



Pusat Kesedaran Wanita  
Women's Centre for Change

# ANNUAL REVIEW 2005





## Women's Centre for Change Pusat Kesedaran Wanita

*(formerly Women's Crisis Centre)*

The Women's Centre for Change (WCC) Penang is a non-governmental, non-profit organisation dedicated to the promotion of women's equality and elimination of violence against women and children. We believe that women, men and children have a right to live in a society free from violence.

Established in 1985 by a group of concerned women, WCC provides services in counselling, emotional support, legal advice and temporary shelter to women in need, irrespective of race, religion and social background.

WCC also conducts outreach and advocacy programmes with various communities and campaigns for legal reforms affecting women and children.

In 2002, WCC officially underwent a name change from Women's Crisis Centre to Women's Centre for Change. The organisation felt this would better reflect its expanded scope of work.

## Donation & Sponsorship

WCC is a registered, tax-exempt organisation and welcomes donations and sponsorships which will help promote our work and activities. Cheques should be made payable to: **Women's Centre for Change.**

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# President's Report

• Zarizana Abdul Aziz



## **2005 was our 20th anniversary. Time to look back, look around and look forward.**

20 years marks a cycle of life. And so it should be for the WCC. For in 20 years we have grown from an organisation with no office, holding meetings at the offices of our beloved the late Miki Goh, to a modest office in the compounds of a ramshackle former maternity hospital (which required fortitude and great depths of spirituality when staying back alone after dark) to a decent double storey house (initially in a residential street, no less).

So we celebrated, inviting well wishers and supporters to a kick-off-our-shoes, laugh-with-friends (as well as at ourselves) gala event in shades of purple in November.

And as we grew in numbers and strength, we became more and more ambitious.

Once, our volunteers were providing emotional/legal crisis intervention services at the mercy of the elements in a car park, taking small steps in legal reform and engaging communities in legal education (with accompanying child care services, for if we wanted to talk to mothers, we needed to distract their children and convince their husbands that we were giving cooking lessons).

While we still provide shelter and emotional/legal crisis intervention, we have also cast our eyes further afield. We went into hospitals, collaborated with many others to

set up one-stop integrated service centres (which is still being talked about in international fora and emulated in countries like Bangladesh). We came up with training packages for service workers at the one-stop centres. And now we are training trainers, setting up single mothers' support group and, behold, have one dedicated male project officer to help abusive husbands renounce violence.

Noting that legal education is not sufficient to reduce violence (for legal education, awareness and consciousness are themes with different emphasis), the WCC stopped lugging cooking pots and recipes and started lugging actors and facilitators, particularly into schools, investing in children and interacting with those as young as 9 years old (on child sexual abuse) to teenagers on the verge of discovery (which of course is a fallacy because the internet has taken care of that).

And when we tire our actors, or was it our actors tire of us, the WCC immortalised them in optical discs so that our programmes became more portable and capable of reaching further. Our work has received international recognition, for last year, the Japanese decided that it was worth their while to fly in our project officer to receive the Huriights Osaka Award 2005 for our VCD *OK Tak OK Siri 2*.

*Turning Point*, launched in April 2005 took the concept of theatre in education into gender and



violence and to over 1,100 16 year old boys from 13 schools.

Legal reform work has also changed in approach for now we not only ask for laws, we draft them so there is no mistake as to our wants. The Joint Action Group (JAG) for Gender Equality (previously JAG against violence against women), a coalition born out of the women's movement (if you can call it that), which incidentally also celebrated its 20th anniversary, has grown in profile and strategies. In a world where names become brands, JAG is synonymous with the anti-violence, justice and gender equality.

Easy accessibility to information means that we are able to learn of breaking strategies and reform worldwide and access its impact. And as we access the reforms in other countries, likewise others access our reform efforts and strategies and so in sharing we not only learn from others but take our ideas to others from East Timor to the United Nations.

Yet the law dealt us all a heavy hand last year when the Federal Court, in upholding an employer's right to dismiss an employee on the basis of pregnancy, held that the equal protection entrenched in the Constitution extends only to persons in the same class putting aside, of course, that a law which applies uniformly to all within a class may still discriminate against the whole class. This reasoning does not accord with the developments in the legal doctrine of equality nor the principles of substantive equality as entrenched in Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), an international convention to which Malaysia is party.

Thus it was that the WCC in coalition with JAG and the NCWO participated in the drafting of the Shadow Report submitted to the UN committee on CEDAW which will hear the Malaysian Government's Report on its implementation of CEDAW later this year.

As we sharpen our skills and strategies to shape the future of our society and as we reach across to join hands in solidarity with others, it becomes obvious to me that if passion and compassion drives us, courage sustains us. For whether in crisis intervention with survivors and their aggressors, in outreach with children, their parents and their teachers or in legal reform with the executive, the legislators and the judiciary, the work we have been doing all these years was made possible only by those who had (and continue to have) the courage to step up, stand out and make a difference. To these the volunteers and staff of the WCC, I applaud you and thank you.

Finally I would like to thank our sponsors and donors for their confidence in the WCC and financial support with special mention to our main donors, Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst (EED) and the European Union whose generous grants have made possible the work that we do.

# General Committee 2005



**President** Zarizana Abdul Aziz

**Vice President** Maznah Mohamad

**Vice President** Noraida Endut

**Secretary** Shakila Abdul Manan

**Assistant Secretary** Maria Francisca Belavendram

**Treasurer** Jacqueline Tan

**Committee Members** Wendy Ang, Hajar Abdul Rahim, Ivy Ho Siew Yoong, Yeong Joo Kean, Lim Kah Cheng

**Internal Auditor** Chin Khuan Sui

**Staff** Loh Cheng Kooi (*Executive Director*), Prema Devaraj (*Consultant Trainer*), Annie Yeap Lay Pheng (*Service Coordinator*), Jayamalar Samuel (*Outreach Project Officer*), Shariza Kamarudin (*Project Officer*), Angeline Loh (*Legal Officer*), Adilah Ariffin (*Project Officer*), T. Michal Thomas (*Project Officer*), Lim Lee Ling (*Project Assistant*), June Estrop (*Shelter Assistant*), Tan Lean Kim (*Administrator*)

## The Subcommittees

**Service and Shelter** WENDY\*, Jenny, Noraida, Maria Francisca, Mahmuda, Cornelia, Annie Yeap, Shariza, Thomas, Lee Ling, June Estrop

**Outreach** IVY HO\*, Khuan Sui, Yuslinov, Hajar, Kah Cheng, Shakila, Prema, Jayamalar, Shariza

**Legal Reform** ZARIZANA\*, Maznah, Lalitha, Yuslinov, Noraida, Jacqueline, Stella, Joo Kean, Kah Cheng, Cheng Kooi

**Personnel** ZARIZANA\*, Lalitha, Khuan Sui, Noraida

**WCC 20th Anniversary Celebration** HAJAR\*, Maznah, Khuan Sui, Khatijah, Annie Chin, Wendy, Cheng Kooi

**Sexual Crime Project** ZARIZANA\*, Lalitha, Maznah, Kah Cheng, Cheng Kooi, Angeline, Adilah

*\*chairperson*



# *Programmes and Activities*



# Service Report

• Wendy Ang & Annie Yeap

In 2005, WCC continued to carry out services for women and children in the community.

The services were as follows:

1. Face-to-Face Counselling
2. Telephone Counselling
3. Online Counselling
4. Shelter
5. Service Outreach
6. Single Mother Support Group
7. Working with Men

## 1. Face-to-Face Counselling

### 1.1 Total number of counselling sessions

This year, WCC saw a total of 298 clients (274 new clients and 24 old clients) and conducted a total of 423 counselling sessions (see Table 1). The total number of counselling

sessions has increased slightly by 5% compared to 2004 which recorded only 402 sessions. We had 274 new clients, of which 59 came back for 107 follow-up counselling sessions. Out of the total of number of clients seen, 96% were women and 4% were men. The ethnic distributions of our clients were Chinese (53%), Malay (12%), Indian (28%) and others (7%).

In 2005, we received 39 referrals cases from various government and non-government agencies. They were General Hospital (10 cases), Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat (6 cases), police departments (6 cases), non-government organisation (4 cases), Legal Aid Bureau/ lawyers (4 cases), clinics (5 cases), political parties (2 cases), Labour Department (1 case) and Jabatan Pendaftaran Negara (1 case).

### 1.2 Types of cases

Clients visiting WCC have different types of problems and needs. The trend in 2005 is similar to that of previous years. In 2005, 29.9% of clients reported domestic violence while 24.8% of clients cited marital problems. 20.8% of our clients sought information about their rights. The WCC social workers provided basic information and when clients needed more details about legal procedures, they were referred to our volunteer legal adviser.

We continued with our Monday morning legal clinic and we would like to express our gratitude to Stella Lau for her continuous support by volunteering her services to our clients. She saw 34 clients who sought advice on a variety of issues including child custody, maintenance, divorce proceeding and property.

### 1.3 Domestic Violence Cases

Of the 82 cases of domestic violence seen in 2005, 83% experienced physical and emotional abuse by their spouses. This included hitting,

**Table 1: Total number of clients and counselling sessions for face-to-face counselling**

Year 2005	Number of clients	Counselling sessions
1. New cases	274	274
2. Follow-up sessions*	59	107
3. Old cases (follow-up)	24	42
<b>Total</b>	<b>298 **</b>	<b>423</b>

\* Follow-up: Out of the 274 new cases, 59 clients came back for follow-up sessions.

