

ANNUAL REVIEW



ANNUAL REVIEW 2003

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Maznah Mohamad

The year 2003 was another exhausting but productive year for the WCC. As our Diary depicts, staff and volunteers at WCC have not had a moment to spare in their working days. They have had their hands full running the numerous activities that the organisation has committed itself to.

As I continue to pen my remarks in this report let me immediately place my record of thanks and appreciation to all those who have worked so hard for WCC. It was a remarkable year and we have had our share of big successes, moderate gains and small shortcomings along the way.



The 2003-elected committee of WCC and its staff started the year in March with a day-long event, the International Women's Day. The response was tremendous and the theme, "Women's Safety, Everybody's Concern" struck a chord with the public. Although the street procession which involved vehicles and motorbikes in colourful decorations gave the event a carnival-like atmosphere the message was serious. WCC

managed to drive home a message that was as prescient as it was timely. The spate of violent and fateful assault that befell women and girls as the year wore on attests to the significance of the Women's Day message.

As in all previous years, WCC has functioned to fulfill our responsibilities in the following areas:

- 1) Counselling and Services
- 2) Outreach and Education
- 3) Legal Reform and Advocacy
- 4) Information Dissemination and Public Education

In terms of services we have continued to provide social, psychological and legal counselling to many clients. These have been provided to those who have dropped in at the centre or to those who have phoned in. I believe that we have systematized and upgraded the quality of our counselling services over the years. It was through the professionalism and dedication of our full-time service coordinator, Annie Yeap that this was made possible.

Besides helping clients at the centre the services section also runs and maintains the Shelter Home. Annie, together with June Lim had also conducted sessions for community groups on various issues ranging from domestic violence to sexuality concerns of teenagers. June was also involved in giving talks to more specialized groups such as to medical students and staff of the Psychiatric Unit of the Penang Medical College.

The service section also coordinated several workshops sponsored by the Ministry of Women and Family Development. One of the more successful of these workshops was the one on Police Response to Violence Against Women, which saw

the participation of some 36 police officers who hold important positions as front-desk personnel at their respective stations.

Throughout the year the counselling and services section suffered a bit because of our inability to hire a suitable counsellor that could deal with Muslim cases and the Syariah laws. WCC hopes to recruit a Muslim project officer to fill this gap.

In our outreach programme WCC has, for the past year, focused on working with educationists in our school system so as to connect with young people. We have liaised with the education department, school administrators and teachers to enable us to introduce WCC's programme for preventing child sexual abuse in society. The programme Bijak Itu Selamat and RESPEK come with their own signature toolkits to enable our outreach facilitators and volunteers to make an impact on their audience.



The outreach team also promoted the educational kits among teachers, parents and other trainers so that they can be effectively used to raise awareness and instill safety skills among children. The efforts of Prema, Jaya, Masreen and the chairperson of the Outreach Committee, Khuan Sui, are truly com-

mendable. Last year they were able to go all the way to Kangar and Kota Bharu to successfully conduct their outreach programme. Besides the out-of-town outreach programmes, our staff Jaya, Prema and Masreen chalked up many hours of hard work in explaining the issues of sexual assault and abuse against youths and children. They were active in giving talks to students in schools and universities within the city.

Our legal reform and advocacy programme has concentrated on several focal areas:

1. Campaign for a bill to prevent sexual harassment at the workplace.
2. Contribution to the preparation of a shadow report on Malaysia's compliance to CEDAW (co-ordinated by NCWO) to be presented to the United Nation's CEDAW Committee.
3. Participation in the Anti-Rape Task Force led by AWAM and contribution towards the Memorandum on Laws Related to Rape, submitted to the Attorney-General.
4. Legal advisory and consultancy on gender-related laws given to various bodies such as Suhakam (National Human Rights Commission), Legal Aid Bureau, Ministry of Women and Family Development and the Malaysian Airline Systems Employees Union (MASEU).
5. The organisation of two workshops related to legal advocacy - national workshop on Developing Public Interest Intervention Techniques and an international workshop sponsored by the UN Sub-Commission on Human Rights, Women and Legal Justice.

The key persons behind the above activities have been Zarizana, Honey, Lalitha, Yuslinov and our legal officer Lynn Oh. They have all done a superb job of

profiling WCC's role in the advocacy and law reform front. The challenge is for us to be able to ensure that law reform and policy advocacy can work for women and our clients in redressing their day-to-day problems.



As can be gleaned from our Diary of Events our staff and volunteers have also given talks to community groups, schools, government bodies, non-governmental organisations as well as to companies in the manufacturing sector. We have tried our best to educate the public on issues requiring urgent attention and redress, notably the issue of violence and sexual crimes against women and children. Although much more needs to be done by government and society we feel that we have tried to contribute in this area to the best of our ability.

Our public education programmes have also included writing letters to the press and responding to some others that are of relevance to our interests. Several

of our letters pertaining to sexual harassment, verdicts on rape cases, unequal gender laws and sexism in society have all been published in the local papers. Some have generated lively debates and exchanges among the readers.

I believe that WCC has been very efficient in carrying out all the obligations entrusted upon us by the general meeting. However, I do also believe that of late we have not injected as much “innovative capital” into WCC as was necessary. While it is to be lauded that WCC has lived up to its name in being one of the most active, autonomous and well-endowed women's organisations we must also attempt to be creative in our approach. We still lack membership from among the young, from among a larger cross-section of our ethnic communities, and from among the lower-income and non-professional groups.

We also have to ask the question – how much are we still a service-providing agency and how much are we already an advocacy organisation? Does our name-change from the Women's Crisis Centre to the Women's Centre for Change reflect any shift in purpose and identity? Maybe we have too little time to do much reflection given the amount of work that the centre is involved in. But nonetheless I have chosen to bring this up as a basis for future reflection to ensure that we can continue to be dynamic and responsive to society's changing needs.

On a more personal note, we bade farewell to several friends this year.

We gave our last tearful goodbye to Miki Goh who left us in October last year. Miki was one of the founders of WCC in 1985. She had remained with WCC ever since as its legal advisor, financial consultant and guiding light. The news of her passing came as a shock. Her memory will remain forever in our hearts.



Masreen was the first of our staff to have left us in 2003. As youth is on her side a larger horizon beckons. Mas was a “techno-wizard”, I have been told. WCC benefitted a lot from her computer and multimedia skills. Besides that WCC will miss having someone with a lively zest for work.

June Lim will also be leaving us as our part-timer as of 2004. We thank her from the bottom of our heart for her many years of dedicated service. June always had an assuring smile for everyone. She is already a seasoned “local”. We therefore look forward to her continual warm presence as a dear friend and volunteer of WCC.

Lynn Oh our spunky Legal Officer has also left us for Down Under. In the short time that Lynn was with us she had put in a lot of effort and bubbly enthusiasm into all of her projects. We will miss her and will hope against hope that she may someday return to make Penang her permanent home.

Honey Tan, a long-serving committee member, friend, representative and volunteer of WCC left us for greener pastures in the UK. We have been told for further studies. WCC bade her farewell in an uproarious way which belied our hope that she will somehow (through a miracle) return to dedicate her services to WCC.

Last but not least I have saved my biggest and best thank you to Cheng Kooi, the backbone and nerve axis of WCC. Cheng Kooi not only managed the office with swift efficiency but had skillfully coordinated all of the activities of the centre in such an integral way. Acting at the same time as director, fund-raiser and caretaker of WCC, the president of any organisation could not have asked for a more perfect Executive Director. WCC owes a tremendous debt to Cheng Kooi and all her staff for making the year 2003 another winning year for WCC.

