



Pusat Kesedaran Wanita
Women's Centre for Change (WCC)
(formerly Women's Crisis Centre)



Annual Review

2006

www.wccpenang.org





Pusat Kesedaran Wanita

Women's Centre for Change (WCC)

(formerly Women's Crisis Centre)

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

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 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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Contents

■ President's Report.	5
■ General Committee 2006	8
■ The Sub-Committees	9
■ Programmes and Activities	
■ Service Report	10
■ Community Outreach Report.	17
■ Legal Reform Report	22
■ WCC in the Press	26
■ Diary of Events 2006	30
■ Sponsors and Donors.	42
■ Appreciation & Gratitude	43





President's Report

Datin Chin Khuan Sui

2006



As our nation moves towards nearly 50 years of Merdeka, it is also time to reflect on the situation of women in Malaysia. While we have made remarkable progress in education and employment, however, in political participation and at decision making/management level, our numbers remain very small. There still exist discriminatory laws despite the amendments to our Federal Constitution in 2001 to make women and men equal in our laws.

One of the biggest concerns affecting many women and children today is safety and security. Common occurrences of rape, sexual assault compounded by snatch thefts, burglaries, robberies have created a situation that women no longer feel safe in their homes or in the streets. The level of violence against women continues to rise at an alarming rate. In a short period of seven years, the number of reported rape cases has increased by a shocking 100 percent. In 2000 there were 1,217 cases and by 2006 this number has risen to 2,435 cases! So long as women are viewed to be of a lesser status and as sex objects, there will always be gender inequality and sexual violence against women.

Our WCC statistics also indicate an increase number of domestic violence cases from 29 percent in 2000 to 40 percent in 2006. The irony is that Malaysia

was one of the first Asian countries which passed the Domestic Violence Act in 1994 and violence at home has not decreased. While these figures may indicate that more women are coming out to seek help, on the other hand, this increase may also show that violence in the homes are also increasing.

With these challenges ahead, WCC ploughed further into our commitment to reduce violence against women and to eradicate gender biasness and discrimination in our society. Our core work, providing counselling and shelter for women in crises, continues to be an essential service. In 2006, WCC received over 1,000 hotline calls, served 325 women while 17 women with 21 children stayed at our shelter for protection. Some of these women came as far as Kedah and Mainland

Penang making WCC one of the most important service centres in Northern Malaysia. There is clearly a need for more service centres in other states to ensure that more women have access to

assistance and know what to do in times of crisis.

Our statistics revealed that as high as 37 percent of our clients are Indians and half of these are domestic violence cases, indicating a higher incidence of violence in this community. This is worrying, and there is an urgent need to launch more programmes for the poor Indian communities to reduce gender violence in their lives.

WCC statistics also indicate an increase number of domestic violence cases from 29 percent in 2000 to 40 percent in 2006

Since late 2005, a Single Mothers' Support Group has been set up to empower the ex-domestic violence clients to be stronger emotionally. Several workshops were organised to help them regain their self esteem and train them in income generating skills and budget planning.

When handling marital disputes or domestic violence cases, it is not enough to just talk to the wife. It is also important to involve the husband too. However, some husbands may feel uneasy to speak to our female counselors. So it was a first for WCC when we recruited a male officer to counsel abusive men as a long term measure to reduce violence in our society. At the same time, WCC increased our programmes for boys in schools about respect and gender equality, hoping to effect changes in their attitudes and perceptions towards the opposite sex. It never fails to amaze us that a 14-year old boy or a 40-year old man hold the same attitude that rape is caused by women dressing "sexily". The prevalence of sexism at all levels of our society still permeates deeply.

We see education and awareness building as the main strategy of prevention. Going to schools, giving talks on invitations or running programmes and workshops have been ongoing and an effective way of reaching out to the young, before they go out into the world as adults. WCC believes that in order to prevent violence against women, we must start with the young when they are still in the school system. Our staff and volunteers of the Outreach subcommittee have been doing a wonderful job, from preschool



to primary and secondary schools, and institutions of higher learning like colleges and universities. We have expanded programmes to cater specially for the mentally challenged and hearing impaired children on sexual abuse prevention. The Outreach team deserves a medal for the relentless efforts working with various communities, to raise awareness on issues of sexual abuse prevention, teaching the youths about respecting each other and not being exploitative in a relationship. Similarly, trainings are organised for hospitals and government agencies like the Police and the Welfare Department to gender sensitise service providers and educators to be better equipped when handling cases of sexual violence.

Another achievement has been the collaboration with the Ministry of Health to develop a set of five different posters with the running theme *Keganasan Bukan Budaya Kita* (Violence is Not Our Culture). A total of 50,000 posters were printed and distributed to state health department, hospitals, polyclinics throughout Malaysia. It is our hope that this simple message will educate thousands of people who visit these health centres.



To be effective in our struggle to improve the lives of women and children, laws need to be changed and WCC has shown tenacity in advocacy work and lobbying for legal changes. Our Legal Reform subcommittee continued with its 3-year project on the collection of court data and media analysis of sexual crimes. When completed next year, this research will enable WCC to further lobby the judiciary and prosecution for better access to justice for women. This project also made us realise the need to undertake more research as empirical evidence will support our work to campaign towards the removal of gender discrimination and to promote equality.

2006 saw the start of the drafting of the proposed Gender Discrimination Act for WCC which is part of the women's coalition of the Joint Action Group for Gender Equality (JAG). In August 2006, WCC organised an international conference to bring international experts to share their countries' experience on Gender Equality legislations and enforcement mechanisms. From this, WCC was able to gather further inputs into our drafting process.

WCC became part of a 6-member NGO delegation to lobby with UN CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women) Committee on the first Malaysian government report in New York in May 2006. Prior to the meeting, our women NGO's published a NGO CEDAW Shadow Report as an alternative to the government's report on the status of women in Malaysia.

All the above activities and projects would not be possible without funding. We are deeply indebted to our main sponsors Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst (EED) and the European Commission for creating an enabling environment for WCC to do our many activities for women and children. We are also grateful to our other sponsors, donors and individuals who believed in our work and donated generously as well.

Last but not least, I would like to thank our WCC staff and volunteers, who selflessly contributed their time and energy, because all of us believe that the little things that we do will go a long way to make our society a better place. In turn, we feel the joy of giving!

General Committee

2006

PRESIDENT	Chin Khuan Sui
VICE PRESIDENT	Zarizana Abdul Aziz
VICE PRESIDENT	Yuslinov Ahmad
SECRETARY	Shakila Abdul Manan
ASSISTANT SECRETARY	Maria Francisca Belavendram
TREASURER	Jacqueline Joyce Tan Sui Lean

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- Maznah Mohamad
- Jenny Lim Eng Leng
- Lim Kah Cheng
- Yeong Joo Kean
- Annie Chin Lye Kheng
- Ivy Ho Siew Yoong

INTERNAL AUDITOR	Wendy Ang
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STAFF

- Loh Cheng Kooi (*Executive Director*)
- Prema Devaraj (*Consultant Trainer*)
- Annie Yeap Lay Pheng (*Service Coordinator*)
- Karen Lai Yu Lee (*Legal Officer*)
- Jayamalar Samuel (*Outreach Project Officer*)
- Shariza Kamarudin (*Project Officer*)
- Adilah Ariffin (*Project Officer*)
- T. Michal Thomas Michal Thevasittham (*Project Officer*)
- Tan Lean Kim (*Administrator*)
- Angeline Loh (*Legal Officer*) – up to February 2006
- Lim Lee Ling (*Project Assistant*) – up to September 2006
- Marie Tan Kiak Li (*Project Officer*) – up to December 2006



The Sub-Committee

SERVICE (*Counselling, Shelter and Training*)

- Jenny*, Wendy, Noraida, Maria Francisca
- Annie Chin, Annie Yeap, Shariza, June Estrop,
- Thomas, Lee Ling, Marie