\*\* Total Clients = new clients + old clients = 274 + 24 = 298

**Table 2: Types of New Cases**

Year 2005		
Types of cases	Total number	%
Domestic violence	82	29.9
Marital problem	68	24.8
Information seeking	57	20.8
Legal advice	34	12.4
Relationship	17	6.2
Sexual harassment	6	2.2
Incest/Child Sexual Abuse	4	1.5
Rape	3	1.1
Others	3	1.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>100.0</b>





pulling of hair, knocking head against the wall and using objects like a belt, a stool or a stick to beat. 10% of our domestic violence clients were subjected to emotional abuse where their husbands verbally abused, threatened to kill or blackmailed them. Another 5% suffered from emotional and financial abuse where husbands did not give financial support or requested money from their wives. Less than 2% of our clients suffered from sexual or social abuse. There was one situation where the husband forced his wife to have sex even though she had refused him. The client commented "this is like a rape to me". An example of social abuse is when husbands stop their wives from going out to visit family members and friends. Sometimes the husband will lock the door to prevent the wife from going out of the house or seeking help.

From the domestic violence cases that we handled, 41% were Chinese, 15% were Malay and 34% were Indian. The rest were from other ethnic backgrounds.

Generally, clients who experienced domestic violence expressed their sadness and fear at the violence inflicted upon them. They did not wish to reconcile and many have made decisions to file for divorce. Most of the clients are aware of the difficulties of being single parents and the need to be independent. For those have been housewives for many years it was extremely difficult to start looking for jobs after many years of unemployment. In such cases, WCC found itself giving practical assistance by referring them to agencies to get jobs. Those who faced financial problems have been referred to the welfare department or other charitable organisations like Than

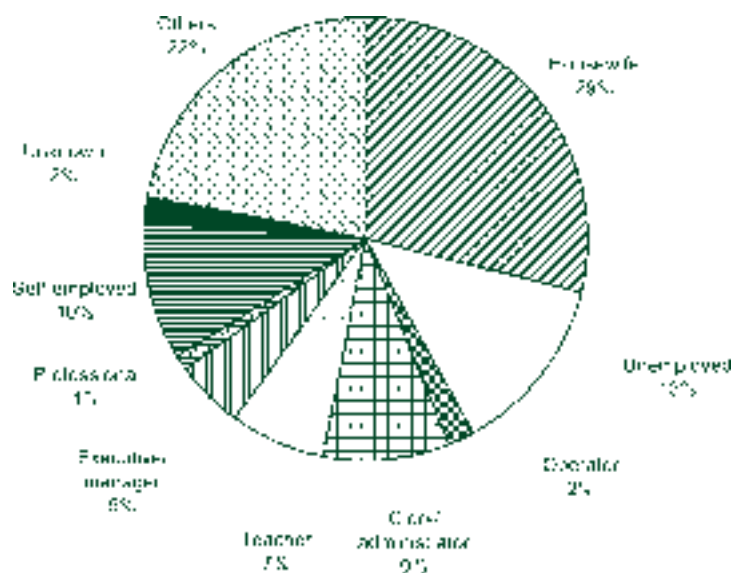
Siang Mitra Welfare Centre and Tze Chi Buddhist Association for assistance.

WCC domestic violence clients came from different socio-economic backgrounds. The largest category was housewives (29%). Some of our clients complained that they were victimized by their husbands for not contributing financially to the family.

Approximately 56% of our domestic violence clients had jobs ranging from factory operators to teachers and executive or managerial level. Because these women are self supporting, they can often take a decision to leave the marriage as they are financially more secure than women without jobs. Housewives who are dependant on their husbands often hesitate to leave an abusive relationship unless they have a good support system like family members and friends who are able to help them.

Figure 2

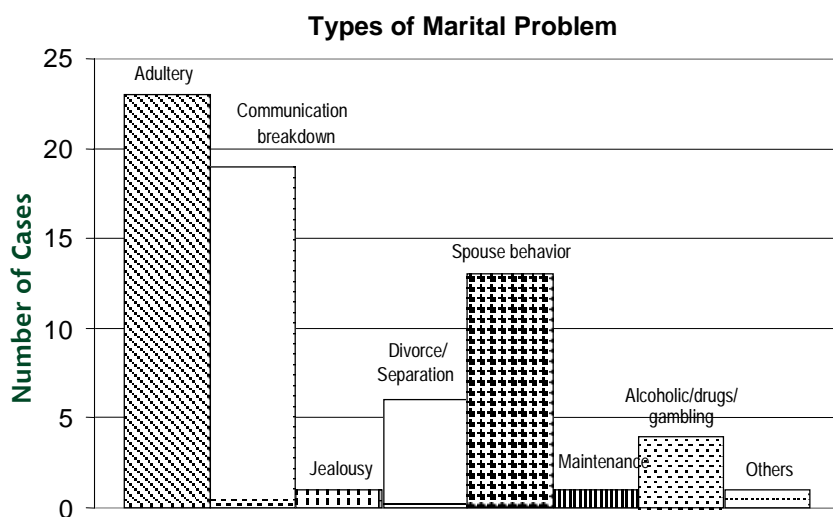
#### Socioeconomic Background of Domestic Violence Clients



#### 1.4 Marital Problem

In 2005, WCC saw 68 clients with marital problems. 34% of these clients cited extra marital affairs by their spouses as their problem. Issues like betrayal and distrust had made our clients gave up on the relationships. Feelings of anger and revenge were always in their minds. Sometimes, they would want to file a civil suit against their husbands for committing adultery. Some engaged private investigators to prove the adultery. Some complained that they were cheated

Figure 3



after paying a big sum and not much evidence have been collected from these investigators.

Communication breakdown was a complaint among 28% of these clients in marital problem. Some of them requested for marriage counselling and hoped that communication with their spouses would improve. On the other hand, clients who had difficulty reconciling with spouses would then file for divorce.

Clients also came to WCC while they were in the process of separation, to get information on

their rights and maintenance for their children. Many husbands had left without providing maintenance for their children. Another problem faced by clients were that their ex-husbands stopped paying maintenance after the divorce.

## 2. Telephone Counselling

In 2005, the total number of calls we received was 862, which is 12% less than in 2004.

The highest numbers of calls were from women seeking information on laws related to women's rights

and other community resources. The second highest number of calls pertained to legal matters. Most of the callers wanted to know about divorce procedures, children custody, maintenance and property matters. About 88% of the callers were women and 12% were men. With our new male officer, some of our male callers have expressed their relief of being able to talk to a man about their problems.

We received a total of 116 referral calls where mostly friends or relatives of clients called to enquire about how to help their family members. Issues covered included domestic violence, divorce proceeding, maintenance and children custody issues.

## 3. Online Counselling

WCC has been providing online counselling via email for the last three years. Even though we have not promoted this service to the public, we have had individuals seeking help and advice from us this way. In 2005, WCC received a total of 16 emails from the public, seeking advice and information on domestic violence, sexual assault and harassment, marital problem

Table 3: Telephone counselling

Year 2005			
Types of cases	New calls	Follow up calls	Total
Marital problem	111	61	172
Domestic violence	109	30	139
Relationship	40	19	59
Rape/Incest	10	6	16
Legal matters	117	43	160
Sexual harassment	12	2	14
Child abuse	6	6	12
Information seeking	143	66	209
Others	36	45	81
<b>Total</b>	<b>584</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>862</b>



and child sexual abuse. The numbers of cases remain the same as that of the previous year.

The service that we provide is considered preliminary and only provides information. We encourage those who we feel require in-depth counselling to come to WCC and talk to the social workers face-to-face.

#### 4. Shelter

In 2005, we sheltered 10 women and 8 children. Out of the total number of cases, five clients are now living independently, another four went back to their husbands and one is staying with her relative. The total length of stay for clients ranged between one day to three weeks. Even though the length of stay was short, our clients were empowered to look for jobs and alternative accommodation. WCC has a shelter assistant to look after their basic needs.

The ethnic backgrounds of the shelter clients were four Indians, four Malays, one Chinese and one Pakistani.

#### 5. Service Outreach

For the service outreach, WCC organised a workshop and held several talks in the community.

##### **Women In Islam Workshop**

On 20-21 August 2005, WCC organised a two-day workshop on "Roles and Challenges for Young Women in Islam" for 35 young women in Tanjung Bunga Beach



Hotel. The participants were from Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Malayan Teachers' College (MTC) teachers, Family Planning Association (FPA) and other organisations. The purpose of the workshop was to create awareness among young people on gender and Muslim women's rights and also to expose them to local and international issues regarding the laws and position of women in the family and society. The workshop was conducted by two trainers from Sisters-in Islam (SIS), Masjaliza Hamzah and Rozana Udin together with WCC staff Shariza Kamarudin and our legal reform member, Yuslinov Ahmad. The two days were filled with a lot of questions and discussions. It was an eye opener for those who were able to accept the possibilities of the different interpretations of Islam. For a few others, they found it difficult to accept such discussions.

##### **Talks on Violence Against Women**

###### *Working with Hospitals*

Over the last four years, WCC has established an understanding with a nursing college and a medical school in Penang to provide

awareness sessions on Violence Against Women to their students.

On March 15 and November 22, the Lam Wah Ee hospital invited WCC for their annual sessions for student nurses. Annie Yeap spoke on the issue of domestic violence. A total of 69 student nurses participated in the workshop. The students were exposed to practical case studies and each of them had a chance to role play dealing with the issue if they faced a similar situation in the hospital.