GENERAL COMMITTEE 2003

President

Maznah Mohamad

Vice President

Lalitha Menon

Vice President

Yuslinov Ahmad

Secretary

Noraida Endut

Assistant Secretary

Hajar Abdul Rahim

Treasurer

Wendy Ang Bi Kong

Committee Members

Lim Kah Cheng
Chin Khuan Sui
Jenny Lim Eng Leng
Carol Mah
Jacqueline Tan
Chew Ming See
Shakila Abdul Manan

Internal Auditor

Diana Elizabeth Khoo

Staff

Loh Cheng Kooi (*Executive Director*)
Prema Devaraj (*Consultant Trainer*)
Annie Yeap Lay Pheng (*Service Coordinator*)
Jayamalar Samuel (*Outreach Project Officer*)

Short Term

Oh Beng Lynn (*Legal Officer*)
Siti Masreen Rosdi (*Project Officer*)
Sharon Anthony (*IWD Coordinator*)



THE SUB-COMMITTEES

Service (Counselling, Shelter and Training)

Wendy (Chairperson)
Jenny, Carol June Estrop
Noraida Prema
Mrs. Neela
Annie Yeap
June Lim

Outreach

Khuan Sui (Chairperson)
Kah Cheng Jaya
Yuslinov Masreen
Carol Prema
Hajar
Shakila
Jackie

Legal Reform

Lalitha (Chairperson)
Honey Lynn
Yuslinov Cheng Kooi
Zarizana
Jackie

Publications

Irene (Chairperson)
Zarizana Cheng Kooi
Honey

MUSWAL

Noraida (Chairperson)
Yuslinov
Zarizana



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2003

Theme: Women's Safety, Everybody's Concern

NEW STRAITS TIMES

10/3/03



WOMAN POWER: A survey of 160 women athletes on bicycles, superbikes and in car moves along Jalan Batu (then in Penang) as part of a campaign to end violence against women. The women, carrying posters and banners, started their journey at midnight and reached the Bukit Jambul complex an hour later. The event, organised by the Women's Centre for Change, was held in conjunction with the International Women's Day celebrations. — NST picture by Luke Koh Ping

Koh: Work towards gender equality

PENANG, Sun. — Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Keng today urged both men and women to work towards establishing gender equality.

He said both sexes needed to change their attitudes.

"We no longer live in feudal times where males dominated and women were regarded as the weaker sex, whose place was only at home or in the kitchen."

"Women are not the weaker sex, and neither are men. Both should be regarded as equal," Koh said when opening International Women's Day celebrations organised by the Women's Centre for Change (WCC) at the Bukit Jambul Complex.

WCC commemorated International Women's Day with a huge festive-cum-awareness event on Sunday, March 9. The celebrations began with colourfully decorated vehicles of 42 bicycles, 26 superbikers, 12 cars carrying over 100 hand-painted messages on women's safety, starting from Komtar into the streets of Penang. They were accompanied by MixFm Radio. The colourful procession was nosily greeted by fellow motorists who honked and cheered in support to our cause.

The procession ended at Bukit Jambul Complex where the function was officiated by the Penang Chief Minister, Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon. Thirty two women's groups in Penang endorsed a submitted a memorandum on Women's Safety calling for better measures towards elimination of violence against women.

An exciting two hour programme followed: games, band performances, quizzes, games and competitions. Members of the public participated and many prizes won.

WCC would like to record our thanks and appreciation to all the sponsors. And of course, special thanks to all our hardworking volunteers and staff for making the 2003 International Women's Day a memorable one!

WCC INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2003

The vehicle convoy bringing safety messages to the streets of Penang

*In the morning, the vehicle
convoy began from KOMTAR*



The Intel superbikers

*Getting
ready for
action*



*Motorcar
Convoy*



The winners



The crowd



WCC INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2003

Activities at Bukit Jambul Complex





*Presenting the IWD
memorandum to
the Penang Chief
Minister*



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY MEMORANDUM

On 9 March 2003, 32 women's organisations submitted a memorandum on "Women's Safety Everybody's Concern" to Tan Sri Dr. Koh Tsu Koon.

Not a day goes by without a newspaper report on violence against women: the shocking abduction and rape of a woman on the highway, another woman raped in a car park in broad day light, a horrific gang rape and murder of a woman in a plantation. Other forms of violence inflicted on women include sexual harassment, domestic violence, molestation and fatal incidents of snatch theft.

All forms of violence faced by women are damaging both to her mental and physical well-being, as well as to her family. With so much violence against women in both the country and internationally, it is essential that we work together to put a stop to this violence.

Today, in commemoration of International Women's Day 2003, the women's groups in Penang have come together on the theme *Women's Safety, Everybody's Concern*. Women contribute immensely in today's society. Yet they are frequently attacked, abused and assaulted at home, work and whilst travelling. To ensure the safety of women and eliminate violence from the community, it is essential that we work together.

We strongly feel that women's safety must be given full priority. We therefore call upon both the State and National Governments to:

Legislation

- Improve existing legal systems so that perpetrators of sexual offences get convicted.

- Amend existing legislation on domestic violence, rape and incest laws to allow for wider protection of victims.
- Pass legislation to prevent sexual harassment.
- Set up a Family Court in every state to ensure efficient and speedy hearings on family matters in a non-adversarial environment.

Education

- Educate the community, especially the youth and the men, to take a proactive role in stopping violence against women.
- Implement a community campaign to stop violence against women.

Training

- Implement gender sensitizing training courses in all government agencies.

Police

- Increase the number of street police patrols.
- Encourage community friendly policing.
- Professionalize the police force.

Women have a right to a safe environment. We want both the State and Federal Governments to ensure this environment exists. Working in full partnership with the people, the State and Federal Governments can eliminate violence against women.

Make Penang a Safer Place for Women! Make Malaysia a Safer Nation!



Submitted by:

Women's Centre for Change (WCC) Penang

Endorsed by:

- Convent Ex-Pupils Association
- Federation of Women's Lawyers of North Malaya, Penang
- Junior Chamber Pearl
- Lembaga Kebajikan Perempuan Islam
- Malaysian German Society
- Malaysian Nurses Association, Penang Branch
- Malaysian Trades Union Congress Penang Division
- MGS Ex-Pupils Association
- Mothers for Mothers, Penang Branch
- National Council of Women's Organisations, Penang Branch
- Pejabat Pembangunan Wanita Pulau Pinang
- Perkumpulan Perempuan Negeri Pulau Pinang (W.I.)
- Persatuan Pandu Puteri Pulau Pinang
- Persatuan Perancangan Keluarga Negeri Pulau Pinang
- Pertubuhan Bunga Tanjung
- Pertubuhan Jamaah Islah Malaysia
- Pertubuhan Kebajikan Islam Malaysia (PERKIM), Pulau Pinang
- Rumah Nur Bukit Bendera
- Rumah Nur Daerah Barat Daya
- Rumah Nur Daerah Seberang Prai Selatan
- Rumah Nur Daerah Seberang Prai Tengah
- Rumah Nur Daerah Seberang Prai Utara
- Rumah Nur Daerah Timur Laut Utara
- Rumah Nur Daerah Timur Laut Selatan
- Wanita Parti Gerakan Rakyat Malaysia
- Wanita Parti Gerakan Rakyat Malaysia Negeri Pulau Pinang
- Wanita MIC, Penang Branch
- Wanita Umno Negeri Pulau Pinang
- Women's Development Research Centre (KANITA)
- Women's Welfare Council
- Young Women's Christian's Association (YWCA) Penang

SERVICE REPORT

Wendy Ang, Annie Yeap and June Lim

Year 2003 was a busy and fruitful year for the service sub-committee. Besides providing counselling for clients, two major training programmes were conducted namely: one for staff and volunteers of the Women's Ministry service centres (Rumah Nur) and another for the front desk police officers. WCC considers such initiatives significant since these capacity building efforts are geared towards improving response and services for women seeking help.

WCC recognises the important role of counselling and other support services for abused women to help them overcome the trauma and cope with the situation but, at the same time, the service subcommittee is looking forward to developing more programmes to prevent and eventually eliminate violence against women and children.

