General's Chambers
- Coalition of Malaysian NGOs in the UPR Process (COMANGO)
- Crime Consciousness & Public Safety Society
- CSO Platform for Reform
- ENGENDER Consultancy
- Foreign Spouses Support Group (FSSG)
- Hospital Balik Pulau
- Hospital Bukit Mertajam
- Hospital Kepala Batas
- Hospital Pulau Pinang
- Hospital Seberang Jaya
- Hospital Sungai Bakap
- Ibu Pejabat Polis Daerah-daerah Pulau Pinang
- Ibu Pejabat Polis Kontinjen Pulau Pinang
- International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC)
- Jabatan Bantuan Guaman Negeri Pulau Pinang
- Jabatan Hal Ehwal Agama Islam Pulau Pinang
- Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat Pulau Pinang
- Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Pulau Pinang
- Jabatan Pendidikan Negeri Pulau Pinang
- Jawatankuasa Pembangunan Wanita dan Keluarga (JPWK) Batu Lintang
- JPWK Berapit
- JPWK Bukit Tambun
- JPWK Machang Bubuk
- JPWK Padang Lalang
- JPWK Seri Delima
- JPWK Sungai Pinang
- Justice for Sisters (JFS)
- Kementerian Pembangunan Wanita, Keluarga dan Masyarakat (KPWKM)
- Klinik Kesihatan Air Itam
- Klinik Kesihatan Bandar Baru Air Itam



- Klinik Kesihatan Jalan Macalister
- Klinik Kesihatan Jalan Perak
- Klinik Kesihatan Sungai Dua
- Knowledge and Rights with Young People through Safer Spaces (KRYSS) Network
- Lions Club of George Town Island
- Lions Club of Penang Rising Star
- Mahkamah-Mahkamah di Pulau Pinang
- Majlis Pengurusan Komuniti Kampung (MPKK) Pesiaran Pulau Tikus
- Malaysian Association of Social Workers (MASW)
- Malaysian Crime Prevention Foundation (MCPF)
- Office of the Chief Registrar of the Federal Court of Malaysia
- Pejabat Kebajikan Masyarakat Daerah-daerah Pulau Pinang
- Pejabat Kesihatan Daerah Seberang Perai Selatan





- Penang Community Care
- Penang Forum
- Penang Legal Aid Centre
- Penang Women's Development Corporation (PWDC)
- Perak Women for Women Society (PWW)
- Persatuan Kesedaran Komuniti Selangor (EMPOWER)
- Persatuan Orang Pekak Pulau Pinang
- Persatuan Sahabat Wanita Selangor (PSWS)
- Pertubuhan Kebajikan Snehama Malaysia (SNEHAM)
- Pertubuhan Pergerakan Wanita Johor (JEWEL)
- Pertubuhan Rumah Kebajikan Seri Cahaya
- PPR Desa Wawasan
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- Pusat Khidmat ADUN Machang Bubuk

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- Sabah Women's Action Resource Group (SAWO)
- Sarawak Women For Women Society (SWWS)
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- Stand Up Malaysia
- Suruhanjaya Komunikasi dan Multimedia Malaysia (SKMM)
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- Women In Action, Dell Technologies
- Women's Aid Organisation (WAO)
- Women's Rights Awareness Association (WRAA)
- Young Women Making Change



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- Lam Research
- ViTrox Technologies
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 Lim Yee Hong, Quah Yi Min,
 Ruby Toh Yen Yee, Sarah Leung, Seow Xue Xi

We sincerely apologise to any persons whom we may have inadvertently missed out.

About WCC



www.wccpenang.org

Women's Centre for Change, Penang (WCC) is a non-profit, tax-exempt organisation dedicated to the elimination of violence against women and children, and the promotion of gender equality and social justice.

Established in 1985, we provide services in counselling, court support, and temporary shelter. WCC also conducts outreach programmes in schools and communities, and advocates for legal and policy reforms affecting women and children.

WCC is a member of the Joint Action Group for Gender Equality (JAG) which actively campaigns for policy and legal reforms.

About PPW



Pusat Perkhidmatan Wanita (PPW) is a smart partnership set up in 2009 between WCC and the Penang State Government where the state allocates an annual grant for WCC to manage its operations.

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