A talk on domestic violence and sexual assault was given to 20 medical students on 8 July at the Penang Medical College. The college regularly invites WCC to present the issues to students so that to have a broader understanding of how to handle such cases when they become doctors.

###### *Working with Majlis Pembangunan Wanita dan Keluarga*

WCC has been working with the Majlis Pembangunan Wanita dan Keluarga (MPWK) for many years. The MPWK is formed under the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development. In Penang, there are 13 MPWK parliaments according to district.





MPWK Seberang Perai Selatan invited WCC to give an hour talk to introduce WCC services to the community on 30 July. It was a good opportunity as many of the mostly Malay participants were not aware of our activities and services.

On 4 August, MPKW Parlimen Tanjung organised a Sunday afternoon session for its members to learn about WCC services as well. Prema and Shariza conducted a half-day programme with MPKW Kulim in 13 August. Over 150 women attended this workshop which covered violence against women and gender issues.

On 28 September, Shariza gave a one-hour talk to 50 women at MPWK Timur Laut. Then on 14 December, they invited her again to talk on domestic violence to about 200 women who included housewives, nurses and single mothers. Many raised questions regarding domestic violence and abusive men.

WCC was invited by Rumah Nur Barat Daya to speak to the Indian women. Lalitha spoke on Women and the Law while Jayamalar spoke on services provided by WCC to about 30 Indian women.

### *Working with other groups*

On the invitation of the Penang Sikh Association, Cheng Kooi gave an informal talk to its women members on Women's Rights on 17 September at its temple.

Wanita MIC Bukit Bendera invited Lalitha Menon, our Legal Reform



sub-committee member to speak on Domestic Violence & Law to 35 Indian women on 12 June. A week later she gave a similar talk to 75 Indian women at the invitation of Wanita section, MIC Jelutong division in Komtar.

### ***In Collaboration to Train Others***

On 4 September, a group of nurses attending the counselling course organised by the Penang Association of Counselling and Psychology (PACP) were treated to a session on gender delivered by Prema.

Inventec Electronic invited WCC to conduct a sexual harassment talk for about 70 of its staff on 24 September. Cheng Kooi spoke on the definition and types of sexual harassment and explained that inappropriate behavior which is deemed "normal" by some men should be taken in consideration from the viewpoint of the victim, not the harasser.

We have been working with the women in Ipoh through the Penang Office for Human Development (POHD) since 2004. WCC once again has been asked to conduct a one and half day training for 13 women from St Michael's Church Women's League and the Perak Women for Women Association on 14-15 October. Prema and Jaya trained the trainers on how to give

a talk as well as prepare their own materials on Domestic Violence. Initially shy, the women gained confidence with time and came up with creative ideas and were able to talk with conviction at the end of the training.

## **6. Single Mothers Support Group**

The service sub-committee has initiated a pilot project for a single mothers support group. The WCC social workers carried out a needs assessment survey with our ex-clients and new clients who have become single mothers because of domestic violence. The purpose of this support group is to provide emotional support for single mothers after they have left their violent homes. Regular sessions will be held throughout the coming year (twice a month) where these women can share and draw strength from each other. We hope to get 10 to 15 single mothers to participate in the support group.

## **7. Working with Men**

As an extension of our service work, WCC realized that in the longer term, there is a need to reach out to abusive men to help reduce violence in the homes. As a start, WCC recruited a male project officer to counsel husbands and develop programmes for men.

# Community Outreach Report

• Ivy Ho Siew Yoong

The year 2005 proved again to be another busy year for the Community Outreach work of WCC. We successfully implemented our youth programme for boys named *Turning Point (Titik Perubahan)* and proudly launched our second VCD *OK Tak OK (Siri 2)*.

We maintained the activities carried the year before, which continued to cover an increasingly wider section of the community namely the secondary and primary school children and their counsellors, preschool teachers, trainee teachers, trainee nurses, medical interns, Girl Guides, the Penang Down Syndrome Association, office of YB Subbiayah, and the Penang Office of Human Development (POHD).

## **Turning Point (Titik Perubahan)**

After we successfully carried out the project Building Healthy Relationship (*Membina Perhubungan Mesra*) for girls, it was thought a similar programme should also be carried

out for boys. In March 2005 facilitators were selected and trained by our consultant trainer, Dr Prema Devaraj assisted by our capable Outreach Officer Jayamalar Samuel. Pilot studies in 3 secondary schools in Penang (SMK Jelutong, SMK Westlands and St Xavier's Institution) were carried out.

The main thrust of the project is to inculcate respect for women among young men and it focused on 2 areas: relationships and sexual assault. For a continuous 5 weeks from 28 March to 28 April, the TP team of WCC staff and facilitators worked on the two-hour programme in thirteen schools (10 on the mainland and 3 on the island). A total of 1132 Form 4 male students benefitted from this labour intensive programme which included part of WCC's on-going gender sensitization programs with youths.

An evaluation was carried out at the end of the TP programme and it was found that the students enjoyed the programme (90.0%) and that they felt they learnt something from the programme (96.8%). Counsellors of the schools that participated were also asked to evaluate the programme. They were so satisfied with the programme that they specifically asked for further training. Congratulations to the TP team of 8 male facilitators and WCC staff, Prema and Jaya!

TP was sponsored by the Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst (EED) with full support by the Penang Education Department.





## Ok Tak Ok (Siri 2)

WCC has been working tirelessly to develop more suitable resources for educators on child sexual abuse since the launch of *Bijak Itu Selamat* preventive programme in 2001. Our second VCD *Ok Tak Ok (Siri 2)* was successfully launched by YB Dato' Dr Toh Kin Woon, Penang State Exco on 21 July 2005 at Kepala Batas as it was targetted mainly for the 70 mainland primary school counsellors.

The VCD incorporates songs, cartoon snippets and short sketches in which school children discussed their responses after viewing them. The school counsellors were impressed by the VCD and 45 of them promptly signed up for a one-day training conducted by our Outreach team (Prema, Jaya and Shariza Kamarudin) on 16 August on how to use the new VCD in their respective schools.

To top it all, our VCD *Ok Tak Ok (Siri 2)* won an international award, the HURIGHTS OSAKA Award 2005 for Human Rights Educational Materials. It was picked out of 60

entries received from 37 organisations throughout the Asia Pacific region. Jaya represented WCC and flew to Osaka to receive the award.

## Working with Secondary Schools

WCC has become a household (school hold) name in many schools in Penang and thus we have been invited to give talks and to run workshops. On Jan. 28 we were invited to talk on Personal Safety to 200 Form 1 and 2 girls

by SMJK Union. In conjunction with International Women's Day, St. George's Girls' School invited us to conduct a session on Violence Against Women for 40 Form 4 students whereby issues on rape, incest, virginity and dressing were explored. SMK Hamid Khan invited us to talk to 100 of their schoolgirls on rape. A talk on sexual assault was requested by SMK Kg Kastam for 90 of their students on 21 June. SMK Convent BM invited us to conduct a two-hour workshop on the same topic for 75 Form 4 girls on 9 August. Talks on sexual assault were conducted upon request from SMK Sri Mutiara, SMK Convent Butterworth and SMK Bukit Mertajam on October 12, 25 and 26 respectively. Through these talks we managed to create awareness on sexual assault to 500 teenagers. On November 9, St. George's Girls' School invited us again to conduct a workshop on rape for 300 Form 2 girls.







The International School of Penang (Uplands) also invited us to run a two-hour session on relationships for the 6th formers.

Participants of the workshops in secondary schools worked in small groups and discussed various issues involving youths like friendship, pregnancy, sexuality, substance abuse, rape, internet chatting. Many were able to open up and share their feelings and opinions and they benefitted from the sessions.

The major camp that was held this year was with SMK Sri Mutiara as part of the Sekolah Selamat project. WCC was invited to run the 2 day 1 night camp held at the USM marine station at Muka Head for 44 Form 1 and 2 students on personal safety, building healthy relationships and sexual harassment. WCC staff Jaya headed the team assisted by Shariza, Adilah, Lee Ling and volunteer Aruna. Kem BALAS (Banyak Laluan Selamat) was sponsored by Pejabat Pendidikan Daerah (Pulau).

### ***Working with the Primary Schools***

Pilot programmes using our latest VCD *OK Tak OK (Siri 2)* were run in 3 primary schools (SK St Xavier La Salle, SK Hamilton and SK Convent Green Lane) from 5 July to 11 July. The children responded well to the VCD and were able to participate fully in the discussions.

SK Minden Heights invited us to conduct a child sexual workshop for 100 Year 6 pupils on 20 September.

We then took our VCD to the Chinese primary schools. WCC's Mandarin speaking officers, Annie Yeap and Lee Ling, successfully ran a workshop on Children Personal Safety for 320 Year 6 pupils in Penang Chinese Primary School on 21, 22 and 29 September.

WCC in collaboration with the office of YB Subbaiyah conducted a half-day workshop on personal safety for 75 Year 6 pupils from 3 Tamil primary schools held at SRJK Ladang Malakoff on 10 September.

Prema and Jaya organised a one-day training for the 16 Tamil speaking facilitators on 3 September as preparation for the workshop.

As it has been WCC's aim to equip the school counsellors to run the programme on their own rather than depend on us, we may assume that decreasing invitations from primary schools show that many counsellors are actually running the programmes on their own after having attended our training.