OUTREACH

- Ivy Ho*, Khuan Sui, Shakila, Yuslinov, Hajar,
- Kah Cheng, Prema, Jayamalar

LEGAL REFORM

- Zarizana*, Lalitha, Yuslinov, Joo Kean, Jacqueline,
- Karen, Cheng Kooi, Angeline

PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION

- Khuan Sui*, Jenny, Shakila, Cheng Kooi

RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY PROJECT

- Lalitha, Maznah, Kah Cheng, Shakila, Hajar,
- Karen, Cheng Kooi

**chairperson*



Service Report

by Jenny Lim, Annie Yeap, Shariza Kamarudin and Michal Thomas

2006 has been yet another action packed year for the service subcommittee. Not only did we maintain and match our counselling services to an increased workload but we were able to fulfill our service outreach obligations of talks and workshops for the community, managing even a slot or two on the local radio. Our three key highlights apart from our core work include our single mothers' support group, our outreach to the Muslim community and our work with men. The services were as follows:

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

1. FACE-TO-FACE COUNSELLING

There was a slight increase of 5 percent in the number of new cases handled and a significant increase of 61 percent in the follow-up cases. The total counselling sessions were 527 sessions marking an increase of 25

percent this year compared to 2005 which recorded only 423 sessions. The large increase in the number of counselling sessions was due to the increased number of follow-up sessions with our shelter clients and also an increase in marital counseling.

WCC saw a total of 325 clients (287 new clients and 38 old clients) and conducted 527 counselling sessions (see Table 1). Out of the total number of new cases, 67 of them came back for follow-up sessions with the social workers. Another 38 clients were from previous years. 96 percent of our clients were women and 4 percent were men. The ethnic distribution of our clients was Chinese 48 percent, Indian 37 percent, Malay 12 percent and others 3 percent.

Sixteen referrals were from government agencies (hospital, health clinic, welfare department, police stations and legal aid bureau) and 14 referrals were from non government sources (political parties, private lawyers firms and other NGOs).

From table 2, the largest group who sought help was on domestic violence problems (40 percent). Most of them faced physical and emotional abuse and about 9 percent reported sexual abuse by their husbands. Less than half of these women lodged police reports. Out of this, only 13 percent of them applied for Interim

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

Year 2006	Number of clients	Counselling sessions
■ New cases	287	287
■ Follow-up sessions*	67	173
■ Old cases (follow-up)	38	67
Total	325**	527

* Follow-up: Out of the 287 new cases, 67 clients came back for follow-up sessions.

** Total clients = new clients + old clients = 287 + 38 = 325

Table 2: Types of New Cases

Year 2006		
Types of cases	No. of clients	%
Domestic Violence	116	40
Marital problem	62	22
Information seeking	45	16
Legal advice	22	8
Relationship problem	16	6
Sexual harassment	10	3
Incest/ Child Sexual Abuse	7	2
Rape	2	1
Others	7	2
Total	287	100

Protection Orders. Some women did not want to lodge reports and would rather find alternatives like living separately or filing for divorce. They were reluctant to make a police report as it will “make the issue more serious”. Out of 116 domestic violence clients, 28 percent were homemakers, 62 percent were working women and 10 percent were unemployed.

The second largest group was on marital problems (22 percent). Nearly half of these cases were related to extra marital affairs and 31 percent cited communication breakdown with their spouses. The remaining were due to spouses’ behavioral problems, maintenance issues, etc. Many of these women expressed great sadness and could not believe the situation they found themselves in. Besides requiring emotional support, many women sought advice on divorce proceedings. Although some of them did not want to divorce, they were unable to tolerate their husbands’ infidelities and would rather file for divorce.

16 percent of the women who came to WCC needed information on their rights and other referrals. 6% of our clients had relationship problems with their boy or girl friends or their parents-in-law. Most of these

problems were due to poor communication.

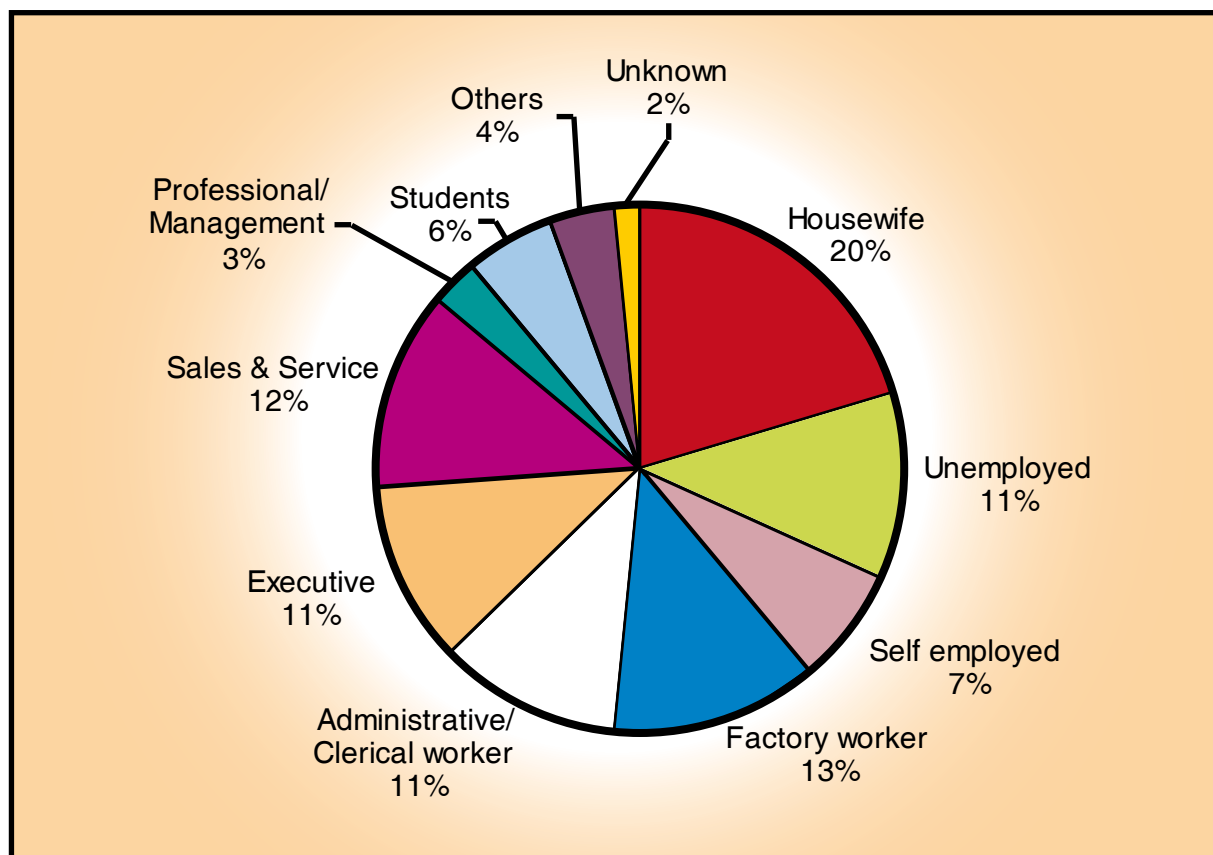
In terms of socio-economic background, 20 percent of our clients were housewives. Most of the other clients had jobs in factories, offices or in sales. Only 3 percent were in the professional or managerial level. In terms of income earned, 33 percent of our clients (housewives or unemployed) had no income. About 43 percent of our clients earned less than RM1,500 and 19 percent earned more than RM1,500. The majority of our clients had secondary education and more than 22 percent had higher education.

2. TELEPHONE COUNSELLING

In 2006 WCC received a total of 1,001 telephone calls - 586 new calls and 415 follow-up calls. The number of calls has increased by 16 percent compared to 2005 which recorded only 862 calls.

The highest number of callers sought help on family problems (29 percent). Most of them enquired about their rights on divorce matters, children custody, maintenance issues, etc. The second highest number of calls were on marital problems (23 percent), most

Socio-economic Background of our Clients



of these were about extra marital affairs. 20 percent of the callers sought help on domestic violence and these women wanted to know how to deal with domestic violence and wanted to put a stop to it.