In this year, the services that WCC provided were as follows:

- Face to face counselling 240 new cases
53 old cases



- Telephone counselling 796 calls
- No. of shelter clients 8 women and
5 children

Face to face counselling

This year, WCC conducted 335 counselling sessions, 240 of which were new cases while 53 were old cases who came back for follow up support sessions with the social worker. 95% of our clients were women and the rest were men. The number

Table 1: Face to Face Counselling (New cases)

	2001		2002		2003	
	Total number	%	Total number	%	Total number	%
Marital problems	106	44.0	112	41.9	98	40.8
Domestic violence	67	27.8	71	27.0	70	29.1
Relationship	13	5.4	15	5.6	20	8.3
Information seeking	5	2.1	14	5.2	16	6.6
Legal advice	8	3.3	30	11.0	12	5.0
Rape	5	2.1	3	1.1	5	2.1
Incest/ child sexual abuse	1	0.4	4	1.5	4	1.7
Sexual harassment	7	2.9	2	0.7	4	1.7
Others	29	12.0	16	6	11	4.6
Total	241	100	267	100	240	100

of total new cases has dropped by 10% compared to the previous year. A three-year comparison of the new cases is shown in Table 1.

Table 1 shows that marital problems rank the highest number of cases (40.8%), followed by domestic violence cases (29.1%). The need for legal advice has dropped by 60% followed by marital problems which have dropped 12% compared to last year's statistics. There was only a slight increase in relationship problems and those seeking information. The rest of the cases remained about the same when compared to last year.

Out of the total marital cases, 63% of those who sought help were Chinese and 29% were Malay. Most of the problems they faced were related to communication breakdown that led to situations like extra marital affairs arising. Some women choose to divorce their husbands and a few requested WCC to counsel their husbands. Under domestic violence cases, 51% were Chinese and 46% were Indian. The percentage of Indians facing domestic violence is high.

From the face-to-face counselling statistic, we found that the socio-economic backgrounds of our clients are as follows:

- Majority of clients seeking help are middle and lower middle class. The statistic shows that 36% earn between RM500 – RM1,000 and 49% of the total cases have secondary education only.
- About 41% of our clients are in their 30s. This shows that the crisis situations arise in the early stages of their marriage. Women not only have to struggle to survive but may become single parents in need of social support services.

Other groups and agencies continue to refer cases to WCC. Cases referred are as follows: government hospitals (5 cases), the police (2 cases), welfare department (1 case), Jabatan Pendaftaran Negeri (1 case), legal practitioners (2 cases) and political parties (7 cases).

This year, the number of telephone counselling cases has dropped drastically, a decrease of 41%, in all the cases except legal advice which has

Table 2 - Telephone Counselling (Face to Face and Follow Up Calls)

	2001	2002	2003
Marital problems	471	399	230
Domestic Violence	166	199	173
Relationship	84	84	66
Information seeking	156	122	75
Legal advice	75	112	142
Rape/Incest/Child Sexual Abuse	13	33	18
Sexual Harassment	24	34	16
Others	373	142	76
TOTAL	1,362	1,125	796

Table 3 - Shelter

	2001		2002		2003	
	Woman	Children	Woman	Children	Woman	Children
Domestic Violence	11	5	6	9	7	5
Child Sexual Abuse	-	-	-	-	1	-
Others	2	2	2	6	-	-
TOTAL	13	7	8	15	8	5

increased by 21%. WCC received a total of 796 calls with 29% of the calls directly related to marital problems while 22% were related to spousal abuse. Calls for legal advice were mostly related to divorce procedures, custody issues and maintenance for their children. 94% of the callers were women and the rest were men.

Majority of the calls were from Penang, 10% from Kedah and 10% from other states. 26% of the callers are home makers, 16% of them, working as clerks or administrators, 6% were from the managerial levels, 3% were operators, 4% were self employed, 4% unemployed and 19% involved in other occupations and the occupations of the rest were unknown.

There has been a steady decline of calls over the last 3 years. The calls received in 2003 are almost half of what WCC received in 2001. There could be a number of reasons:

- Women in need are seeking help from other service centres in Penang that provide similar counselling services.

- The focus of WCC's work has expanded. We conduct less talks in communities but concentrate more on outreach programmes for school children. There is also less publicity on the counselling services.

Efforts have been made to have WCC's services regularly featured in both print and electronic media. On such occasions, we have received many calls (mostly from other states) but only for a few days. The newspapers and a radio channel still regularly announce WCC's hotline number. Callers were mostly from other states. Last year, WCC received about 6 letters and emails from the public seeking assistance.

Shelter

In 2003, the welfare department set a compulsory rule for those running homes to register under the Care Centre Act. WCC is currently in the process of registration.

The WCC shelter provided temporary refuge for a total of eight women and five children. Out of

the eight, seven were experiencing spousal abuse and one was an incest case. 75% of the women who sought shelter were Indian, the rest were equally made up of Chinese and Malay. 50% of the clients came from the mainland, 25% came from Kedah, 12% were from Penang Island and 12% from Kuala Lumpur.

The total length of stay for these eight clients was 115 days. 37% of them stayed for less than a week and 63% stayed for less than a month. Out of the eight clients who experienced family violence, two reconciled with their husbands, five moved out and one went back to her family.

The low usage of the shelter could be due to women having alternative accommodation with their extended family or friends. We also found that women prefer not to leave their homes possibly because of their young children.

Training

Rumah Nur Training

WCC conducted a three-day workshop for the staff and volunteers of Rumah Nur (formerly known as Pusat Khidmat Wanita) for the Northern Region namely Penang, Kedah, Perlis and Perak. The workshop was sponsored by the Ministry of Women and Family Development and was held from June 16th to 18th 2003. The basic aim of the workshop was to enhance the service providers' skill and knowledge in working with women in need. Twenty three participants attended the workshop. The workshop provided participants with an overview of Violence against Women issues as well as an introduction of handling procedures by agencies such as police, hospital and welfare. Other topics include gender issues; counselling methods and inter-agency networking.





Police Training

For the first time, WCC conducted a two and a half day workshop with only police personnel entitled 'Police Response to Violence Against Women Issues'. The workshop, sponsored by the Women and Family Development Ministry, looked at how the front desk office could response effectively and appropriately to women who faced these issues. This was a follow up for agencies after the inter-agencies workshop held in year 2001. Last year, WCC approached the OCPD to discuss this training for the police and we received approval to run the workshop. The feedback from the participants was very encouraging and they felt that the training was very useful.

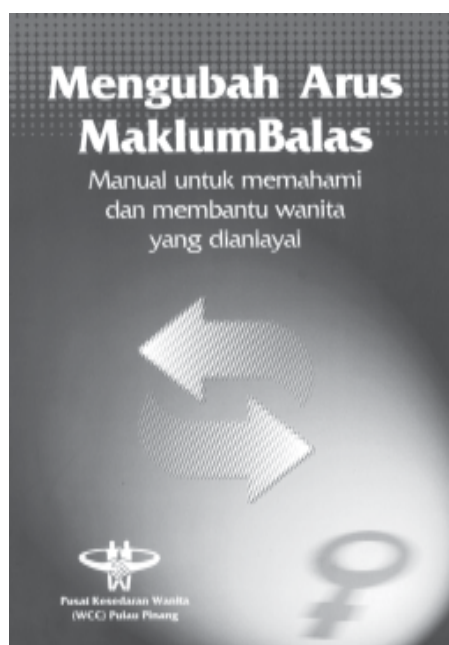
Manual for Hospital Personnel

WCC published a manual, *Mengubah Arus Maklumbalas* tailored for hospital personnel with the aim to enhance their understanding of abused women. The manual details the crisis intervention processes and help, role of One Stop Crisis Centre and sources of help from agencies and volunteers. The manual was disseminated to all hospitals throughout Malaysia in our effort to improve service support for abused women.