### ***Working with Other Youths***

The Mass Communication School of USM invited us to conduct a 2 hour sexual harassment workshop for USM's undergraduates from the various faculties on 15 Jan. The talk delivered by Prema, Annie, Jaya and Shariza included myths on sexual harassment and case studies. An article on the workshop subsequently appeared in the February issue of *Mingguan Wanita* which reported that the

participants thoroughly enjoyed the session and that they would support a campaign for sexual harassment policy on campus.

The Girl Guides Association of Penang invited us to talk on *Rape in Malaysia* on 29 May and it turned out to be an eye-opener for most of the guides when Jaya spoke to them on the different types of rape.

Jaya, Thomas and Tamil speaking volunteers Rosalind, Jothi, Kana and Mahen conducted a half day workshop on 8 October for 28 teenage boys and girls from the Ramakrishna Orphanage and Children's Protection Society on boy-girl relationships.

Lalitha, together with Jaya conducted a half-day programme for 50 teenage Indian girls on the dangers of rape and laws regarding sexual assault at the invitation of the Pokok Machang Hindu Youth Organisation on 2 July.

### **Working with Trainee Teachers**

As with many other NGOs it is difficult to get young volunteers especially males. Thus it is indeed a blessing to be able to have young trainee teachers from the Malayan Teachers' Training College (MPPPP) involved in our programmes for the past 2 years. Since 2003, different batches of MTC volunteers helped WCC conduct programmes like *Membina Perhubungan Mesra (MPM)* and *Titik Perhubungan (TP)*.

In order to attract these young educators, WCC makes it a point



to orient the freshies and to expose them to our work and our activities. On 3 October, WCC's Outreach team organised a workshop to introduce WCC, explore issues on sexual harassment and child sexual abuse, perceptions of the opposite sex and boy-girl relationships. It is imperative that WCC work with these trainee teachers as they will be dealing and influencing our children in school and we certainly do not want myths or misconceptions if any, to be perpetuated. Young people are vital to our outreach work as they are able to reach out more effectively to their peers.

### **Working with the Mentally/Physically Challenged**

Being sensitive to the needs of this group of special people, WCC is ever willing to help them. Prema spoke on "Introduction to Personal Safety for Intellectually Disabled Children" on 31 July when invited by the Penang Down Syndrome Association.

Majudiri YMCA who has been previously trained by WCC held a workshop on sexuality for 60 hearing impaired Form 1 and 2 youths which used our VCD *OK Tak OK (Siri 2)* on 21 September. Prema and Jaya offered training on the use of the VCD to the school teachers from the Special School for the Deaf who were present at the workshop.

### **In collaboration to Train Others**

Kelantan Family Planning Association invited our Outreach team to conduct a 2 day workshop on child sexual abuse for preschool teachers in Kota Baru. The teachers said that they benefitted from the session and are more confident to run a preschool programme after the workshop.

Socio-Economic Research Institute of Penang (SERI) invited us to conduct a workshop on personal safety to preschool teachers in RECSAM on 5-7 August. Prema and Jaya trained them on the use of the

module on Personal Safety for preschool children.

On 4 September, a group of nurses attending the counselling course organised by the Penang Association of Counselling and Psychology (PACP) were treated to a session on gender delivered by Prema.

Concerned with the rising teenage sexual crimes, the Department of Psychiatry of Bukit Mertajam Hospital invited WCC to conduct a half-day workshop to 60 participants which included doctors, nurses, and health staff as well as school counsellors. Prema and Jaya talked on the challenges

of youths today and ran activities using the MPM programme which were enthusiastically participated by those present.

### **Conclusion**

It has been found that support from the various government bodies especially the State Education Department is imperative for us to reach out to the school children, teachers and counsellors. Over the years WCC has maintained a good relationship with our local JPN and we have been entrusted to carry our programmes (RESPEK, MPM, and TP) in the primary as well as secondary schools. Outreach Chairman, Ivy Ho together with

Cheng Kooi and Jaya paid a courtesy visit to the then Pengarah, Tuan Haji Salleh Abdul Karim to introduce WCC and to get his blessings in running our programmes in schools. He was receptive to our programmes and welcomed us in schools but at the same time he reminded us of the ethical guidelines of the JPN. Nevertheless we still need to work hard to increase the level of knowledge and correct some of the beliefs of not only the girls but more so of our boys in our community. With TP having run in 13 secondary boy schools, we hope it marks a beginning to a new era - of working hand in hand with the men!





# Legal Reform Report

• Zarizana Abdul Aziz

In 2005, WCC commenced its second court research programme with a generous grant from the European Union. More ambitious than the last, this was to be a three year project studying closed court files in two states on sexual assault cases particularly into the efficacy of the judicial process from investigation to prosecution to sentencing (or discharge), the strategies employed by defence counsels and the treatment of the survivor throughout this process. The court research is complemented by newspaper research not only on content of the crimes reported but manner of reporting.

Transforming conceptualisation to design required great care and the collaboration between volunteer lawyers and social scientists proved crucial. Then came the collection of data which was laborious. Many hours were spent either at the library (studying 5 years of newspapers in both languages) or the courts deciphering legible and near illegible handwriting, completing a 27-page questionnaire from remand to trial. Hurrah

to our volunteers and staff who undertook this task, whilst I cannot say for certain cheerfully, I can surely say bravely.

The project is still in the early stages and as of December 2005, we had yet to cover all the courts in Penang. It is hoped that concrete findings and analysis from the research will facilitate and spawn effective programmes to better the process and lessen the trauma of a girl or woman accessing the system.

When the Federal Court fixed a date in May to deliver its decision on the application for leave to appeal in the Malaysian Airlines case, all hope was that the Court would grant an opportunity for the parties (and the WCC together with the Joint Action Group for Gender Equality) to argue fully the question of gender equality and equal protection as entrenched in the Constitution.

So the WCC (together with JAG) engaged watching brief counsels and turned up in as full a force as we could muster (given the distance and funds) at the Federal Court in Putrajaya. (This case was brought by Beatrice, a Malaysian Airlines flight stewardess who was dismissed from employment because she became pregnant).

Yet our hopes were dashed when the Federal Court declined to grant leave to appeal and further held:-

- "There was no definite special clause in the collective agreement that discriminates against the applicant for any



reason which will justify judicial intervention”;

- “Our hands are tied. The equal protection incl. (1) of art. 8 thereof extends only to persons in the same class. It recognises that all persons by nature, attainment circumstances and the varying needs of different classes of persons often require separate treatment”; and
- “Unless and until the Employment Act 1955 is amended to expressly prohibit any term and condition of employment that requires flight stewardesses to resign upon becoming pregnant, such clauses are subject to our Contracts Act 1950 and continue to be valid and enforceable”.

The finding is cause for concern particularly as legal developments in common law countries have moved away from this analysis to an analysis rejecting that identical treatment of all within a certain category is non-discriminatory because the whole category may still be discriminated against.

This and the announcement that the Women’s Ministry had decided not to pursue our proposed sexual harassment bill (and to hand it back to the Ministry for Human Resources) put a damper on our legal reform efforts. Till to date, the Ministry of Human Resources, which had indicated that it is presently preparing amendments to the Employment Act 1955 to provide for sexual harassment, would not disclose the form of such



amendments, pleading instead that the proposed amendments are subject to the Official Secrets Act 1972.

On a more upbeat note, the Parliamentary Select Committee on amendments to the Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code invited the WCC (in coalition with JAG) to provide feedback and make a third presentation on the draft amendments under consideration by the Select Committee; putting us amongst only 3 groups to have been invited to do so, the other two being the Bar Council and the Royal Commission of Police.

Legal reform is most effective when coincided with political events that provide enabling environment for reform. With Malaysia’s CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women) reporting coming up in May next year, it is hoped that the government would look more urgently and comprehensively into meeting its commitment to eliminate discrimination against women including in the area of legal reform.

The work by our volunteers on the legal chapters in the CEDAW Shadow Report over the last 2 years in highlighting all the reforms that could be and should have been implemented by the government, had finally borne fruit in the form of pre session questions by the UN CEDAW committee to the Malaysian government. These questions include those on sexual harassment, domestic violence, reform of rape provisions and the Malaysian Airlines case.

Legal reform has been a key area of work for the WCC. Oftentimes frustrating, it nevertheless holds promise. For it is when aspirations and the law coincides that we can truly find protection and promotion of rights and justice.

Finally I would like to record my gratitude to all those who have participated in the endless work that is legal reform, lawyers and those with deep interest (or belief) in the law alike, including our two Canadian interns Kathryn Bird and Rahat Godil from the Faculty of Law in the University of Toronto, all of whom gave time and effort selflessly.



# International Women's Day



To celebrate 2005 International Women's Day, WCC with the help of staff and many volunteers went into full gear and organised two major public events in Penang and Butterworth. The events were jointly held in collaboration with Malaysia Crime Prevention Foundation, Penang Branch. The two venues chosen were the popular Penang Municipal Park (better known as Youth Park) on March 19 for Penang islanders and

for those in the mainland at Dewan Dato' Haji Ahmad Badawi (Town Hall) in Butterworth on April 10. The theme chosen was *Working Together against Crime* to show our



continued concern with the level of crimes inflicted against women and children. The events called for cooperation between the community and the police to reduce crime, especially those against women and children.