About 52 percent of the calls were from married women in their 30s. The majority of the calls – 74 percent came from Penang Island, followed by mainland calls – 26 percent. Out of the total number of calls, 14 percent were from men, most of whom were husbands of the wives who came to WCC for help.

3. ONLINE COUNSELLING

The number of emails seeking help increased from 16 in 2005 to 39 this year. Out of this, 21 percent sought advice on divorce matters, another 21 percent wanted contact numbers of referral agencies, 13 percent

were on domestic violence and 10 percent related to relationship problems. 8 percent of them said that they faced extra marital problems. Another 8 percent faced sexual harassment in the workplace. 5 percent were single mothers seeking emotional support from us. 5 percent complained about date rape and there was one complaint about child sexual abuse. The rest of the enquiries were about financial aid.

4. SHELTER

In 2006, the number of shelter clients increased to 17 women and 21 children compared with 2005 which had 10 women and 8 children. The breakdown in ethnicity were 65 percent Indians, 18 percent Malays, 12 percent Chinese and 5 percent others. Two of these clients were foreign wives. There has been an increase

in the number of Indian women seeking shelter over the years. Most of them were from the lower income group without much support from their families.

Most of the shelter clients were not able to get support from their family members. The family members either lived too far away or their family relationship was strained. Some of them were afraid that their husbands might harass their families if they move back.

It is worthwhile to note that when staying at WCC's shelter, some clients became very close to each other and supported one another. They shared their similar experiences and maintained contact with each other after they left the shelter.

5. SERVICE OUTREACH

For the service outreach, WCC organized two workshops and held several talks for the community.

Workshop on Muslim Women's rights

Following the good response from our previous workshop in Kedah last year, WCC organised another joint workshop with Persatuan Kesedaran Wanita Kedah. The workshop on Muslim Women's Rights was held in May in Alor Setar for 32 Muslim women service providers from grassroot organizations. The workshop was handled by the WCC staff Shariza, Prema, Adilah and volunteers Noraida, Yuslinov and Datin Mahmuda. The workshop touched on the Syariah Laws and its development in Malaysia, Muslim women's rights under Islamic Family Law and the reality of women experiences under the law. Participants also dealt with actual case studies to strengthen their knowledge on these matters and shared their experiences.

Workshop on Manage Your Finances

Apart from developing programmes for our single mothers support group, we found that single mothers face numerous challenges in their lives. One of the main issues faced is the lack of income to support and

To All WCC Angels,

What relationship do I have with all of you? The man I married and stayed with and served him for the past 8 years kicked me off from his house just within minutes. I don't even know any of WCC angels but they gave me a place to stay, food, love, attention and support.

Why? Why did they accept me? Before I left, they gave lunch because they are concern. They gave kitchen utensils for me. Why? The man I served gave me only curse when I left home. Why this people so concern about someone whom they don't even know? Why? Because they are God sent.

I really wish that I will be able to come back to WCC one day by being a successful person. May that day come soon. Please bless me again. I truly believe in God, that he will give us something better, if he thinks that what we are receiving currently does not deserve us. Although there is some pain at the beginning I wish that WCC Angels be showered with lots of love and happiness forever. The experience which I had while staying in WCC shelter, I shall treasure till the end of my life.

Thank you WCC Angels.

*31 year old domestic violence client,
with children aged 3 and 5 years old.*

raise their children. As this was a critical issue and impacts negatively on the quality of their lives and their children's, WCC approached the Majlis Pembangunan Wanita dan Keluarga Parlimen Bukit Bendera to have a joint workshop on "Manage Your Finances" to about 50 single mothers on 17 September 2006. The workshop was carried out by a volunteer Ms Jenny Ooi from Thang Hsiang Mitra Welfare Centre. She has many years of experience in helping couples and single mothers plan their budget. A very lively interactive workshop was conducted and participants felt that it was a good session as they learned to budget and manage their money more effectively. Participants requested for more sessions to increase their knowledge on financial planning.



interesting to note that, most of the male students believe that when women say no to sex they actually mean yes.

For the first time, through our intern Lim Chooi Ling, a UKM Masters student and also a nurse tutor at the Penang Adventist Hospital, WCC held two talks on basic counselling skills and domestic

violence for their nurse tutors and 50 student nurses. It was eye opening for them as this was their first exposure to domestic violence.

Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Pulau Pinang organised a seminar "NGO's Role in Violence Prevention and How to Handle Violence Cases" in September. Annie spoke on WCC's role in preventing Violence Against Women to the well attended seminar which comprised over 200 medical personnel, doctors and nurses from different departments and districts.

Talks on Violence Against Women

Working with Hospitals

WCC continued our regular talks at the Penang Medical College and Lam Wah Ee Hospital on violence against women issues. WCC staff, Annie Yeap and Shariza conducted two talks at Lam Wah Ee hospital and a total of 61 student nurses attended the sessions. Another four talks were carried out by Annie at Penang Medical Centre. A total of 94 students attended the talks. During the discussion on the rape myths, it was

Working with others

WCC has been working with other NGOs for many years. A few organizations like the Amnesty International, the Penang Baptist Seminary and Universiti Sains Malaysia approached WCC to give talk on issues related to violence against women. WCC reached out to more than 100 women in these talks.

WCC staff, Shariza went on air twice at the Mutiara FM (formerly known as Radio Malaysia Pulau Pinang) in March and September. Shariza spoke on domestic violence and the impact on women and children and also the services provided by WCC. It was a useful session as the public could call in to seek advice and give their opinions. This was a good experience for our staff and also created awareness for the public on these issues. The radio also



started promoting WCC through their information slots.

This year, WCC also made a determined effort to reach out to the Malay community. Shariza visited all the five Islamic Religious Department in Pulau Pinang and mainland to meet with the counsellors. They were briefed on WCC services and were given pamphlets to be distributed among the people in the department and their clients.



these single mothers reflect on how they survived their past experiences. In the 3rd session, the participants shared their experiences, while the 4th session enabled them to experience their personnel struggle in their relationship with their spouse. In the 5th session, single mothers shared what they had gained and lost after they left the abusive relationship. In the

last session, the facilitator taught them some relaxation techniques and how to care for themselves. They felt happy to be able to help and support each other.

Members of the support group requested that the sessions continue and that more single mothers to join the group. WCC actively recruited and encouraged new single mothers to join the group. In August, the group of single mothers organised a social gathering in the Youth Park. They also brought their children with them.

6. SINGLE MOTHERS' SUPPORT GROUP

WCC initiated a Single Mothers' Support Group for our former domestic violence clients aimed at helping them to be independent and regain their self worth. WCC first conducted a questionnaire survey with single mothers who had experienced domestic violence to identify their needs. WCC invited Ms. Ng Sze Mei, a consultant who is currently a Satir Model advocate to conduct a two-day training for WCC staff and facilitators from other women's service centres.

A total of six support group sessions were conducted for our single mothers in 2006. Although 11 single mothers signed up, only six of them managed to complete all the sessions.

The women came from different ethnic groups and most of them were in their 30s and 40s.

The six sessions were conducted from 12 March till 25 June. The first session began with warming up activities to enable participants to get to know each other. There was also a discussion on expectations of the support group. The second session focused on the "The Journey of Single Mothers" which helped



In October, these single mothers planned activities ranging from pot luck meals, parenting talks, handicraft skills to visiting each other. In November, a WCC volunteer, Ms Lee Saw Bee taught the single mothers and other volunteers to make ear-rings and bracelets from beads. It was a fun session for all present and they enjoyed creating their own handiwork products.

7. WORKING WITH MEN

As part of our work on domestic violence, WCC project officer, Michael Thomas went for a 5-day study tour to Singapore, visiting six family service centres and also the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports. During his visit, he learned how these centres counsel abusive men and the methods they used to conduct programmes for youth. Thomas was able to gain new ideas and identify resources to help in counselling abusive clients in WCC.