Service Outreach

This year the service group was invited by other groups and agencies to conduct public talks and seminars for their members and staff. A series of talks on domestic violence issues was held in organisations like Women Crisis Association Kedah, Kulim South Hokkien Association,

Wanita MIC Kedah and Penang Medical College. Consciousness raising for community and service providers will enhance people's knowledge of their legal rights. The responses for conducting training from various NGOs was very encouraging as WCC has established a reputation in providing training for service providers.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH REPORT

by Chin Khuan Sui

In 2003, the outreach sub-committee can be said to have achieved the most, so far, in terms of the number of activities actually carried out in schools and the community.

WCC launched the *Bijak Itu Selamat* educational package in 2 states, helped run 3 Youth Camps, went on the airwaves, and preparation started in December for a joint project for Form 4 students in 18 schools in Penang/Seberang Perai scheduled for March 2004.

Primary School Project

The OK Tak OK programme on the prevention of child sexual abuse had been made into an educational package entitled *Bijak Itu Selamat* or Be Smart, Be Safe. Since the official launch in Penang in June 2001, it had also been launched in Kedah in February 2002. As the Perak Education Department did not get back to us after our initial discussion in August 2002, we concentrated our efforts on Perlis this year. With the cooperation of the Education Department of Perlis, the programme was launched on the 14th of July 2003. Guest speakers included representatives from the Perlis General Hospital, Welfare Department and the Police. 140 school heads from 66 primary schools in Perlis attended this state-level launch and seminar. At the end of the seminar, 32 teachers signed up for follow-up training by WCC.

WCC is very appreciative of our main sponsor the Human Rights Project Fund under the British High Commission, which has continually supported this programme. With unwavering enthusiasm, we next looked east at Kelantan. With the great help of WCC member Siti Hawa Ali, we

had the full cooperation of the Kelantan Education Department and Hospital USM (OSCC) Kubang Kerian. On 22 September in Kota Bharu, some 228 primary school heads participated in this launch and seminar. A record 118 teachers indicated their keen interest to have a follow-up in-depth training.



Besides these state-level launches, our staff and volunteers were also invited to give talks on personal safety and prevention of child sexual abuse in four primary schools in Penang and one in Jitra, Kedah. The Handicapped Centre in Penang requested for a talk on personal safety for three 18-year-old girls, and WCC used a modified version of the OK Tak OK programme. WCC also worked together with the Children's Protection Society and Welfare Department of Penang in another workshop for 120 children in bringing awareness of child sexual abuse to them.

Secondary School Project

The RESPEK programme has undergone some modifications due to constraints in the time allotted by the schools, and also due to the current spate of date rapes and sexual assaults in the country. Essentially, the new version runs for 2 hours, with interactive workshops on topics like "Assumptions of the Opposite Sex", "Circle of

Friends”, “Values”, and “Sexual Assault” with a videotape/VCD session, which stimulates discussions on exploitative relationships.

Our consultant trainer, Dr. Prema Devaraj and our invaluable volunteer Janet Pillai have been working on revising the contents of the video to depict some rural scenarios, as well as the urban ones. In the meantime, we are looking for sources in funding for this endeavour.



Schools see the increasing need to create awareness and provide information to the students on personal safety, sexual assault and other forms of violence. WCC has received many invitations to give talks on these topics and also in teenage relationship issues for secondary school children from Form 1 to even Form 6 (St Xavier’s) on Sexual Harassment. WCC’s outreach staff Jayamalar and Masreen conducted most of these talks, while staff, Annie Yeap attended to the Chinese-type schools.

Workshops on the RESPEK programme were held in USM, Methodist Girls’ School, and in the combined project of 4 schools known as Brigid Komuniti Sekolah-Sekolah Menengah Padang Kota (October 28-29).

Our RESPEK programme was introduced by Prema at the national level during a workshop on Sexuality/Reproductive Education organised by the Ministry of National Unity and Social Development in April in Genting Highlands.

Youth Camp

There was a change in our “modus operandi” in our youth camp organisation. We saw that it was more effective to have joint efforts with other groups/organisations, who organised the participants and the logistics, while WCC facilitated the workshop sessions only. WCC provided training of the facilitators prior to the camp.

A two-day camp “Kem K.I.K.U.(Kenali I, Kenali U)” was organised by the school counsellors of SM Jelutong, SM Methodist Boys and SM Tanjung Bungah on May 2-3. The Penang Education Department sponsored this camp, which included 60 girls and boys coming from Form

3 to Form 5. The two-hour RESPEK programme covered conflict negotiation and communication. Facilitators were from Malayan Teachers’ College (MTC) and the Penang Office for Human Development (POHD).

Another camp, “Kem Perpaduan”, involving some 80 students from Forms 1 and 2 from SM Methodist Boys, SM Methodist Girls, SM Convent Light Street, SM Jelutong and SM Tanjung Bungah, was held on 11 August. It was organised by the school counsellors of these schools and sponsored by Penang Education Department. The main theme was National Unity, but gender and teenage relationship issues were also included.

On November 28-30, a youth camp themed “Society, Church and Me” organised by POHD was held in Sitiawan, Perak for 65 teenagers. Jayamalar was one of the facilitators, while Prema helped in training the facilitators from POHD. The topics covered friendship, relationship, communication, conflict and negotiation.

It had been our long-term plan to develop a pool of volunteers to help in facilitating camps/workshops in our outreach activities. As with the MTC students in 2002, we embarked on another collaborative effort with the POHD. Prema and Jayamalar conducted training in October for eight volunteers from POHD, who then tried out their skills during their one-day camp on “Youth and Sexuality”.



Membina Perhubungan Mesra (MPM) Programme

This is a joint project between WCC and Pertubuhan Bunga Tanjung for Form 4 students on friendship and relationship, sponsored by the Ministry of Women and Family Development.

In December, WCC representatives and members of the Pertubuhan Bunga Tanjung met up with Penang Education Department representatives to discuss the MPM project. With the approval obtained from the Department, a meeting of the principals of the 18 schools selected for the project was held to enable them to be introduced to the project, the contents and to clear any queries with WCC representatives. With the availability of funds, Prema and Janet Pillai have produced a VCD to be used in the programme. The project is scheduled to run from 22 March to 30 April 2004.

Community Outreach

With the close networking established last year with the Church and Tamil speaking community, there were more positive developments and activities. In January, WCC was invited to give a brief introduction on WCC work to a meeting of Tamil organisations of Penang. Prema and Jayamalar took the opportunity to indicate WCC's interest to conduct awareness programmes for Tamil youths and women.

In August, Radio 6 (Tamil channel) interviewed Jayamalar, our WCC project officer, about WCC and its services, after which there were many enquiries from the Indian community.

There were several other community outreach activities, which included talks by staff and volunteers to Tamil

Church members, and other Tamil speaking groups on Domestic Violence and other women's issues; the Muslim community on laws affecting women under Syariah Law, the USM groups and organisations on gender and sexuality issues.

Conclusion

I must commend all the staff, particularly Jayamalar and Masreen, and volunteers for having achieved so many projects this year, which means that everyone sacrificed time to help out in these activities. I would like to especially thank our consultant trainer Prema who had put in so much of her time (she works “part-time” officially) and has shown such dedication in our school projects and others.

We are all working towards bringing awareness to and trying to change the attitudes of men and women, with the hope that violence against women and children will lessen with the new generation.

LEGAL REFORM REPORT

Lalitha Menon and Loh Cheng Kooi

The Legal Reform Subcommittee undertook a wide range of activities in the year 2003, from lobbying for legislation to participating in many conferences and seminars.

Campaign for a Sexual Harassment Law

As the organising chair of the Joint Action Group Against Violence Against Women (JAG), WCC continued to highlight the need for legislation against sexual harassment. In January, the chairperson of JAG-Sexual Harassment, Zarizana Abdul Aziz and Dr Cecilia Ng of Women's Development Collective attended a second meeting organised by the Ministry of Women and Family Development (MWFD) with the Malaysian Employers Federation (MEF) and the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers (FMM) to follow up their status on the proposed Sexual Harassment Bill. FMM has in principle supported the Bill whereas MEF has objected to it.