In both the events, there were much fun and activities such as children's creative art competition, dances, clown show and quizzes were held. Various charity food stalls were set up to whet the







appetite of the crowd. Tickets sold were channelled towards the support of the WCC Single Mothers Support Fund. Simultaneously a series of awareness activities like how to make a police report, VCD showings on child sexual abuse, an exhibition and multimedia presentation on violence against women were held.

At the Penang event, our guest of honour was the WCC Patron Toh Puan Datin Seri Hajjah Majimor Shariff who graciously

gave away prizes for the winners of the children's competition. WCC President Zarizana Abdul Aziz highlighted WCC's concern on the rising crimes against women and children and our work on preventing gender violence. The MCFP Penang Branch representative, Dr. Sundamoorthy spoke about the work of MCFP in crime prevention. The event was well participated by a crowd of 800 people.

A strong crowd of 500 turned up for WCC first public event in the mainland to give us full support. The children's competition and awareness games were well participated by the public. The crowd enjoyed an informative video presentation from the police on crime prevention

while the MCFP Penang branch, Vice President, Datuk Syed Jaafar enlightened the audience on practical tips on safety for children. WCC Executive Director Loh Cheng Kooi spoke about WCC activities and encourage the public to come and seek help from relevant government agencies and NGOs. The guest of honour was Dato' Jahara Hamid, Chairperson of the Penang Council of Women and Family Development.

WCC gratefully acknowledges our sponsors and the many volunteers who gave their full support for our charity food stalls and the various activities during the two events. Syabas to everyone for making our two International Women's Day 2005 hugely successful ones!



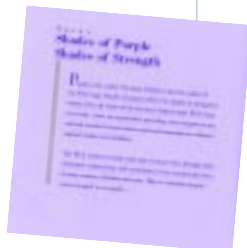




*Shades of Purple, Shades of Strength* was the aptly chosen theme for our 20th anniversary celebration. This theme encapsulates the essence of WCC for the last twenty years. Essentially, the colour purple represents women whilst the shades of strength represent the women from all walks of life who have helped WCC to develop and evolve from an organisation that provided crisis intervention to one that is actively involved in preventive and advocacy work for abused women and children.

Over 320 people turned up on the night of 18 November 2005 to join in WCC's 20th anniversary celebration dinner. The Berjaya Hotel Ballroom was a sea of purple as WCC's members and families and their friends came dressed in various shades of purple in keeping with the theme for the night.

The evening began with the arrival of the guest of honour, Datin Seri Dato' Su Hashim, the first President



of WCC, accompanied by seven past and current presidents. In welcoming the crowd, the current president, Zarizana Abdul Aziz, thanked our supporters for WCC's sustained growth and development and reminded us that we still have a long way to go in our struggle for anti-violence and gender equality. The guests were then treated to a sumptuous dinner spread. A buffet style dinner was given to allow guests the chance to mingle with each other while enjoying the food.

The MC for the evening, Honey Tan, took us down memory lane with a lighthearted power-point presentation on WCC work, its volunteerism and staff. To honour and commemorate the auspicious night, we had a cake cutting ceremony. All the presidents jointly cut the

cake while Helen Reddy's song, *I'm a Woman* played in the background. This moment brought the evening to a standstill and the auspiciousness of the night was further punctuated when Dato' Saleena Yahaya made a toast and wished WCC many, more years of success.

# WCC 20th Anniversary





# Celebration (1985–2005)



The highlight of the evening was the sterling performances by WCC's staff and volunteers. The show

began with WCC songbirds making their singing debut. Dressed in colourful baju kebayas, their rendition of P Ramlee's *Bila Larut Malam* which was lyrically amended to tell the story of being single was very well received. Next was the comedy skit, *The Women in Mr Happy's Life* which depicted a man, his wife and his mistresses. The skit had the crowd in stitches and a few



shedding tears from the realistic scenarios it evoked. The final item was a lively dance performance to the tune of *I Will Survive* by WCC members that showed women's resolve and tenacity to always survive against all odds.

After the performances, it was time to party as everyone took to the dance floor and let their hair down. Guests had a good time swinging and dancing to the music. Some showed off their dancing skills swinging to the disco tunes.

Overall, WCC's 20th anniversary celebration dinner was a memorable and enjoyable evening for everyone who attended. For some it was a historical and fulfilling moment as it celebrated success that came out of sheer sincere passion and determination for better life for women and children.

To add the gaiety of the evening, lucky prize draws were held throughout the evening. The prizes for the lucky draws, which ranged from hotel vouchers to jewellery, were mainly gifts that were generously contributed by members and various companies.





# WCC in the Press

## Learning to respect women

They have learned to respect women as they worked on a video about a girl getting into a bad relationship.

But after the boys were divided into smaller groups to discuss the video, they became more aware of learning how to respect women and could lead to sexual violence.

The students were taking part in the 'Turning Point' programme at SMK Sungai Air.

The programme was conducted by Women's Centre for Change (WCC) for four boys in 11 secondary schools in Penang.

During the two-hour programme, students had learned a video and discussed acceptable and unacceptable behaviour in the classroom.

Students were given the opportunity to study at their home on women and respect their bodies about sexual violence.

PCC researcher trainer Dr Poon Deyan said the idea was to help boys to understand the importance of sexual violence, but rather than in a formal classroom.

"You will find students giving very negative views about girls such as they like to cry, gossip and only think about money."

The (male) facilitator helped at the beginning to reveal his own (female) experience with the students' experience.

But the facilitator was surprised to find that when he asked the students to share their own experience, they were very open and honest.

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Abdul Kader: Learned that respect has to be earned.



Lee Gennan: Learned about respect.



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## "OK Tak OK 2" 再教兒童向狼手

【本報訊】由婦女中心主辦的「OK Tak OK 2」再教兒童向狼手，將於本月九日（星期日）下午二時至四時，在中華總商會舉行。

「OK Tak OK 2」是繼去年「OK Tak OK」後，為進一步提高兒童對性侵犯的認識，以及教導他們如何向狼手求救而設立的。

活動內容包括：觀看有關性侵犯的影片、聽取專家講解、角色扮演等。此外，現場還將設有諮詢熱線，為家長提供有關兒童性安全的資訊。

婦女中心表示，希望透過此類活動，能提高家長對兒童性安全的重視程度，並教導兒童如何識別和避免性侵犯的危險。

活動免費入場，歡迎家長帶同子女參加。查詢詳情，可致電婦女中心熱線：(04) 253 1111。

婦女中心呼籲家長，應加強與子女的溝通，並教導他們在遇到任何可疑情況時，應立即向家長或警方求助。

此外，中心還將提供有關兒童性安全的宣傳資料，供家長取閱。活動將於本月九日（星期日）下午二時至四時，在中華總商會舉行。

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## 12 Nation 29 April 2005

## 'Still no law' on harassment

PENANG: The Government must come up with a comprehensive law to combat harassment at the workplace, a non-government organisation urged.

Against Women's Abuse (AWA) said that the Government should formulate a specific legislation against sexual harassment.

"At present, the Government is using its review and amend the existing laws and the Penal Code," she said.

She said her organisation had in 2004 received a draft bill on sexual harassment to the government. "We need a separate bill as the Employment Act now is very limited in its scope," she said.

Labour Department, only 624 adopted the Code of Practice on the Prevention and Handling of Sexual Harassment in the Workplace, she said.

All Women's Action Society (AWAS) vice-president Dr Cecilia Ng, who was also present, said a survey conducted in 2001 on about 1,000 companies nationwide showed that 95% of the respondents reported they had experienced sexual harassment at the workplace.

She said not many people reported sexual harassment cases to the authorities because of lack of action by the relevant authorities.

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## Amend laws that are unfair to women

Let children take on their mother's nationality

THE plight of three-year-old Puan Ching Kooi has captured the attention of both local and international media.

The Women's Centre for Change (WCC) has been helping her to fight for her rights to take on her mother's nationality.

Puan Ching Kooi, who is currently a stateless child, has been living with her mother in Penang since she was born.

Her mother, Puan Ching Kooi, is a Chinese woman who married a Malaysian man in 1998.

However, because her husband did not register their marriage with the relevant authorities, Puan Ching Kooi was unable to take on her mother's nationality.

She said that she had been living with her mother in Penang since she was born, but she was unable to take on her mother's nationality.

WCC has been helping her to fight for her rights to take on her mother's nationality, and has been working with the relevant authorities to resolve the issue.

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## 'Domestic violence cases rising'

THE Women's Centre for Change (WCC) recorded a 10% increase in the number of abuse cases against women between 2003 and 2004.

Centre executive director Leh Cheng Kooi said 30% of the cases reported to WCC were on domestic violence, 30% on marital violence while 40% pertained to sexual harassment and legal advice.

"This is indeed worrying as despite the passing of the Domestic Violence Act, the number of abuse cases against women is still going up," she said.

She said that the centre was now working with school children on how to protect themselves from sexual abuse.

"We will be launching a video, Turning Point, soon to educate teenagers about relationships and respect," she added.

Earlier, the park was transformed into a carnival ground with activities such as a children's creative art competition, dance, quizzes, a programme on women's safety and a clown show.

There were also a mini food fair, handcraft sales and a Kids Zone where children had fun playing games like fish catching, glitter glue and monster tent.

An exhibition and multimedia presentations on violence against women and children were also held.

Yang di-Pertua Negeri's consort, Puan Majimar Shari, who is also WCC's patron, presented prizes to the competition's winners.

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Majimar (in yellow) admiring a cross stitch design during the celebration.