In 2006, there were 11 male clients who voluntarily came to seek counselling at WCC. They sought help for various problems related to marriage and relationship. Out of this, seven of them were counselled on their abusiveness to their wives. The counselling focused on making them take responsibility for their violent behavior. Our male social worker, Thomas, also counselled them on the effects of violence on their family and gave them non violent alternatives to their anger and behaviors.

Besides face-to-face counselling, WCC's hotline handled 86 telephone-counselling sessions for men.

These included calls to husbands regarding their violent behavior as well as calls related to marital problems. While most men were willing to come to WCC for further counselling, some were reluctant.

To further promote our counselling service for men, a Hotline Card was designed. About a thousand cards were distributed to 54 police stations in Penang. Two male clients walked in for counselling by picking up the Hotline Card in the police stations. More cards were also distributed to community centres and churches to promote this service.

Given that not many violent husbands voluntarily seek help from WCC, WCC approached the Penang Prison Department to initiate a discussion on the possibility of a joint WCC and Prison Department programme for inmates convicted for a domestic violence offence. The director requested WCC to submit a module to their KL headquarters for approval. WCC also conducted four group sessions with six men from the Agape Church at Farlim, Air Itam to pilot the module and to enhance WCC's staff facilitating skills.



Community Outreach Report

by Ivy Ho, Prema Devaraj and Jayamalar Samuel

2006

There was never a dull moment for the Community Outreach section of WCC as we continued to reach out to all sectors of the community throughout 2006. We conducted many activities with different communities and our work and activities for 2006 are described below.

WORKING WITH PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Our 2nd VCD “OK Tak OK” (Siri 2) launched last year, made a beeline to Perlis where it was launched on July 26 by the representative of the Perlis Education Department, Puan Rosminah. After the opening speech by WCC President, Datin Chin Khuan Sui, 61 primary school counsellors attended a talk on Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) by our consultant trainer, Dr Prema Devaraj. 55 of the counsellors later signed up for a follow-up workshop.

Apart from the launch in Perlis, our “OK Tak OK” (Siri 2) VCD has been a hit with the primary schools ever since it was launched in Penang last year. With the new VCD, we have expanded our work from

national schools to vernacular schools. Between the months of July to September, our Mandarin speaking team reached out to a total of 1,300 Year 5 and 6 pupils in SJKC Shang Wu, Sum Sun, Jelutong, Chung Hwa (A), Jit Sin (B) and Kwang Hua. The pupils enjoyed watching the VCD and could identify and understand what was happening in the scenarios presented. They also gave feedback on how they would handle sexual abuse situations should they happen to them. Not to be left out, the Tamil school SRJK (T) Mak Mandin also invited us to conduct a personal safety programme for 50 Year 5 and 6 boys and girls of the school.

As part of our on-going work with national schools, the outreach team organised an interactive personal safety workshop for rural school children on 14 July. A total of 70 boys and girls participated in this workshop held at SK Penaga. They created posters on personal safety and learnt about good and bad touch and what to do if they faced such a situation. There was a worksheet activity which helped to reaffirm that it is not their fault should sexual abuse happen to them and that they need to seek help when faced with a “dangerous” situation.

A similar workshop was also organised for Chinese school children on 14 October. A total of 63 year 5 and 6 pupils from SJKC Sum Sun and Chung Hwa (A) and B participated in this half-day programme which was held at YMCA, Penang. Other than creating posters on personal safety and watching the OK Tak OK VCD Siri 2, the children also learnt a song called “Keep on Telling” in Mandarin. This song encourages children to tell someone if they have a problem.



Students also role-played with the facilitators various scenarios in which they might encounter problems.

Between the months of October and November, three other schools – SK Aman, SK Bagan Ajam and SK Convent Bukit Mertajam also requested a programme on prevention of child sexual abuse. The pupils enjoyed the programme and many were able to identify good versus bad touch based on the “OK Tak OK” (Siri 2) VCD.

With our rich experience of working in national and vernacular schools, we began work to reach out to disabled children. This year we focused on hearing impaired children from SK Pendidikan Khas. We began by organising a one-day facilitators’ workshop. A total of 35 participants inclusive of hearing impaired facilitators, teachers from SK Pendidikan Khas and YMCA staff who are working among the hearing impaired community attended this workshop which was held at YMCA, Penang on 18 February. The training started off with a talk on “What is Child Sexual Abuse?” and an activity on Myths of CSA. In the afternoon they watched the “OK Tak OK” (Siri 2) VCD and did presentations on how to use it to teach the hearing impaired children about personal safety. The participants who were proficient in sign language would be able to conduct the programme for the hearing impaired after this.

On 2 November, WCC’s Outreach team conducted its maiden effort at raising awareness of CSA amongst hearing-impaired children by running a workshop for pupils of SK Pendidikan Khas. The workshop also sought to inform these children of their rights and how to protect themselves from sexual abuse and what to do should they find themselves in unwanted situations. The participants viewed the “OK Tak OK” (Siri 2) VCD which was accompanied by sign-language translation simultaneously. The workshop ended with children identifying and writing down



the names of adults whom they trusted on an apple-shaped paper cutting and sticking these “apples” on a tree called “The Trust Tree”. The success of the workshop was made possible with the cooperation of the staff of YMCA and SK Pendidikan Khas as well as the participants from the training conducted in February.

Apart from programmes in schools and among the hearing impaired children, WCC also introduced the personal safety program in children’s homes. Children’s Protection Society (CPS) invited WCC to run a workshop on the prevention of child sexual abuse for 13 children from the home and from Ramakrishna Ashrama on 13 June. The children enjoyed the session and many asked questions about good and bad touches.

Prior to all of the personal safety programmes mentioned above, WCC recruited volunteer facilitators and conducted a one day training to equip the facilitators with skills to conduct these workshops. WCC conducts evaluation cum debriefing sessions with the facilitators immediately after the workshops. Their feedback helps to improve the programmes.

WORKING WITH SECONDARY SCHOOLS

After having worked for years with secondary schools, we continue to give talks to the school students as we think that the schools themselves know that there are unmet needs of the students which need to be looked





convinced of WCC's importance in disseminating useful and pertinent information to our young. WCC youth talks and workshop benefitted more than 2,200 teenage girls and boys this year.

WORKING WITH COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES AND YOUTH AT LARGE

As part of our work with young adults, WCC carried out a one-day gender sensitization workshop on 21 January in Malacca entitled "Program Kepekaan Gender di

into. Popular topics that are requested by schools include sexual assault (rape, incest), personal safety and other adolescent issues.

SMK Taman Selasih requested a talk on Violence Against Women (VAW) for 80 boys and one on Sexual Assault for 80 girls on 28 February. On 4 April, Methodist Girls' School invited us to give a talk to 40 prefects on the myths about rape. A month later, SMK Inderawasih requested a talk on VAW for 150 girls and 92 boys in that school. Students of SMK Convent Bukit Mertajam attended our workshop on Building Healthy Relationships which focused on friendships, boy-girl relationships, rape and personal safety on 12 June. A similar workshop for SMK Padang Polo girls was conducted on 21 July while its boys attended the workshop on Turning Point which focuses on respect for women.

SMK Sri Mutiara invited WCC to run a workshop on Violence Against Women (VAW) on 18 August. In the months of October and November we visited three schools – SMK Raja Tun Uda, SMK Sri Mutiara and St George's Girls School to talk on date rape, myths of rape and what to do if rape happens, to a total of 330 girls. In all the talks given, participants were encouraged to ask questions during the Q & A session, and it is from the questions asked that we know and are

Kalangan Siswa/Siswi". This workshop was organised by Women in Action (WIN), Malacca and sponsored by the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development. The opening was officiated by Datuk Hajjah Ramlah Hj Abbas, chairperson of the Malacca Council for Women's Affairs, Community, Society and Unity Affairs. Fifty students from Stamford College, Multimedia University and ITM attended this workshop. Prior to this workshop, the facilitators inclusive of staff and volunteers underwent a one day facilitators' training by WCC consultant trainer, Dr. Prema.