During the Penang Dialogue with the MWFD in April, the Secretary-General of MWFD, Datin Faizah Mohd. Tahir, said that her Ministry will soon submit a working paper on a proposed sexual harassment bill to the Cabinet. In November when there was no further development, WCC wrote to the MWFD expressing JAG's dissatisfaction with the lack of progress on the proposed bill.

Several activities complemented the campaign for sexual harassment legislation. In January, WCC and All Women's Action Society (AWAM) jointly conducted training sessions for supervisors and managers of the Eastern Garment Manufacturing Company on sexual harassment in the workplace. WCC staff was also invited to give several public talks in Penang Office for Human Development,

the Penang Bar Committee, the National Union of Newspaper Workers, and the Rumah Nur Bistari programme. WCC also translated the English sexual harassment pamphlet into Malay, *Gangguan Seksual, Perlu diambil berat!* and 2,000 copies were printed and distributed during our talks and public functions.



In November, JAG members were proud to attend the book launch of *A Pioneering Step: Sexual Harassment & The Code of Practice in Malaysia* authored by Cecilia Ng, Zanariah Mohd.Nor and Maria Chin Abdullah. The book was a landmark study of six companies which had adopted the Code of Practice, on their practices, incidences and understanding of sexual harassment. JAG also issued a press statement urging the Prime Minister to take urgent steps to expedite the enactment of the Sexual Harassment Bill.

WCC continued to give prominence to the issue of sexual harassment by giving interviews in the media. During an interview for Malay Mail, WCC's executive director Loh Cheng Kooi urged the enactment of a law following an alleged case of sexual harassment in an international company in Penang. In the Sunday Mail, the Star and New Straits Times, WCC rebutted claims of the use of feminine wiles to advance careers, clarifying the difference between sexual harassment and sexual trading. Zarizana was featured in a Harian Metro article and appeared with Dr. Cecilia Ng on TV1 Selamat Pagi Malaysia to discuss substantive issues on sexual harassment and themes presented in A Pioneering Step.

Women comprise half of the Malaysian workforce and sexual harassment is associated with significant productivity loss and human costs. It is thus imperative that our government respond with definitive sexual harassment legislation without further delay.

Memorandum on Rape Amendments

With the setting up of the Anti-Rape Taskforce to study the amendments to the Rape Laws headed by AWAM (All Women's Action Society), WCC participated actively through our representative Lalitha Menon. In April, the Taskforce met up with the Attorney-General, Tan Sri Abdul Ghani Patail, the Solicitor General Datuk Zaritun and other key members of the Attorney General Chambers and discussed a draft Memorandum on Laws Related to

Rape. A press conference held on 9th September by the Taskforce was given good coverage in the national dailies. The final memorandum was submitted to the relevant bodies like A-G Chambers, Women's Ministry, Legal Affairs of Prime Minister's Department and Members of Parliament. The Taskforce is planning further measures to lobby for amendments to the rape laws.

CEDAW

In March, WCC Legal Reform members Zarizana Abdul Aziz and Honey Tan attended the SUHAKAM's International Women's Day 2003 Round Table Discussion on Rights and Obligations under CEDAW. As one of only five presentors, Honey provided an overview of the discriminatory non-Syariah laws in Malaysia. Lynn Oh subsequently attended the meeting discussing the forthcoming report to the United Nations CEDAW Committee on Malaysia's compliance with its obligations as a signatory to the Convention.

As a signatory to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, it is crucial that the government takes measure to comply with CEDAW provisions to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all Malaysian citizens.



Workshop on Public Intervention Techniques

WCC was pleased to organise a national workshop in August on Developing Public Interest Techniques. The first of its kind in Malaysia, the workshop was the product of a study tour to the Women's Legal Education and Advocacy Fund (LEAF) in Toronto, Canada, by Zarizana Abdul Aziz, Honey Tan and Salbiah Ahmad. The one-day workshop aimed to encourage the development of public interest intervention techniques, with the end goal of enabling third parties to appear and present relevant information to the court as required. Sponsored by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the workshop organisers undertook to share the insights and experiences derived from the LEAF study tour with senior legal practitioners in Malaysia.

Meetings and Workshops

In January, WCC hosted a meeting on Women and Legal Justice attended by several members of the UN sub-commission on Human Rights and legal advocates in the Asian region. Zarizana presented an overview of the Malaysian situation on women in detention. Several staff and committee members also participated in this event, organised by the Asian Women's Fund.

Honey Tan, WCC legal reform representative, presented a paper entitled Balancing the Rights of its Members When Divorce Occur during an International Conference organised by Asia Pacific Forum on Families, and a paper on Gender Equality during the National Consultation on SUHAKAM.

Several other key meetings were attended by WCC staff and volunteers: the seminar on Family Court organised by the Family Law Committee of Bar Council; the Penang Dialogue with MWFD; the Consultation on Section 51 of the Law Reform Act 1976 and other Laws organised by MWFD and AWAM; meeting with the East Timor visitors from the National Legislation Working Group on Domestic Violence Law; and the National Steering Committee on Violence Against Women meeting organised by the MWFD.

Conclusion

We are grateful to the ongoing commitment of volunteers and staff, without whom our successes could not have occurred. The year has been an eventful one, but as always, there is an ongoing need for more to be done.



Farewell dearest Miki



*Below is the eulogy delivered by
Datuk Saleena Yahaya-Isa at Miki Goh-Hoalim's
funeral church service held at St. Georges Church on
21 October 2003.*

Dear Friends and family members,

This eulogy to Miki comes from the heart. Yet I do not speak from the perspective of one person. This is a joint expression written with sincerity and appreciation from Miki's many friends at the Women's Centre for Change, formerly known as the Women's Crisis Centre. We in WCC and the many other organizations that Miki was involved in, count ourselves privileged to have known her and value her friendship.

So it is with humility and pride, I read this eulogy to Miki.

On behalf of WCC, I would first like to thank Philip and his family for giving us this opportunity to express our sadness and deep sorrow at the sudden departure of our beloved Miki and to share with you what Miki meant to us.

WCC will always be grateful to Miki for her contributions which have helped made WCC into what it is today, a credible women's organization whose views are sought after and given due recognition. She had helped us help hundreds of women in crisis, survivors of rape and domestic violence and touched the lives of many more.

I first met Miki and Philip very briefly in London way back in 1952. However, I only got to know Miki well some time in 1984 or 1985 when we got together with a group of other concerned women in Penang to set up the WCC to help women in crisis and to work for the advancement of women.

Miki was one of the founder members of WCC. From the start, she worked quietly and selflessly to see towards its legal registration as a non-profit voluntary society. She then obtained for WCC its tax-exempt status which is crucial for WCC's financial survival.

With the same integrity and foresight, she conscientiously monitored to ensure that WCC's accounts were properly kept, the annual general meetings were duly carried out every year and the returns filed on time with the relevant authorities. In other words, she gave WCC good governance and transparency of which we are very proud of.

With her experience and shrewd business sense, she guided WCC into acquiring our own Shelter home and our own office when we outgrew our old one-room premise at Macalister Road. She used her vast contacts and good standing to obtain for the organization the necessary financing to acquire these buildings. Had it not been for Miki, we might still be giving counselling services to clients in the open air carpark lots at Macalister Road like we used to do many years back.

But most of all, we cherished Miki, for her quiet wisdom which helped us scale mountains and weather many storms, never once seeking glory, power or self-aggrandisement for herself.

Through the many conflicts that inevitably occur in any human organization, Miki never showed nor harboured any grudges against anybody. Whatever she did at WCC, it was for the cause, for the advancement of women. She was always generous with her time and ready to share her knowledge and expertise.