NEW STRAITS TIMES LIFE &amp; TIMES THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2005

COVER

# Not OK to stay silent



*'The VCD is user friendly and produced in a creative way which includes songs, cartoons and scenarios'*

TUESDAY 9 August 2005

News 9

Metro

## Teaching them to say 'no' the VCD way

By K.KASTURI DEWI

**T**WENTY-year-old Aini had just moved from Perlis to Penang with her mother, stepfather and younger brother.

Her mother works on the night shift at a factory while her stepfather works in the morning.

Aini's stepfather is violent and she is sexually abused. That was what she told her mother.

She began to cry and said she was

Suara Hati Aini is one of the three scenarios based on true stories featured in the "Ok Tak OK" VCD launched by the Women's Centre for Change (WCC).

The other two titles are *Maafkan Berhenti Berani* and *Si Dini Seribu Solah*.

The VCDs are produced by

Cheng Kioi said the production was second in the series of "Ok Tak OK" VCDs following the success of the first production in 2000.

"We have produced about 200 VCDs which come complete with cartoons."

"The VCD is user friendly and produced in a creative way



## Enforce gender equality

### Declarations alone won't ensure full implementation

The Star 18/5/05

THE Women's Centre for Change, Penang (WCC) is heartened to read of the Government's commitment to end discrimination against women, which it made at the recent Non-Aligned Movement Ministerial Meeting on the Advancement of Women.

We now have the Putrajaya Declaration, which bears similar sentiments to the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action and the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of

Discrimination Against Women, which Malaysia ratified in 1995, albeit with reservations.

Experience has shown that ratifying international conventions, let alone adopting declarations, does not ensure its full and effective implementation at the local level.

Passing laws, formulating policies and enshrining women's rights in the Constitution only gives them formal equality.

Even if equality is guaranteed

It shows that at the very least women's rights are recognised; and at the most that it has the force of law, which should be enforceable to benefit women.

But in reality, our progress in trying to obtain both formal and substantive equality at the local level has been slow.

The Joint Action Group Against Violence Against Women (JAG-AVAW), of which WCC is a member, has long campaigned for the amendment of all laws and mandating that

discriminate against women. Over the last 20 years, JAG-AVAW has submitted various memorandums to the Government, including more recently the Sexual Harassment Bill, amendments to the rape laws, the Domestic Violence Act and the Islamic Family Law.

What WCC would like to see is the Government putting its commitment to ending gender discrimination into practice.

While ratifying conventions, adopting declarations and passing

legislations are important steps forward, these alone will not end gender discrimination or ensure gender equality.

A tremendous amount of work needs to be done to create greater awareness and understanding of gender issues in our society before any of us can expect to see effective change.

PREMA DEVARAJ,  
Women's Centre for Change,  
Penang.  
(04-6561111)



# Diary of Events 2005

## JANUARY

- 15 WCC General Committee Meeting.
- 20 WCC President, Maznah Mohamad and Executive Director, Loh Cheng Kooi, attended the launch of the EU sponsored joint project on *Building Greater Democratic Processes and Citizens' Participation through Advocacy, Education and Reforms and Enhancing the Monitoring of the Commitments of the Malaysian Government* at the residence of the EU Ambassador, His Excellency Mr. Thierry Rommel, in KL. The other partners are Women's Development Collective (WDC) and All Women's Action Society (AWAM).
- 15 WCC consultant trainer Prema Devaraj, service coordinator Annie Yeap and project officers, Jayamalar Samuel and Shariza Kamarudin, conducted a *Sexual Harassment* workshop for USM Mass Communication students.
- 28 Annie gave a talk on *Personal Safety* to 200 Form 1 and 2 students of SMJK (C) Union.
- 28 - 30 WCC outreach team of Prema, Jaya and Shariza conducted a 2-day workshop on *Child Sexual Abuse* for pre-school teachers in Kelantan, organised by the Kelantan Family Planning Group.
- 29 Annie represented WCC as a panel speaker on the topic on *Sexual Harassment* in USM.

## FEBRUARY



- 16 WCC paid a courtesy call to WCC Patron, Toh Puan Datin Seri Hajah Majimor Shariff. Vice-President Lalitha Menon, Secretary Hajar Abdul Rahim, Treasurer Datin Chin Khuan Sui, Assistant Secretary Shakila Abdul Manan, Datin Khatijah Zainal Abidin and Cheng Kooi attended.
- 23 Prema and Jaya conducted a session on *Violence against Women* for 40 Form 4 students from St. George's Girls' School.
- 24 - 25 WCC Vice-President Zarizana Abdul Aziz participated in the National Conference *Towards the Formation of the Interfaith Commission of Malaysia* organised by the Steering Committee of the Initiative towards the Formation of the Interfaith Commission of Malaysia.



# Diary of Events 2005

## MARCH

- 4, 7 - 9 & 21 WCC training for Turning Point Programme was conducted by Prema.
- 5 WCC 20th Annual General Meeting at Tanjong Club, Tanjung Bungah.
- 11 - 12 WCC President Zarizana Abdul Aziz held a watching brief for the Joint Action Group on Violence Against Women (JAG-VAW) on Beatrice Fernandez v MAS and Anor at the Federal Court in Putrajaya. She also attended the JAG-VAW Meeting in KL.
- 14 WCC volunteer Honey Tan represented WCC at the meeting to follow-up on JAG-VAW's legal reform matters raised at the dialogue with the Prime Minister in May 2004 and subsequent meeting with the Women's Ministry.
- 14 - 15 WCC Legal Officer Angeline Loh attended the seminar *Women in Times of Armed Conflict & Peace* organised by the International Committee of the Red Cross in conjunction with International Women's Day in KL.
- 15 Lam Wah Ee Hospital (School of Nursing) invited Annie to talk on *Issues of Domestic Violence* to 30 student nurses.
- 19 WCC celebrated International Women's Day 2005 with the theme *Working Together against Crime* at the Youth Park with a children creative art competition, games, handicraft stall and food fair. Over 800

people attended. WCC Patron, Toh Puan Datin Seri Hajah Majimor Shariff was the Guest of Honour. Joint collaboration with Malaysian Crime Prevention Foundation, Penang Branch.



# Diary of Events 2005



- 22, 23, 25      Turning Point pilot programme were conducted by Prema, Jaya and the 8 facilitators at SMJK Westlands, SMJK Jelutong and SMJK Tanjong Bungah.
- 26 - 27        Prema attended the 3rd National Adolescent Health Symposium 2005, *Violence and Sexuality in Adolescence*, organised by the Adolescent Health Committee, MMA, in Johor Bharu.
- 28 - 31        Prema, Jaya with the assistance of the 8 facilitators conducted the Turning Point programme at SMJK St. Xavier.
- 28 Mar - 28 Apr      WCC staff, Prema, Jaya, Shariza and 8 male facilitators conducted the Turning Point programme *Talking to Boys about Respecting Girls* for a continuous period of 5 weeks. A total of 1,132 Form Four male students from 13 schools in Penang (10 from mainland and 3 from Penang Island) benefitted.

## APRIL

- 1 - 3        WCC volunteer Honey Tan participated and facilitated in the NGO consultation on *Campaign for Women's Rights and Democracy as National Election Agenda* organised by WDC in Kuala Lumpur.
- 2            WCC President Zarizana and Cheng Kooi met with Mr. Thierry Rommel, Ambassador of the European Union, for informal discussion about WCC work.
- 5 - 7        WCC Vice-President Noraida Endut attended a course on *Islamic Legal Theory* organised by Sisters in Islam in Kuala Lumpur.

# Diary of Events 2005

- 10 WCC International Women's Day 2005 celebration at Dewan Dato' Haji Ahmad Badawi in Butterworth. A crowd of 400 people attended and the Guest of Honour was YB Dato' Jahara Hamid, Pengerusi, Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan (Belia & Sukan), Pembangunan Wanita, Keluarga dan Komuniti.
- 11 Annie represented WCC at the Rumah NUR Timur Laut meeting at Anjung Wanita. The meeting discussed about the workplan for year 2005 and the formation of sub-committees.
- 16 WCC General Committee Meeting.
- 24 Apr - 11 May Shariza participated in a 3-week Training Workshop for Asian Service Providers of Victims-Survivors of Violence against Women and Children in Manila, organised by the Women's Crisis Centre, Philippines.
- 25 WCC outreach member Datin Chin Khuan Sui represented WCC at the *Sekolah Selamat* meeting organised by SMK Sri Mutiara.
- 26 WCC organised a *Thank You* dinner at Penang Sports Club for the Turning Point facilitators.
- 28 WCC, on behalf of JAG-VAW, submitted a memorandum to the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development and the Ministry of Human Resources at a press conference to raise concerns on the government's intention not to have a sexual harassment law but to amend the labour law instead. Cecilia Ng from WDC was also present.

## MAY

- 6 Kathryn Bird from University of Toronto, Faculty of Law (International Human Rights Programme student) underwent her internship at WCC for 9 weeks till 9 July 2005.
- 11 WCC Vice President Noraida, staff Cheng Kooi, Prema and Annie paid a courtesy call on the Chief Police Officer of Penang, DCP Datuk Christopher Wan, to introduce WCC work and to seek continued cooperation from the police.
- 12 Jaya was invited by SMK Hamid Khan to give a talk on *Rape* to 100 secondary students.