It has always been WCC's goal to work with the youths especially those who will be molding the minds of the children. Thus we appreciate the rapport and cooperation we enjoy with the trainee teachers of the Malayan Teachers College (MTC) as well as with the Education Faculty of USM. WCC Outreach team once again successfully carried out a gender sensitisation workshop for 76 teacher trainees on 25 February in MTC. An activity on the "ideal partner" helped participants to look into gender expectations in choosing ideal partners. They were given input as to why gender is an issue, the link between gender stereotyping and VAW. Participants were also given short talks on some causes of male violence. Divided

into small groups they discussed case studies on boy-girl relationships and later presented their views. Many of them signed up as WCC volunteers at the end of the workshop. Prior to this workshop, WCC staff and four MTC trainee teachers attended three half day facilitator trainings at WCC.

Three days later in University Utara Malaysia (UUM) in Kedah, WCC gave a talk to about 100 undergraduates from Kolej Bukit Kachi 2 on Rape and Sexual Harassment. This session was organised by an ex-MTC volunteer who is now studying in UUM.

On 5 April, WCC was invited to give a talk on VAW as a public health issue in USM as part of a one-week women's health awareness campaign. Approximately 60 people attended this talk.

WCC outreach team was invited by Gateway City church from Seberang Jaya to conduct a three hour workshop for their 60 Christian youth of various ages held at St Nicholas Home. The youths were divided into 3 groups according to age; the youngest group did a session on Personal Safety, the middle group used the Turning Point module while the oldest group concentrated on Gender and Sexual Assault. The workshop was well-received by the youth and we look forward to working with them again. WCC staff and volunteers had a half-day facilitator training prior to this workshop.

WCC lent support to the Kolej Damansara Utama

(KDU) Indian Cultural Society's celebration of "16 Days of Activism on Gender Violence" with a talk on VAW on 24 November. It was a timely effort as many of the students were not aware of WCC and its activities.

WORKING WITH OTHER GROUPS

The Education Faculty of USM invited us to give a talk on "Sex Education for Adolescents with Special Needs" at a seminar for 70 undergraduates on 7 January. The talk covered the recently proposed modules for the curriculum on sex education, concepts of disability, sexuality, the sexual rights and needs of the disabled persons as well as challenges involved in implementing sexuality education for all groups of adolescents.

We were invited by Hospital Bukit Mertajam to conduct a three-day training on Handling Teenage Problems for their health staff from 26 to 28 April. A total of 40 participants inclusive of doctors, nurses, medical social workers, counsellors and police officers took part in this intensive training. This training covered topics like healthy friendships, understanding sexual assaults, personal safety and behaviours in relationship. Overall the participants were very cooperative and many of them bought WCC's books and VCDs.

The National Population and Family Development Board (LPPKN) invited us to conduct a two-day intensive training in KL for its youth facilitators involved in the Teen Café project. The youth facilitators were trained using modules from our Turning Point and Membina Perhubungan Mesra (MPM) which touched on youth issues like friendships, ideas of the opposite sex, relationships as well as sexual assault. The Teen Café is basically a place for teenagers to hang out – the area is designed youth-friendly with a huge television, a lovely lounge set, three computers with internet access, a library, a





pantry with a microwave oven as well as a counselling room, a consultation room and a meeting room. A counsellor comes twice a week and a doctor drops in once a week to see the teenagers. The youth facilitators are meant to conduct sessions with the teenagers who come to the centre. Thus it is hoped that what was taught to the youth facilitators would be disseminated to the other youths who come to the café.

We helped to conduct a session on gender for 25 participants of a 3-month counselling course, organised by the Penang Counselling Group held at the YWCA on 23 July. Participants went through the definitions of gender, the impact of gender on counsellor's choices and advice, as well as clients' difficulty levels in accessing help due to their gender.

On 7 September we were invited by LPPKN to join the Penang Women's Day celebration organised by the state government and the Women's Ministry. We set up a booth to sell books and we distributed our pamphlets to the visitors.

WCC met with Deputy Dean of the Education Faculty of USM, Dr Anna Christina Abdullah to discuss the possibilities of WCC giving lectures on the topics of CSA and VAW to students training to become teachers. Contents of the possible lectures have been submitted to the Education Faculty to be discussed further with the Dean.

Organised by the Malaysian Crime Prevention Foundation, School of Social Sciences and Sukarelawan

Polis Siswa-Siswi of USM, Dr Prema served as panel speaker on "Issues in Contemporary Policing" at the 3rd Forum on Crime and Policing in Malaysia on 21 September. She discussed the role of the police in handling DV cases and suggested training for both front desk and investigating officers. The CPO of Penang who was present was very receptive to this idea and we hope to work more with the police in the future.

WCC was invited to conduct a session on gender at a seminar organised by the Young Family Bureau under the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development, Kepala Batas branch. There was a huge turnout of over 120 people and there was an interactive session asking the husbands and wives to discuss their ideas on women and men as well as what they thought would make an ideal partner. Most of the participants who attended the course came with their partners in tow which made the discussion fruitful.

Linking forces through film

WCC was invited to set up a booth to create awareness and disseminate information to the public in conjunction with the Freedom Film Festival on 6-8 October at the Penang Actors' Studio. WCC led a discussion amongst the film festival attendees after a collection of films regarding women's issues were shown.

A group of 3rd year undergraduates of the Mass Communication School invited WCC to talk about issues pertaining to VAW together with the Director of Women's Research and Development Centre (KANITA) USM, Prof Dr Rashidah Shuib on 13 October.

Working hand in hand with boys

We need to educate the men and boys as well in order to achieve the desired results in creating a better society. Our male counsellor, Thomas conducted a talk "Lelaki dan ide-idenya" in order to find out what young men think and how they can be guided to prevent CSA and VAW. This talk was piloted in several secondary schools between the months of July to September. The seven

sessions reached out to 444 Form 4 boys.

It was then run for 80 Form 1 boys in St Xavier's Institution (SXI) on 30 August and again for 250 boys between 26-28 September. SXI requested that Turning Point (TP) workshop be conducted for 90 Form 3 boys on 11 October. TP focuses on healthy interaction between teenage boys and girls, mutual respect and on the prevention of sexual assault.



A talk on Men and Violence was conducted at two other all boy schools, SMK Westlands and SMK Hutchings on 10 October and 2 November respectively.

IN CONCLUSION

Changing people's perspectives and attitudes and correcting myths is a heavy responsibility and certainly not an easy job. Nevertheless WCC is committed to educating both men and women on the need to prevent sexual assault and violence against women in our society. We need to work especially with the young as they are the ones who will determine the direction of our future.

Special thanks goes to our dedicated and hard-working Outreach staff comprising Prema, Jaya, Shariza, Adilah, Lee Ling and Thomas who are the ones responsible for the outreach activities and the Outreach volunteers – Khuan Sui, Kah Cheng, Shakila, Hajar, Yuslinov and many more who have in one way or another helped to make WCC's commitment a reality.

Legal Reform Report

by Zarizana Abdul Aziz and Karen Lai

INTRODUCTION

2006 was an eventful year for WCC in terms of legal reform. A number of key developments took place in the following areas:

- the three year Research and Advocacy Project (RAP) on gender bias in sexual crimes which is funded by the European Commission;
- the promotion of gender equality, including lobbying efforts on the United Nations Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), two important conferences on gender equality and the drafting of the first Gender Discrimination Act (GDA); and
- the efforts to combat violence against women, encompassing further lobbying efforts on amendments to the Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code as well as the Domestic Violence Act 1994 (DVA).

RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY PROJECT

As we entered into our second year of this project on gender bias in sexual crimes, specifically on advocating non-discriminatory practices and reforms in the judiciary and related government agencies, the data collection from the court files in the state of Penang was finally completed after much painstaking work by staff and volunteers. Using the 28-page long questionnaire containing over 330 questions per file for most of the files, the staff and volunteers collected data from a total of 454 files from various courts in the state of Penang.