All the members and the staff of WCC who had the good fortune to know Miki and the opportunity to work with her are indebted to her in one way or another.

Miki had a big and generous heart – she treated women from different races and religions with respect, caring about neither their socio- economic status nor their

continued next page



Miki with her WCC friends

demned in prison, held family services around town and opened the St. Paul's Mission (now St. Paul's Church) in Macalister Road.

Miki was very proud of her father, the late Mr. G.H.Goh who was elected as the first Mayor of Georgetown, Penang in 1957. She was equally proud of her aunt, the late Mrs. B.H. Oon, the first lady barrister in Malaya and Singa-

pore, who fought for equal rights for women.

political affiliations. There is no match to her capacity for charitable work .

Besides her voluntary service at WCC, she was appointed a trustee of Women Institute in Management, patron to the Pearl Junior Chambers Penang, committee member of the Bar Council Conveancing Committee, past president of the Federation of Women Lawyers, Penang, former treasurer of the International Women Lawyers Federation based in New York, USA.

She was also a Board of Governors member of the Methodist Girls School and the Legal Advisor to many charities like St Nicholas Home for the Visually Impaired, YWCA, Penang Family Planning Association, and the Girl Guides Association, to name just a few.

Miki and Philip did their law degree in England and were called to the English Bar in 1952 and married soon after. They began their practice in Singapore. She became the first woman appointed to the Singapore Bench as a Juvenile Court Magistrate. In 1959, together with Mr. S.E. Tan, they started the Legal Aid Bureau housed in the Labour Department in Singapore.

In 1962, she and Philip moved to Penang and continued their practice and only retired in April 2002, exactly half a century in legal practice. On their retirement, they donated their private collection of legal books to the Bar Council Library in KL.

Miki carried with her a very strong sense of pride of her own family history. Her grandmother the late Tan lu Ghee, started her missionary work amongst the con-

Miki's boundless energy and enthusiasm put to shame many women half her age. She was one of those individuals whom we associate with timelessness. We hold her with great admiration and esteem. We have been so fortunate to have known her and work with her.

We are indeed thankful to Philip and his family for sharing her with us. It is thus with great shock and profound sadness that we learn of her sudden passing.

It was less than a month ago when Miki was performing a little dance for us at WCC in a farewell party we gave to a colleague who was leaving for further studies. What a delightful reminder that was, to all of us, of Miki's exceptional humanity.

Now we have to bid Miki farewell. We shall always remember her as a warm human person, a selfless giver, a friend with a great sense of humour, a gentle soul, and one of Society's truest, finest Samaritans. Miki, we thank you for sharing so much with us and for all your contributions which we will always cherish.

What a wonderful legacy that you have left us in our various organizations.

What a wonderful gift you bequeathed to us.

And what a wonderful inspiration for us to continue serving society as you did.

Farewell Miki, we will miss you dearly.

We pray the Lord's blessing be upon your soul.

DIARY OF EVENTS 2003

January
4

WCC conducted a training programme on *Sexual Harassment in the Workplace* for the supervisors of Eastern Garment Manufacturing Company. The training was facilitated by WCC's executive director, Loh Cheng Kooi and All Women's Action Society (AWAM) committee member, Betty Yeoh.

12

WCC vice president, Lalitha Menon gave a talk on *Domestic Violence Act* at a seminar on Women, Health and Violence Against Women organised by Penang Hindu Sangam (Women's Group) at Komtar, Penang.

12-14

WCC hosted an expert meeting on *Women and Legal Justice* attended by 24 participants including several members of the UN sub-commission on Human Rights. The meeting was organised by the Asian Women's Fund which is based in Japan and was themed - *Women and Detention*. WCC representative, Zarizana Abdul Aziz, presented an overview of Malaysian situation. WCC representatives, Honey Tan, Maznah Mohamad and Loh Cheng Kooi also participated in the meeting.

15

WCC trainer consultant, Prema Devaraj attended a meeting organised by St.Xavier's Institution to discuss the two programmes that WCC will run for their Form 1 and 6 students.



18

Visit to WCC by Prasanna Invally from Susambad, a women's organisation based in Pune, India.

WCC vice president, Yuslinov Ahmad attended a seminar on *Family Court - Are We on the Right Track?* in Kuala Lumpur organised by the Family Law Committee, Bar Council Malaysia.

21

WCC representative, Lalitha Menon attended the Rape Task Force meeting organised by the All Women's Action Society (AWAM) to discuss the proposed amendments to the rape memorandum as well as the setting up of the rape campaign committee.

23

WCC Outreach chairperson, Chin Khuan Sui and staff, Prema Devaraj, Jayamalar Samuel and Masreen Rosdi attended a meeting organised by the Tamil organisations

25

in Penang to brief them on WCC work and its interest to work with Tamil women and youth.

WCC outreach team (Khuan Sui, Prema Devaraj, Jayamalar Samuel and Masreen Rosdi) conducted a two-hour workshop on *RESPEK* for 75 school going teenagers in USM. A two-day training (11-13 January) facilitators' training was conducted in preparation for this workshop.

General Committee meeting

27

Visit to WCC and sharing session by Mary John Mananzan, a Missionary Benedictine sister and the chairperson of GABRIELA, a broad alliance of women's organisations in Philippines.

February

4 - 5

WCC conducted a two-day training program on *Sexual Harassment in the Workplace* for the management of Eastern Garment Manufacturing Company. The training was facilitated by WCC executive director, Loh Cheng Kooi and AWAM committee member, Betty Yeoh.

7

WCC representative, Lalitha Menon, attended the Rape Task Force meeting in Kuala Lumpur organised by AWAM to discuss the amendments to the rape memorandum.

10

Visit to WCC by Darunnee Tantiwiranond and Sashi Pandey of WARI (Women's Action and Resource Initiative), Thailand.

15 & 17

WCC trainer consultant, Prema Devaraj attended the *No to War* Coalition series of activities i.e. press conference, forum and a peace vigil. Other WCC staff, committee members and volunteers also came and showed their support during these events.

21

WCC representative and chairperson of the Joint Action Group (JAG) Against Violence Against Women chairperson, Zarizana Abdul Aziz and Cecilia Ng of Women's Development Collective attended the meeting with the Malaysian Employers Association (MEF) and the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers (FMM) regarding the proposed sexual harassment bill. The meeting was organised by the Ministry of Women and Family Development.

22

WCC staff, Jaya and Masreen conducted a talk on *Sexual Assault* to 40 Girl Guide members of SM Convent Pulau Tikus.

General Committee meeting

March

7

WCC organised the International Women's Day 2003 celebration with the theme - *Women's Safety Everybody's Concern*. Highlights of the celebration included a vehicular convoy bearing messages to stop violence against women, presentation of the memorandum on Women's Safety



endorsed by 32 groups and organisations to Penang Chief Minister, Tan Sri Dr. Koh Tsu Koon during the programme at Kompleks Bukit Jambul.

15

WCC representative, Honey Tan Lay Ean attended the annual general meeting of the National Council of Women's Organisations (NCWO), Penang branch.

17

WCC representatives, Zarizana Abdul Aziz and Honey Tan attended the SUHAKAM's International Women's Day 2003 Round Table Discussion – Rights and Obligations under CEDAW in Kuala Lumpur. Honey presented a paper – *An Overview of the Discriminatory Non-Syariah Laws in Malaysia*.

20

Jaya and Masreen facilitated the *Child Sexual Abuse* programme at SK Sultan Ahmad Tajuddin, Jitra, Kedah.

23

WCC 18th Annual General Meeting

1st General Committee meeting

27

WCC, represented by Cheng Kooi, was one of the 10 Penang based NGOs who shared their work with Asian participants who attended the Asian Regional Exchange for New Alternatives (ARENA) Council of Fellow Congress in Penang. The dialogue was hosted by ALIRAN.

29

WCC service co-ordinator, Annie gave a talk on *Sexual Assault* at SM Union to 100 students from the Kelab Bimbingan.