# Diary of Events 2005

- 13 Annie was invited to talk to the students of Penang Medical College about *Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse*.
- 19 WCC training for facilitators in preparation for the SMK Sri Mutiara School Camp on *Friendship and Relationship* to be held on 28 - 30 May 2005 in Muka Head.
- 26 Two officers from the Department of Public Health, Ministry of Health Malaysia, visited WCC regarding the project *National Report on Violence and Health in Malaysia*.
- 28 - 29 WCC hosted the JAG-VAW 2nd Evaluation Meeting where 17 key members from WCC, WAO, AWAM, WDC, SIS and MTUC Women's Committee met to update and discuss the progress on our work.
- 28 - 30 WCC staff, Jaya, Shariza, Adilah Ariffin, intern Lee Ling and volunteer Aruna facilitated at the workshop on *Friendship and Relationship* at the SMK Sri Mutiara school camp held in Muka Head. A total of 44 Form 1 and Form 2 students attended.
- 28 Prema presented a paper on *Building Healthy Relationship: A Programme for Secondary School Girls on Personal Safety* at the 7th National Mental Health Convention jointly organised by Penang General Hospital, Penang Medical College and Mental Health Association Penang.



# Diary of Events 2005

- 29 Jaya, at the invitation of the Penang Girl Guide Association, gave a talk on *Rape in Malaysia* to 30 girl guides.

## JUNE

- 6 WCC Outreach Chairperson Ivy Ho together with Cheng Kooi and Jaya paid a courtesy call to the new Director of Jabatan Pendidikan Negeri Pulau Pinang to introduce WCC's programmes in schools.
- 12 WCC volunteer Lalitha Menon was invited by Wanita MIC, Bukit Bendera to give a talk on *Domestic Violence and Law* to 35 Indian ladies at Hotel Crown Jewel.
- 19 Lalitha gave another talk on *Domestic Violence and Law* to 75 Indian ladies in KOMTAR, organised by the Wanita Section, MIC Jelutong Division.
- 24 Shariza at the invitation of SMK Kastam gave a talk on *Sexual Assault* to 90 secondary school students.
- 25 WCC General Committee Meeting.

## JULY

- 2 WCC volunteer Lalitha Menon and Jaya conducted a ½ day programme for 50 teenage Indian girls about *Rape and Laws about Sexual Assault* at the invitation of Pokok Machang Hindu Youth Organisation.
- 5, 6 & 11 Prema and Jaya conducted pilot programmes using the new VCD *Ok Tak Ok (Siri 2)* to 20 Standard 5 boys and girls at three primary schools, La Salle, SRK Hamilton and SRK Convent Green Lane.
- 8 Cheng Kooi gave a talk on *Domestic Violence* to 20 Penang Medical College students.
- 9 Jaya gave a talk on *Rape and Sexual Assault* to 50 Indian teenage girls at SMK Convent Pulau Tikus.
- 11 Another student from the Faculty of Law, University of Toronto, Rahat Godil started her internship at WCC for 9 weeks till 10 September 2005.
- 21 Launching of WCC VCD *Ok Tak Ok Siri 2 Pencegahan Penderaan Seksual Kanak-Kanak* at Pusat Budi Penyayang, Kepala Batas by YB Dato' Dr. Toh Kin Woon, Penang Exco Member. 75 teachers participated.



# Diary of Events 2005

- 23 Prema and Shariza attended the Men-2-Men Talk *Why Do Men Do It* at the YMCA.
- 26 A Musical Charity Morning Concert organised by NN Gallery in aid of WCC was held in KL, supported by WCC volunteers Honey Tan, Hashimah Ismail and Grace Lim.
- 26 - 28 Prema participated in the seminar to discuss the Draft of the Guidelines to the National Sexuality Education, organised by the Ministry of Education in Putrajaya.
- 29 - 31 WCC Outreach Chairperson, Ivy Ho, participated in the 3-day *Bengkel Gejala Sosial* held in Pulau Langkawi at the invitation of the Penang Jawatankuasa Induk Gejala Sosial.
- 30 Jaya at the invitation from Rumah Nur Seberang Perai Selatan talked about WCC activities and services to its members.
- 30 EU Ambassador, Mr. Thierry Rommel visited WCC and had discussion with WCC President Zarizana and Cheng Kooi regarding EU sponsored project and EU human rights work.
- 31 Prema gave a talk to the Penang Down's Syndrome Association on *Introduction to Personal Safety for Intellectually Disabled Children* in USM.

## AUGUST

- 1 WCC President Zarizana together with other JAG members met up with members of Parliamentary Select Committee to give feedback on the various proposals regarding the amendments to the Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code.
- 5 - 7 Prema and Jaya, at the invitation of SERI, ran a workshop on *Personal Safety* for pre-school teachers at RECSAM.





# Diary of Events 2005

- 8 Cheng Kooi and WCC volunteer Yuslinov Ahmad attended the meeting on *Women's Plan of Action for Penang*. Yuslinov presented the draft on law which incorporated the legal reforms submitted by JAG-VAW.
- 9 At the invitation of SM Convent Bukit Mertajam, a 2-hour interactive workshop on *Sexual Assault* was conducted by Jaya, Shariza and Adilah. A total of 75 Form 4 girls attended.
- 13 Prema together with Shariza conducted a ½ day programme on *Violence against Women and Gender* with Rumah Nur in Kulim. 150 Rumah Nur members attended.
- 16 Community Outreach Member Datin Chin Khuan Sui attended *Hari Anugerah Kecemerlangan 2005 dan Pelancaran Bulan Kemerdekaan* at SMK (P) Sri Mutiara.
- 16 WCC Outreach Team Prema, Jaya and Shariza conducted a one-day training in Butterworth for the school counsellors on the use of the new VCD *Ok Tak Ok (Siri 2)*.
- 17 Annie attended the public forum on *Crime and Policing* in Malaysia at USM.
- 20 - 21 WCC jointly with SIS, organised a 2-day Workshop *Peranan dan Cabaran Wanita Muda dalam Islam*. Thirty five young Muslim women attended the workshop held at Tanjung Bungah Hotel, Penang. WCC volunteer Yuslinov also contributed her expertise on *Islamic Family Law*.
- 27 - 30 Zarizana and WCC Vice-President Noraida Endut attended the Global Consultation on the Ratification and Use of the Optional Protocol to CEDAW in KL.

## SEPTEMBER

- 3 Prema and Jaya organised a one-day training for 16 Tamil speaking facilitators at WCC in preparation for the workshop for Tamil school children.
- 4 Prema gave a 1½ hour session on *Gender* to 10 nurses attending the PACP Counselling course held at YWCA.
- 4 Jaya talked about WCC activities and services to members of Majlis Pembangunan Wanita and Keluarga Parlimen Tanjong.



# Diary of Events 2005



- 10 In collaboration with YB Subbaiyah's Office, WCC conducted a ½ day workshop on *Personal Safety* for 75 Standard 6 Tamil school children from SRJK(T) Ladang Malakoff, Mayfield and Palaniandi.
- 10 WCC General Committee Meeting
- 13 Prema and Jaya conducted a ½ day workshop on *Teenage Sexual Assault* for 60 participants at the joint counselling programme with Jabatan Psikiatri & Kesihatan Mental, Hospital Bukit Mertajam.
- 17 Jaya, Shariza and WCC volunteers Mustakeen, Nabil, Azfar and Wan conducted a 2-hour workshop on *Teenage Relationship* for 50 teenagers, at the invitation of NCWO and Rumah Nur Bukit Bendera.
- 17 Cheng Kooi gave an informal talk on *Women's Rights* to the members of the Penang Sikh Association.
- 20 Jaya at the invitation of SK Minden Heights conducted a programme on *Child Sexual Abuse* for 100 Standard 6 students.
- 21 Prema and Jaya attended a workshop on *Sexuality* for 60 hearing impaired Form 1 and 2 male and female students conducted by facilitators from Majudiri YMCA Kuala Lumpur.
- 21, 22 & 29 Annie and WCC Project Assistant Lee Ling conducted a programme on *Children Personal Safety* for a total of 320 Standard 6 boys and girls of Penang Chinese Girl's Primary School.
- 24 Cheng Kooi gave a talk on *Sexual Harassment* in the Workplace to 70 staff of Inventec Electronics.
- 26 Talk on *Sexual Assault* by Jaya at SK Convent, Butterworth.
- 28 Shariza gave a one-hour talk on *Violence* against Women to 50 women at Rumah Nur Timur Laut.

# Diary of Events 2005

## OCTOBER

- 3 WCC Outreach Team conducted a workshop for Malayan Teachers College trainees to expose them to WCC work and issues like sexual harassment and child sexual abuse.



- 8 Jaya and WCC male counsellor Thomas, together with Tamil speaking volunteers, Rosalind, Jothi, Kana and Mahen conducted a ½ day workshop on *Boy-Girl Relationship* for 28 teenage boys and girls from Ramakrishna Orphanage and Children's Protection Society.
- 9 Lalitha Menon was invited by Rumah Nur Barat Daya to give a talk on *Women and Law*. Jaya spoke about WCC services to 30 Indian women.
- 12, 25 & 26 WCC staff, Jaya, Shariza and Lee Ling, gave talks on *Sexual Assault* to a total of 500 teenagers from SMK Sri Mutiara, Convent Butterworth and Bukit Mertajam High School respectively.
- 14 - 15 Prema and Jaya conducted a 1½ day training programme for 13 women from St. Michael Church Women's League and the Perak Women for Women Association on *Domestic Violence*.
- 28 - 30 Prema represented WCC, as one of the 4 NGOs invited, for the meeting to discuss the *National Action Plan on Adolescent Health* in Seremban, organised by the Ministry of Health.