The laborious data collection for newspaper reports for years 2000 to 2004 was also completed this year. Articles on sexual crimes reported in newspapers in English and Malay were culled from our own archives as well as from those at the USM library. Staff and



volunteers for the project then entered the information collected from the courts and the newspapers into an SPSS system database for purposes of analysis. This too was completed in the latter half of 2006.

Two independent researchers were engaged to join the project's working group, thereby adding to the group's capacity. As at the end of 2006, the final draft of the media report was completed and work on the court research report had commenced. Work on the interviews, case studies, court watch and law journal reports was similarly in progress, with the media analysis of the controversial Noritta Samsudin case completed.

PROMOTION OF GENDER EQUALITY, INCLUDING CEDAW AND THE PROPOSED GDA

CEDAW reporting

In May 2006, we celebrated the birth of the first Malaysian NGO Shadow Report, a comprehensive document prepared by the women's groups in collaboration with various members of civil society. This Shadow Report was presented as a check and balance on the Malaysian government's report to the CEDAW Committee on its compliance with CEDAW, ratified by Malaysia some eleven years ago in 1995.

Representatives of the Joint Action Group for Gender Equality (JAG) comprising WCC's Chair of Legal Reform, Zarizana Abdul Aziz, Meera Samanther, Ivy Josiah and Vizla Kumaresan from WAO, Zaitun

Kasim from SIS and Dr Hamidah Karim from NCWO also formed the NGO Delegation to attend the 35th session of the CEDAW Committee's review of the implementation of CEDAW (including the reporting by the Malaysian government) which took place on 24 May 2006 in New York.

Attending on behalf of the Malaysian government were representatives from the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development. The NGO Delegation also made a brief oral presentation to the CEDAW Committee to draw attention on current gender concerns affecting Malaysian women today.

Both the Shadow Report and the presentation by the NGO Delegation were indeed milestones in the history of legal reform efforts for women's rights in Malaysia, as they certainly made a tremendous impact on the CEDAW Committee's assessment of the status of gender equality in Malaysia.

Gender Equality Conferences

Seminar on "Gender Equality: Swedish Experiences"

Hot on the heels of the CEDAW Session in New York was a seminar entitled "Gender Equality: Swedish Experiences" which took place on 5 June 2006 and which was jointly organised by the Embassy of Sweden and the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development in collaboration with JAG.

WCC's Chair of Legal Reform, Zarizana Abdul Aziz spoke on the need for a Gender Equality Bill in Malaysia, citing several examples pertaining to the inadequacy of local laws to fully protect the rights of women including the Beatrice Fernandez case.

A large number of JAG members attended the seminar and certainly welcomed the remarks made

by the Minister of Women, Family and Community Development in her opening speech, namely that “the time has come for the Government to seriously consider whether Malaysia needs a Gender Equality Act”, and the acknowledgement by the Minister that although the Federal Constitution had been amended, gender discrimination still prevailed especially at the grassroots level.

Thus, the seminar and the Minister’s remarks paved the way for our further lobbying efforts for gender equality legislation in Malaysia.

International Conference on “Mechanisms and Legislation to Promote and Protect Gender Equality” and the Malaysian Gender Equality Bill

The momentum was kept going, and from the 28 to the 30 of August 2006, WCC together with the international solidarity network of Women Living Under Muslim Laws (WLUML) co-organised an International Conference on “Mechanisms and Legislation to Promote and Protect Gender Equality” which was held from at Hotel Armada, Petaling Jaya under the sponsorship of WLUML and The Asia Foundation.

The conference was officiated by Tan Sri Dato’ Siti Norma Yaakob, the then Chief Judge of Malaya. International experts from Australia, Africa, Hong Kong, Germany, Poland and Pakistan presented overviews of the various gender equality mechanisms and legislation, existing or emerging, in their respective countries.

Most significantly, it was here, for the first time, that our very own draft Gender Equality Bill was presented by Zarizana to an expectant audience. The draft Bill drew powerful responses from the participants, most of whom were from our sister organisations in JAG, and we recorded many constructive comments, observations and insights accordingly.

It was decided at this conference that WCC would rework the draft Bill to incorporate some of the points discussed and circulate the revised draft to the rest of JAG who would then meet to discuss and finalise the Bill.



As at the end of 2006, the Bill had been revised and retitled the proposed Gender Discrimination Act. JAG has already gone through the revised draft once, in November 2006. Efforts to further refine the drafting are well under way in anticipation of future lobbying and promotion of the Bill.

LEGAL REFORM ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Amendments to the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code

Several landmark developments in our criminal laws took place in 2006.

In May 2006, Parliament released a Report by a Special Select Committee of the Dewan Rakyat containing the Select Committee’s recommendations and proposed amendments to the Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code. This Report was the product of nearly two years of research and dialogue with various parties including the Attorney General, the police, the Bar Council, the Federal Court registry, the prison authorities and JAG (as was mentioned in WCC’s Legal Reform Report last year), and an encouraging sign of a more open and consultative stance on the part of the government.

WCC keenly participated with the rest of JAG in a joint lobbying effort (including a press conference and a closed door meeting with several Members of Parliament) at Parliament from 26 to 28 June 2006. This event was organised to coincide with the second Parliamentary reading of the Penal Code

(Amendment) Bill 2004 and the Criminal Procedure Code (Amendment) Bill 2004.

The key amendments to the Penal Code which took place in 2006 include:

- the introduction of a new offence, Section 375A of husband causing hurt in order to have sexual intercourse with wife;
- the inclusion of a new category of rape under Section 375, namely where the woman's consent is obtained by the accused using his position of authority over the victim or because of professional relationship or other relationship of trust in relation to her;
- the increase in penalty, i.e. to a maximum of 30 years' imprisonment (previously a maximum of 20 years) in instances of aggravated rape.

WCC and the rest of the women's groups welcome these amendments which recognise the existence of sexual violence within marriage and in situations where the woman is compelled to submit to sexual intercourse due to a power imbalance. The amendments also correctly recognise the need for more severe punishment for rape in aggravating circumstances. These amendments are indeed the fruit of many years of dedicated lobbying on the part of women activists in this country and they assure us that we can make a difference.

However, there is still room for change in the Penal Code, most notably in terms of the removal marital rape exception (which remains intact), and for the specific criminalisation of domestic violence in the

Code in the event that the Domestic Violence Act remains unchanged. These would form the subject of future lobbying efforts.

Memorandum to the Ministry on the Domestic Violence Act 1994 (DVA)

WCC, as part of JAG provided input and participated in the drafting of a Memorandum on the DVA which was submitted to the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development in October 2006.

The Memorandum containing JAG's proposed amendments to the DVA was issued in response to the Ministry's own proposed amendments to the DVA, circulated for feedback in early October 2006. Although JAG welcomed most of the Ministry's proposed amendments, there were still outstanding concerns which needed to be addressed, such as:

- the need to criminalise domestic violence as a separate and specific offence in its own right, either within the DVA itself or to be clearly spelled out in the Penal Code;
- the minimisation of the time gap between the issuance of interim protection orders (IPO) and protection orders;
- the need to extend the protection of the DVA to those in de facto family relationships.

Dialogue with the Ministry on the relevant issues is ongoing.

CONCLUSION

The road to success in legal reform, as in anywhere else, is a long and winding one. Nonetheless, one of the key strengths of WCC and of JAG in general has been our ability to support each other professionally and as women first and foremost. This is something to be cherished and nurtured as we work together throughout the years.

WCC's Legal Reform team is thankful for all the progress made in 2006, and we look forward to 2007 with much excitement.



video resource of Penang Women's Centre for Change (WCC) education package entitled *Bijak itu Selamat* (Be Smart, Be Safe). It is used for WCC's

In some cases, racked with guilt and confusion, they may even blame themselves. WCC aims to change all that with its newly updated VCD.

"It's a creative tool especially you are dealing with children from. For the WCC, we agree with the Ministry for real life is rewrite them to suit the present adds Loh.