31

Visit to WCC by 5 women activists from Indonesia, Bangladesh, Philippines and Sri Lanka who are attending the ARENA Congress.

April

5

WCC together with Children's Protection Society and Welfare Department held a half day workshop for 120 primary school children on *Personal Safety*. WCC staff, Prema, Jaya and Masreen and volunteer, Ang Ban Siang facilitated the sessions.



6

WCC took part in a Peace Rally at the Esplanade, Penang organised by the "No to War in Iraq" coalition.

8

The outreach team - Khuan Sui, Jaya, Prema and Masreen attended a meeting with the Jabatan Pendidikan Perlis (JPN) to brief them about WCC's child sexual abuse project.

WCC legal reform member, Honey Tan attended the *Consultation on Section 51 of the Law Reform Act 1976 and Other Laws* organised by the Ministry of Women and Family Development and AWAM in Kuala Lumpur.

Jaya and Masreen gave a talk on *Sexual Assault* to Form 2 students of SM Convent Greenlane.

13

WCC together with the Men's Initiative (MI) conducted a panel discussion on the *Challenges Men Face in Dealing with Violence Against Women* at the Penang Caring Society Complex. The public talk was organised by PACE.

19

General Committee meeting.

20

WCC representatives, Zarizana and Honey attended the meeting of the Joint Action Group (JAG) Against Violence Against Women in Kuala Lumpur.

WCC representative, Lalitha Menon gave a talk in Tamil on *Domestic Violence and Married Women's Rights* during a seminar on Domestic Violence Act organised by Pejabat Penerangan and Rumah Nur, Seberang Perai Utara.

24

WCC representative, Lalitha together with the other members of the Anti-Rape Task Force led by AWAM submitted the *Memorandum on Laws Related to Rape* to the Attorney General, Tan Sri Abdul Ghani Patail.

26

Cheng Kooi gave a public talk on *Sexual Harassment* at Wisma Katolik organised by Penang Office for Human Development (POHD).

27

Cheng Kooi and Honey participated in the Penang Dialogue with the Ministry of Women and Family Development staff headed by its Secretary General, Datin Faizah Mohd. Tahir.

29

May
2-3

Jaya gave a talk on *Sexual Assault* to Form 4 students of SM Tunku Puan Hapsah.

WCC outreach team together with the school counsellors of SMK Jelutong, SM Methodist Boys and SM Tanjung Bungah conducted a two-day camp for 60 Form 3 - Form 5 students in Naza Hotel, Penang. The camp was sponsored by Jabatan Pendidikan Negeri Pulau Pinang.



10

Zarizana and Cheng Kooi jointly gave a talk to the young lawyers of the Penang Bar Committee on *Sexual Harassment*.

13

WCC Appreciation Dinner for International Women's Day volunteers at Penang Sports Club.

19

Honey attended the National Steering Committee on Violence Against Women meeting organised by the Ministry of Women and Family Development.

21

Cheng Kooi participated in the workshop: *Guide to Effective Media Relations for NGO's* organised by Majlis Kebajikan Masyarakat Selangor.

29

June
13

Prema, Jaya, Masreen and volunteers, Sheila and Shakila conducted the *RESPEK* workshop to 117 Form 4 students of Methodist Girls' School.

14

WCC representative, Yuslinov Ahmad attended the Majlis Pembangunan Wanita dan Keluarga (formerly HAWA) meeting.

Prema gave a talk on *Child Sexual Abuse* to the Tamil Methodist Church members.

16-18

WCC in collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Family Development conducted a three-day counselling training workshop on *Working with Abused Women* for the staff and volunteers of Rumah Nur (formerly known as Pusat Khidmat Wanita).

23-26

WCC representative, Honey Tan presented a paper on *Families in Crisis: Balancing the Rights of its Members When Divorce Occur* during the International Conference on Facing Up to Global Challenges: Building Resilient Families and Caring Families in a Troubled World organised by Asia Pacific Forum on Families.

24-25

Jaya and Masreen conducted the RESPEK workshop for Forms 2 & 3 students of SM Abdullah Munshi.

24-30

An exhibition on *Violence Against Women*, jointly organised by WCC and the One Stop Crisis Centre for Abused Women and Rape Survivors (OSCC) was held at the foyer of Penang General Hospital.



28

General Committee meeting.

June Lim attended the Case Consultation Session of the Penang Association of Counselling and Psychology (PACP) at the Penang Caring Society Complex.

July
5

WCC representative, Honey Tan presented a paper on *Gender Equality* during the National Consultation on SUHAKAM Recommendations for Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and Government's Response held at Shangrila Hotel, Penang and organised by ERA Consumer.

8

Jaya and Masreen conducted a talk on *Sexual Assault* to SMK Hamid Khan students.

14

WCC educational package on prevention of child sexual abuse – *Bijak Itu Selamat* was launched in Perlis in cooperation with Jabatan Pendidikan Negeri Perlis. The workshop was attended by 140 participants from 66 Primary schools and representatives from JPN.



16

WCC legal officer, Lynn Oh attended the meeting on the shadow report to be submitted to the United Nations CEDAW Committee on Malaysia's compliance with its obligations as a signatory to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). The report is being compiled by NCWO.

17

Jaya and Masreen conducted the *RESPEK* workshop for SMK Westland students.

18

Jaya and Masreen conducted the *Bijak Itu Selamat* programme for 80 Standard Six students of SRK Bukit Glugor.

19

WCC representative, Honey gave a talk on *Gender Equality* to members of Malaysian Airlines Systems Employees Union (MASEU).

Prema facilitated a session on *Gender Awareness* for 23 participants of the Counselling Course 2003 organised by Penang Counselling Group.

24

Prema attended a talk on Sexual Harassment at the Workplace organised by Parti Rakyat Malaysia (PRM) and KeAdilan.

23 & 24

WCC staff, Masreen and volunteers, Khuan Sui, Sharon Anthony, Wendy Ang and Jeanette Koo helped distribute WCC pamphlets and WCC publications and T-shirts during the two-day Charity Bazaar organised by Intel.

26

A joint meeting was held at WCC office with representatives of the Bar Committee Legal Aid Bureau and the Biro Bantuan Guaman to discuss cooperation amongst the NGOs for women needing legal aid.

27

Annie gave talk on *Sexual Assault* Issues to 146 Form 1 & 2 students of SMK Convent Dato' Keramat.

29

Prema, Jaya and volunteer, Sharon Anthony conducted a one-hour *OK Tak Ok* programme with three 18 year old girls from Penang Handicapped Centre.

August

2

Annie was invited by the Women's Crisis Association Kedah to give a talk on *Domestic Violence* in conjunction with their Legal Awareness Week.

4

Jaya was interviewed on Radio 6 (Tamil channel) about WCC and its services to the community.

9

Annie gave a talk on *Domestic Violence* to the members of the Kulim South Hokkien Association in Kulim, Kedah.

10

Human Rights intern, Robin Reinertson from University of Toronto started her two-month internship with WCC, primarily involved with the legal reform work.

Cheng Kooi spoke about WCC's activities in addressing violence against women during the Citizen's Against Crime campaign organised by Democratic Action Party (DAP).



13 & 14

WCC staff, Prema, Jaya and Masreen and volunteers, Sharon, Chitra, Alloysius, Sharmila and Tini facilitated in the Kem Perpaduan involving 80 Form 1 & 2 students from 5 secondary schools in Penang.

16

General Committee Committee

18

Cheng Kooi gave a talk on *What Constitutes Sexual Harassment* during the workshop on Sexual Harassment organised by National Union of Newspaper Workers (NUNW).

23

WCC organised a national workshop on *Developing Public Interest Intervention Techniques* at the Crystal Hotel, Petaling Jaya. The workshop was sponsored by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). Several committee members and staff participated.