# Diary of Events 2005

## NOVEMBER

- 9 Jaya gave a talk on Rape to 300 Form 2 students of SMK St George.
- 16 - 18 WCC President Zarizana presented a paper on gender issues *Equality: Sameness + Differences* and Honey Tan presented a paper on gender reassignment entitled *Jeffrey and Jessie - Recognising Transsexuals* at the 13th Biennial Malaysian Law Conference in Kuala Lumpur.



- 18 WCC 20th Anniversary Dinner Celebration at Berjaya Georgetown Hotel. 320 members and supporters attended.
- 19 - 21 Prema and Jaya, sponsored by UNFPA, attended the 3rd Asia Pacific Conference on *Reproductive and Sexual Health* (APCRSH 2005) and conducted a 2-hour Skills Building and Empowerment Workshop on Turning Point for 40 participants.
- 21 - 22 WCC General Committee Member Lim Kah Cheng represented WCC at the forum *A Review of the Penang Strategic Development Plan 2*.
- 21 - 23 WCC volunteer Kanagaraja Rarujanai attended the 3-day Training on *Education for Non Racial Discrimination* organised by Pusat Komunikasi Masyarakat (KOMAS) in Petaling Jaya.
- 22 WCC staff Annie, Shariza, Lee Ling and Zaitun, an intern from UUM conducted a workshop on *Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault* for 39 student nurses of Lam Wah Ee Hospital.

# Diary of Events 2005



25 Prema, Thomas and Lee Ling conducted a 2-hour session on *Relationships* for the sixth formers of the International School of Penang (Uplands).

27 Cheng Kooi was interviewed over the telephone by BBC London on the Situation of *Domestic Violence in Malaysia* for their programme *Talking Point*.

29 Kah Cheng represented WCC at the Penang Local Government Consultative Forum on issues affecting Penangites.

30 Nov - 1 Dec EU Project Evaluation Meeting with consultant Diana Wong together with sub-committee members and staff.

## DECEMBER

4 - 12 Prema attended the regional 9-day Asian Youth Artsmall Exchange (AYA) Exchange Workshop on *Community Youth Arts* held in KL and presented a paper on *Capacity Building for the Organisation*.

5 Jaya flew to Osaka, Japan, to receive the Hurights Osaka Award 2005. Our VCD *OK Tak OK Siri 2* was one of the 3 winning entries.

10 WCC General Committee Meeting

10 WCC sent a team of 7 staff and volunteers, as part of JAG contingent, participated in the Human Rights March in KL in commemoration of Human Rights Day, organised by the Bar Council.

12 - 13 WCC representative, Kah Cheng, attended the workshop *Bina Upaya Menangani Masalah Kemiskinan Bandar* under the 9th Malaysia Plan, organised by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government at Bayview Beach Resort.

14 Shariza gave a talk on *Domestic Violence* to 200 participants of Rumah Nur Daerah Timur Laut Selatan.

16 - 17 Cheng Kooi and Honey Tan attended the 2-day Internal EU Project Evaluation for Partners in Kuala Lumpur.

18 WCC staff Adilah attended SIS workshop on *Syariah Law, Gender and Human Rights* in Petaling Jaya.

24 Annie attended the public event for 200 single mothers *Wanita Ke Arah Kecemerlangan Diri* organised by Rumah NUR.



# Appreciation and Gratitude

## SPONSORS AND DONORS

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Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat Negeri Pulau Pinang

International Women's Association, Penang

Women Living Under Muslim Law (WLUML)

### **Individuals**

Chang Ngee Hui

Yeoh Eu Hock, Dr.

Estate of Koay Sook Yin



# Appreciation and Gratitude

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Ajeet Kaur  
Datin Khatijah Zainal Abidin  
Dato Zainul Azman Dato' Z. Aziz  
Grace Chiew  
Lily Loh  
Nor Maziana Mustafa  
Ong Ah Koy  
Susan Lim & Friends  
Tan Lai Hoo  
Tay Mo Leong  
Teh Ee Ming  
Umi Shekha Shaikh Mohamad  
Wendy Ang  
Wendy Yong  
Wong Lei Yoke



# Appreciation and Gratitude

## WCC 20th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION SPONSORS (in cash and in kind)

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Pertubuhan Bunga Tanjung  
Robert Bosch (M) Sdn. Bhd.  
68 Kelawei  
Soho Free House  
The Body Shop  
Thirty Two at the Mansion

### Individuals

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Datin Khatijah Zainal Abidin  
Dato' Chong Eng Keat  
Datuk Nazir Ariff  
Dato' Teow Eng Nam  
Dato' Toh Kin Woon  
Dato' Zainul Azman  
Heng Yong Ming  
Khor Lee Nam  
Leong Hoong Weng  
Lim Kah Cheng  
Lim Tiong Chin  
Maznah Mohamad  
Shakira Jamil  
Steven Ong  
Tiah Thee Seng  
Weng Ang

# *Appreciation and Gratitude*

## **PARTNERS & SUPPORTING AGENCIES**

All Women's Action Society (AWAM)  
Hospital Besar Pulau Pinang  
Hospital Lam Wah Ee (Nursing College)  
Jabatan Pelajaran Negeri Pulau Pinang  
Majlis Pembangunan Wanita, Keluarga & Masyarakat,  
Negeri Pulau Pinang  
Malaysian Trades Union Congress, Women's Committee  
Mitra Welfare Centre  
Penang Medical College  
Penang Office for Human Development  
Persatuan Perancangan Keluarga Kelantan  
Perak Women for Women Society  
Rumah NUR Daerah Barat Daya  
Rumah NUR Daerah Timur Laur (Selatan)  
Sisters in Islam  
Socio-Economic & Environmental Research Institute (SERI)  
Tze Chi Buddhist Association  
Women's Aid Organisation (WAO)  
Women's Development Collective (WDC)  
Women's League St. Michael's Church





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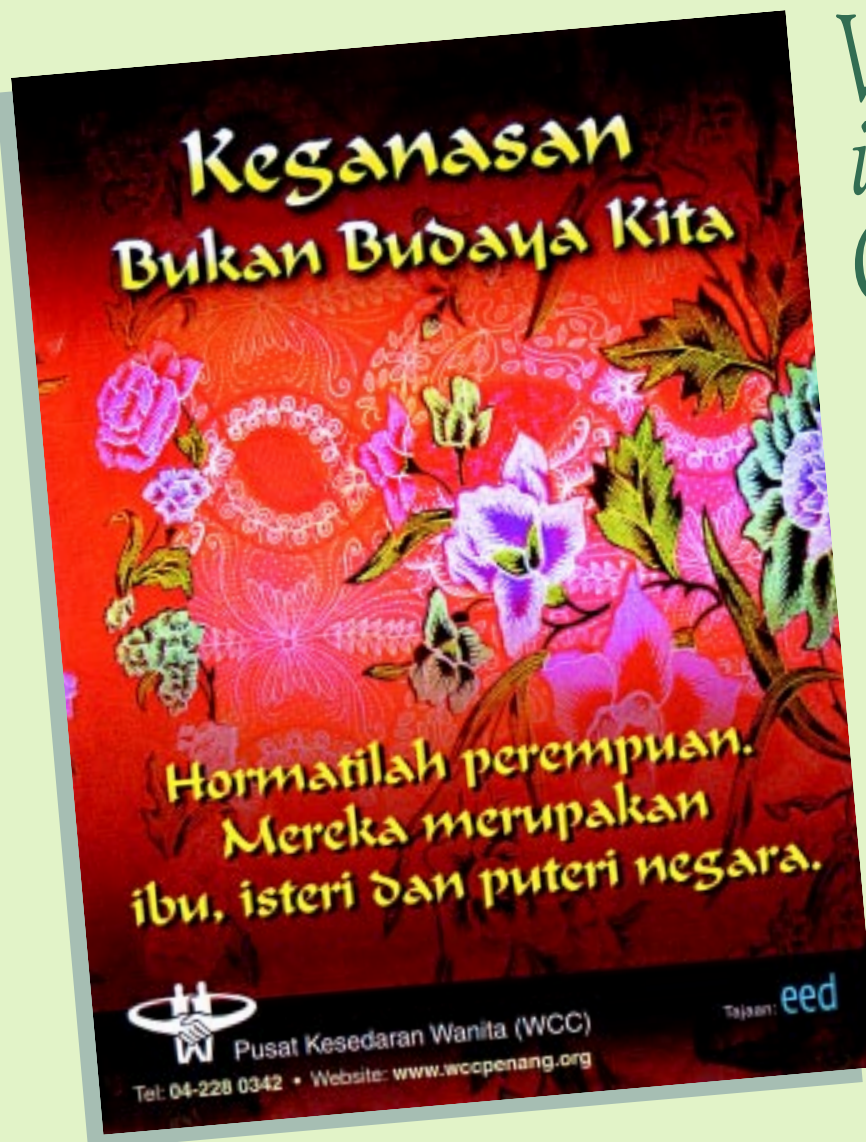
Yeap Chin Ling

Yeap Leay Fong

Zaitun Shamsudin

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





*Violence  
is not our  
Culture*

*Respect  
Women.  
They are  
mothers,  
wives and  
daughters  
of the  
nation.*



**Pusat Kesedaran Wanita  
Women's Centre for Change**  
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