Although WCC has been on its programme on prevention sexual abuse since 1997, they launched the *Be Smart Be Safe* educational package in Penang. The film was directed in Kuala Lumpur in 2003 and released in 2004. However, Loh revealed that the video material was not complete enough for use in schools, and that the video had several errors which teachers only to



OK or NOT?

However, there is still a lot to be done. The lack of reporting of cases is a problem, lack of support for abused children and their families as well as a shortage of child psychologists and counsellors," says Dr Prema.

WCC hopes to launch its kit to the other states. Recently, they received funding from the Ford Motor Company to translate the VCD into Mandarin and run the project in Chinese primary schools.

"Unfortunately, we cannot afford to go to all the schools to conduct training for teachers. We are looking for funds to provide training for those concerned and would like to do something about it and to get children to be aware of their environment," says Loh.

She adds that it is crucial to relate to the children and tailor the information to their level.

"It does not take more than one period to run this programme, but teachers are always complaining that their hands are tied."

"Now, with the ministry's plan to introduce sexuality education in schools, Loh believes that the programme can complement the new syllabus. We hope that the ministry can integrate the programme into their curriculum."



Using the Smart kit, parents and school teachers are trained to handle a child's sexual abuse. The kit is a creative fun way to teach children about sexual abuse. The kit is a creative fun way to teach children about sexual abuse. The kit is a creative fun way to teach children about sexual abuse.

Teaching children about sexual abuse can be done effectively now in a fun and creative way. The Women's Centre for Change's newly updated kit uses real life stories in the most effective way to teach children about sexual abuse writes HARIATI AZIZAN

Not OK to stay silent

Sex education



WCC chairman Ho (right) and Dr Prema (left) flanking Penang State executive councillor Datuk Dr Tan Kim Woon at the launch of the OK To Speak VCD last year.

report the abuse. This information is available in the Teacher's Manual in the Hence, state agencies are involved in the programme runs by WCC to give teachers an idea of how to handle the situation.

婦女醒覺中心促教育部

北馬新聞 3/11/06

正視兒童性騷擾

(檳城2日訊) 婦女醒覺中心促教育部

愛中心促教育部。正視頻頻發生的兒童性騷擾案件。並促當局在證實有性侵犯的行為後，立即予以開除及列入黑名單，而不是單純的將他「調職」了事！

婦女醒覺中心(WCC)執行董事陳麗君表示，從教育局過去的政策顯示，凡公務員犯下性騷擾或性侵犯的教師，當局給予最嚴厲的「懲罰」，只是將他調職，以此事情告一段落。

她表示，當局將性侵犯者調往另一間兒童教育中心的「過

司」根本是在浪費江山，除了對卑劣的兒童不公平外，也給其童年留下陰影。

調職無法解決問題

她說，性侵犯者無恥于加害，應該施以重罰，接受應有的懲罰，而不是讓他們在調職後繼續工作，給他們更多的機會接觸小孩，甚至對更多的小孩施虐。

她是出席該中心在丹絨武雅特教育中心舉行的「防止兒童性侵犯」工作座談會。在會上，她代表中心向在場的教育中心負責人及家長表示，婦女醒覺中心主席拿打蘭斯、協理拿打蘭斯等。

她表示，除了讓中心接觸的真實個案外，從媒體上也獲知一些性侵犯者並沒有獲得應有的懲罰，要不在調查期間直接開除，要不獲得開除了事，根本沒有得到問題而解決。

「中心也接獲一些類似兒童性侵犯的案件，遺憾的是，在經過教育局的介入調查後，至今也沒有給予性侵犯者一個「滿意」的判決。」

針對此，她說，教育部應給予重視，除了將性侵犯者列入黑名單外，也應該將其名字列入黑名單，今後不應再對該教師及私人界轉讓或從事任何有機會接觸小孩的工作。



透過分享會，讓學生學會如何保護自己。

大人應信任孩童投訴

(檳城2日訊) 雖然兒童可能無法理解自身所發生的事情，但他們能進行性侵犯，故家長或師長在聽到孩童投訴或求助時，應給予足夠的信任，而非一口認定孩子有誤。

婦女醒覺中心(WCC)執行董事陳麗君說，「當于而地，聽取，再告訴最信任的人。」此

確是當兒童遇到成人對他們進行性騷擾，甚至性侵犯時的不二法門，因此此信息能傳達於每一名兒童，不啻是正確的，即是能力差異的特別人士(OK)。

她說，目前媒體不能報導有關兒童性侵犯案件，引起社會的關注，而性侵犯的小童往往是有能力或力量的一群，尤

其是能力差異的特別人士，更是「被侵犯」，情況悲慘。

她表示，為了讓能力差異的特別人士也能保護自己，該中心今日將特別進行傳教的目的，除了教授兒童正確正確的知識外，也告訴老師如何對小童投訴的投訴。

'Terminate instead of transferring child sex abuse teachers'

PENANG: The Education Ministry must take immediate action in suspending teachers involved in child sexual abuse cases instead of transferring them to other schools. Women's Centre for Change (WCC) executive director Loh Cheng Kooi said she has come across many sexual abuse cases involving teachers and most often, the teachers were just transferred to another school.

"The ministry should be prepared to temporarily suspend the teacher and conduct a thorough internal investigation. If the teacher is found guilty, he should be sacked and black-

"This is just transferring the problem to another school where other students may become victims," she said.

She also said that the government should have a list of convicted child molesters and the list be made available to all private and public schools and children's centres.

"The government must develop a clear curriculum for everybody in preventing and handling child sexual abuse cases," she said.

She added that residential and private schools must also screen through all the teachers and

warranted that they empty. Loh said that as a preventive measure, all teachers and school heads or principals should also be trained to handle and deal with such issues.

"Teachers must also be able to take on the responsibility in dealing with sexual abuse issues and not to avoid it," she said.

She added that teachers must be trained on how to deal with such situations and to teach the pupils to prevent it.

Loh was speaking in a press conference at a half-day workshop on personal safety for hearing-impaired children at the GK Pendidikan Khias Tanjung Bungah yesterday morning.

The workshop is organised by WCC and attended by 21 students between the ages of 12 and 14 years old. WCC have been conducting programmes on the prevention of child sexual abuse for primary school teachers and children since 1997.

"We have reached out to more than 900 primary school teachers, 200 preschool teachers and 5,000 children since 2001," she said.



This is just transferring the problem to another school where other students may become victims. - WCC executive director Loh Cheng Kooi

WCC in the Press

for the country, and a clear demonstration of the government's continued support for the rights of women in Malaysia.

Even more laudable is the fact that they won't be in New York alone. Two days before their review session, six representatives from local women's rights groups are scheduled to present their Shadow Report - which "shadows" the government report - to the same UN Committee.

Forming the Shadow delegation are Dr Hamidah Karim from the National Council of Women's Organisations (NCWO); Ivy Josiah, Virla Kumaresan and Meera Samanthier from the Women's Aid Organisation (WAO); Zaitun Kasim from Sisters in Islam (SIS); and Zarizana Abdul Aziz from the Women's Centre for Change (WCC).

February 2006:

Joint Action Group on Gender Equality (JAG) submits List of Critical Issues affecting women in Malaysia to UN Committee to assist them in formulating questions for Malaysian Government delegation

May 5 2006:

NCWO unveils the Shadow Report at public briefing where they also highlight how the CEDAW works, its significance and the critical issues to be presented to the UN Committee at the 35th CEDAW session at UN headquarters in New York

May 22 2006:

Shadow delegation scheduled to present the four critical areas of concern deemed to merit further action from Malaysian government to UN Committee

May 24 2006:

Status of women in Malaysia scheduled for review by UN Committee in a day-long dialogue between the committee and Malaysian Government delegation

The Shadow Report is a Cedaw reporting mechanism that allows non-governmental organisations in member countries to comment on their government's reports, identifying discrepancies and/or filling in gaps

where necessary.

Needless to say, our first Shadow Report could not have been produced in the absence of a healthy population of women's rights activists in the country, and assistance from

the session and run with them."