WCC team (Zarizana, Honey, Cheng Kooi, Lynn, Salbiah Ahmad and Robin) met with the delegation from the East Timur National Legislation Working Group on Domestic Violence Law.

Jaya conducted a talk on *Problems Faced by Teenagers* for 30 teachers from SMK Tunku Puan Habsah.

24

WCC representatives and staff, Cheng Kooi, Lynn and Zarizana attended the Joint Action Group (JAG) Against Violence Women meeting in Kuala Lumpur.

25

Prema gave a talk on *Rape* to USM students who are also members of the Citizen's against Rape Coalition.

25

Cheng Kooi participated in the workshop *Understanding Liberalism* organised by Friedrich Naumann Foundation.

September

5

WCC vice president, Lalitha gave a talk on *Domestic Violence* to members of Wanita MIC Kedah in Alor Setar.

7

WCC set up an exhibition on *Violence Against Women* during the Citizen's Against Rape rally in Komtar organised by the Coalition of NGOs and concerned citizens initiated by SUARAM. WCC pamphlets were also distributed during the rally.

9

WCC representative, Lalitha Menon attended a press conference held in Kuala Lumpur organised by Anti-Rape Task Force to present the *Memorandum on Laws Relating to Rape* to relevant government agencies.

18

Farewell party for WCC volunteer, Honey Tan, who was going for further studies.

22

WCC educational package on prevention of child sexual abuse – *Bijak Itu Selamat* was launched in Kota Bahru, Kelantan in cooperation with the Jabatan Pendidikan Negeri and Hospital USM Kubang Krian attended by 228 primary school headmasters.

23

Annie attended a facilitators' workshop on *Bahtera Kasih* organised by Lembaga Penduduk dan Pembangunan Keluarga Negara.

24

WCC representative, June conducted a session on Domestic Violence as a Health Issue for 19 medical students of Penang Medical College and 10 paramedical staff of the Hospital Psychiatric Unit.

27

WCC vice president, Yuslinov Ahmad gave a talk on *Isu-Isu Semasa Berkaitan Wanita* to members of Biro Hal-Ehwal Wanita, Bank Negara Malaysia.

28

WCC legal officer, Lynn Oh gave a talk on *Sexual Harassment in the Workplace* for the Rumah Nur Bistari programme under the Ministry of Women and Family Development in Seberang Perai Utara.



29-1 Oct

WCC organised a two and a half day workshop on *Police Response to Violence Against Women* attended by 36 front desk police from the five districts of Penang. The workshop was sponsored by the Ministry of Women and Family Development.

October

1

June Lim gave a lecture on *Domestic Violence* to 45 students of the College of Nursing, Hospital Lam Wah Ee.

7

Jaya conducted the *Bijak Itu Selamat* programme for Standard 6 students of SRK Bagan Ajam.

14

Prema and Jaya conducted a training for eight facilitators from Penang Office for Human Development (POHD) in preparation for the Youth and Sexuality Camp.

15

Visit to WCC by Malayan Teachers' College lecturer, Mr. Balachandaran Karrupiah and his 16 students who are also school primary school teachers.

16

Jaya conducted the *Bijak Itu Selamat* programme for Standard 6 students of SRK Sri Aman.

17

Prema gave a talk on *Gender Work in Schools* at the Women's Development Research Centre (KANITA) to post graduate students.

20

Jaya gave a talk on *Sexual Assault* to 100 Form 3 students of SM Sri Mutiara.



25

Annie gave a talk on *Domestic Violence Act* to 400 participants from various NGOs during the one-day legal literacy programme organised by the Rumah Nur Parlimen Bukit Bendera Daerah Timur Laut.

28 & 29

Prema and Masreen facilitated sessions on *Handling Teenage Social Problems* in four schools (SMK Hutchings, SMK Westlands, SMK St. Xaviers and SMK Convent Lebu Light) as part of the Briged Komuniti Sekolah-Sekolah Menengah Padang Kota programme.

31

Jaya gave a talk on *Sexual Assault and Personal Safety* to 500 Form 1 and 2 students of SM St. Georges.

November

1 & 2

Prema attended a counselling course – *Beyond Problem Solving* facilitated by Mr. Warren Tan.

3

Jaya conducted the *Bijak Itu Selamat* programme in SK Minden Heights.

8

General Committee meeting.

16

WCC representatives, Cheng Kooi and Zarizana attended the launching of the book – *A Pioneering Step : Sexual Harassment and the Code of Practice in Malaysia* published by Women's Development Collective (WDC).

22

Annie was one of the panel speakers during the public talk on *One Night Stand* organised by Penang Gerakan Belia Wanis Bureau.

28-30

Prema and Jaya attended the youth camp on *Society, Church and Me* in Sitiawan, Perak attended by 45 youths and organised by Penang Office for Human Development.

30

Visit to WCC by Brittocia Arulanthu of UNHRC.

December

1

WCC representatives, Khuan Sui, Prema and Jaya and members of Persatuan Bungah Tanjung met with Jabatan Pendidikan Penang officials to discuss the *Membina Perhubungan Mesra* (MPM) project.

3-6

Cheng Kooi participated in a *Management Training* in KL conducted by consultant Chris Philips from Horizon, Australia. The training was organised by Sisters-In-Islam.

6

Jaya gave a talk on *Rape and Domestic Violence* during the workshop on Sexuality, Gender Sensitization and HIV/AIDS organised by Aids Action Research Group, USM.



18

Joint Action Group (JAG)
on Violence Against

Women chairperson Zarizana and Cecilia Ng of Women's Development Collective were featured on a segment of TV1 Selamat Pagi Malaysia and spoke about *Sexual Harassment*.

26

Prema, Jaya and WCC volunteer, Janet Pillai met with 18 secondary school HMs to introduce *Membina Perhubungan Mesra* (MPM) and the materials for the programme.

APPRECIATION & GRATITUDE

AGENCIES / FOUNDATIONS

Human Rights Project Fund
Ministry of Women and Family Development
Canadian International Development Agency
Lim Lean Teng Foundation
Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat Pulau Pinang
Semester at Sea Programme (University of Pittsburgh)
International Women's Association
Tun Sardon Foundation
Asian Women's Fund

INDIVIDUALS

Khaw Liang Imm (in memory)
Yeoh Eu Hock (Dr.)

PARTNERS & SUPPORTING AGENCIES

Agape Christian Centre
Biro Hal Ehwal Wanita, Bank Negara Malaysia
Briget Komuniti SM Padang Kota
Children's Protection Society
Eastern Garment Manufacturing Co. Sdn. Bhd.
Excellent Precious Sdn. Bhd.
Gerakan Belia Waris Bureau
Grouplite Engineering Sdn. Bhd.
Kulim Hokkien Association
Lam Wah Ee Hospital (College of Nursing)
National Union of Newspaper Workers
Penang Medical Centre
Penang Medical College
Penang Office for Human Development
Persatuan Ibu Bapa & Guru SK Sultan Ahmad Tajuddin
Pusat Krisis Wanita Alor Setar
Rumah Nur Seberang Prai Tengah
SK Sri Aman
SK Bagan Ajam
SM Convent Dato Keramat
SM Convent Pulau Tikus
SMK (Perempuan) St. Georges
SMK Sungai Ara
Tamil Methodist Church Penang
Universiti Sains Malaysia (Aids Action & Research Group)
Universiti Sains Malaysia (School of Communication)
Wanita MIC Negeri Kedah

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The Cups Corporation Sdn. Bhd.
Vanessa Diamonds
Yan Beauty & Cosmetics Centre

INDIVIDUAL

Albert Goh
Albert & Sharon Kordesch
Ambiga Devy
Badriyah Hj. Salleh
Carol Mah & Friends
Joey Teoh
Nik Rohishumaini Ismail
Siti Hawa Ali
Tan Yeow Joo & Friends
Wendy Ang & Friends

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Janet Pillai	Veerashini
	Yeap Leay Fong



And our sincere apologies to those that we may have inadvertently left out.