Zaitun and her fellow activists are keenly aware that ratifying a treaty is one thing, implementing and all that it entails - from ensuring legislation is in accordance with articles to ensuring your citizens are better sensitised - is another.

"Treaties ratified by the government do not automatically become the law of the land. They still need to be enacted into domestic law," says Dr Hamidah.

And therein lies the significance of the Malaysian presence at the Cedaw session: means there is another level of international authority women in Malaysia can refer to, another platform where injustices can be heard, and another forum in which such injustices can begin to be resolved.



Zarizana Abdul Aziz



For immediate attention

- 1) Policy formulation and decision-making processes, specifically the need for:
 - plans for reform implementation,
 - greater transparency and involvement of civil society, and
 - the removal of the government's reservations to Cedaw articles concerning citizenship and several aspects of Syariah law.
- 2) Impact of narrow interpretations of Islamic laws on:
 - the Muslim woman's position in marriage,
 - the moral policing that infringes on women's rights, and
 - non-Muslims, e.g. in situations concerning divorce, maintenance, custody and inheritance where only one spouse converts.
- 3) Gender sensitisation with respect to:
 - public officers, e.g. police officers and the execution of their duties,
 - the depiction of women in the media, and

- the National Sexuality Education programme,

- 4) Women with increased vulnerability and risks, namely:
 - sexual minorities,
 - women with disabilities
 - refugees and asylum seekers, and
 - stateless women (women without nationality or citizenship).

These issues will be condensed into an eight-minute oral presentation intended to better prepare the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women for their dialogue with the government delegation.

"Working on the report was tough, working on the eight minutes was tougher!" said Sisters in Islam Programme Manager Zaitun

Kasim while commenting on the challenges involved in preparing the Shadow Report.

Granted that communicating the essence of three years' work in eight minutes will be challenging, but Zaitun is quick to assure those who doubted their ability to do so that the UN Committee would have already scrutinised both their full-length report - all 150 pages and seven annexes of it - as well as the government's 117-page tome prior to their presentations.

Reports as resources

Both the Shadow reports have been made available. They are valuable resources for women's rights activists in the UN Com

All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Cedaw) articles.

Areas covered in the reports are Law, policy and programmatic measures to implement the convention (Articles 1-3) and affirmative action (Article 4); Customary practices and stereotyping (Article 5); Trafficking and the exploitation of prostitution (Article 6); Participation in political field and public policy formulation (Article 7); participation in the international field (Article 8); Citizenship (Article 9); Education (Article 10); Employment, social security and access to credit (Article 11 & 13); Health (Article 12); Rural women (Article 14); Equality in the law (Article 15); Rights in marriage (Article 16); and Violence against Women (general recommendation 19).

If you would like to obtain a copy of the Malaysian Shadow Report, contact the National Council of Women's Organisations (NCWO).

骆清桂向学生灌输两性平等

【本報多倫多訊】多倫多大學教授、女權主義者、也是「女權主義」的倡導者之一，多倫多大學教授、女權主義者、也是「女權主義」的倡導者之一，多倫多大學教授、女權主義者、也是「女權主義」的倡導者之一...



NEW STRAITS TIMES FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2006

> GENDER INSENSITIVITY

Put anti-sexism laws in place

THE Women's Centre for Change Penang (WCC) views the sexist remark by Penang Island Municipal Council president Datuk Abu Bakar Hassan for her dressing rather than the closed-circuit television cased on the female journalist's thighs, as another reminder of the gender insensitivity of some leaders.

It was only early this year that women were blamed for being gaudy by one Member of Parliament.

Enough is enough. How many more times and how long more does the public have to tolerate unwarranted sexist remarks by leaders? This is outrageous and unforgivable. When will civil servants or politicians behave appropriately?

As policymakers of the nation, they are expected to lead by example to the public. Leaders are expected to lead with sensitivity. Public servants should be accountable for their words and actions.

Sanctions should be taken against them for misbehaviour, verbal or otherwise, without the need to wait for public pressure or media coverage. Otherwise, it will not be surprising if such incidents happen again.

What goes on in the minds of men when they make gender-insensitive remarks that evoke "blame the women" syndrome? Moreover, when such views are perpetuated, how do we expect society to treat women with respect?

When an offence of a sexual nature occurs, it is crucial that the victim receives support from the authorities, not

blame. WCC's experience in handling sexual harassment cases has left us frustrated when the harasser is transferred out or moved to a different building.

Often, the victim is left emotionally and psychologically scarred. No wonder many women don't lodge reports with the authorities.

Yet, more and more women are choosing to report such crimes. These women have to pay the way so that such crimes will not be tolerated.

The government's Code of

Practice against sexual harassment is commendable in principle but toothless in reality. The Joint Action Group for Gender Equality has been lobbying for a sexual harassment law for years. There is a lack of seriousness by the government in wanting to curb this scourge.

We also call for the enactment of a gender-equality law to ensure that sexism will be eradicated from society.

LOH CHENG KOON for Women's Centre for Change Penang

遺失	362	287		
精神虐待	24	56	32	32
性虐待	258	251	324	430
其他	36	69	54	31
總計	934	1217	1445	1722

量性侵犯教育... 全」里的其中一項資源，而此教育配有適合小教教師參與，每次

3/9/06
NST

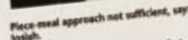
NST

The Star 12/7/06

In fact, we had in our earlier memorandum to the Select

Do our existing laws recognise this crucial distinction? Sadly, and contrary to Rahul's suggestion, the laws on duress do not adequately

KAREN LAL,
Legal Officer, Women's
Centre for Change, Penang.
For and on behalf of the Joint
Action Group for Gender
Equality, Penang.



Star 27/6/06

some of JAG's (Joint Action Group for Gender Equality) proposals, but failed to include

that domestic violence
addressed separately under

社会不端、孩子心惶
再安全。

Diary of Events

January

- 7 WCC trainer, Prema Devaraj gave a talk on *Sex Education for Adolescents with Special Needs* at a seminar *Aprentis Pendidik Pendidikan Khas*, organised by the School of Education, USM.
- 21 Prema together with Project Officers, Shariza Kamarudin, Michal Thomas and Project Assistant, Lim Lee Ling were in Malacca with WCC volunteer Aruna to conduct a 1-day Gender Sensitisation Workshop *Program Kepekaan Gender di Kalangan Siswal/ Siswa*, organised by the Women in Action, Malacca.



February

- 14 WCC Vice-President Noraida Endut was invited to give a talk *Discrimination, Exploitation and Women's Rights* at the seminar *Peranan Wanita dalam Pembangunan dan Sumbangannya terhadap Falsafah Ketamadunan* organised by the Persatuan Ulama Malaysia, Penang Branch.
- 15 WCC invited lawyers, Petra Oon and Ramsun Ho to share with WCC staff and volunteers their expertise on mediation.
- 17 Thomas was invited to conduct a 2-hour programme in Tamil at Stella Maris for 18 youths.
- 17 A 2½-hour training session for 4 facilitators for the half-day *Personal Safety* Workshop on 19 February was conducted by WCC Project Officer, Jayamalar Samuel.
- 18 WCC Outreach Team, Jaya, Shariza and Lee Ling conducted a one day training on *Child Sexual Abuse Prevention* programme for 35 teacher and facilitators working with the hearing impaired children, co-organised with YMCA Penang.
- 19 Jaya, Lee Ling and volunteers, Rosalind, Kana and Mahen ran a half-day workshop on *Personal Safety* for 18 children from the Children Protection Society.



20 – 21



Prema undertook two 2½-hour training session for eight facilitators for a Gender Sensitising Workshop at WCC.

25

WCC outreach team together with MTC volunteers, Azfar, Wan Kana, Musa and Mahen conducted a one day Gender Workshop for 76 MTC trainee teachers.

25 – 26

WCC hosted the second annual evaluation meeting of the Joint Action Group for Gender Equality (JAG) in Penang. WCC President, Zarizana Abdul Aziz, Executive Director Loh Cheng Kooi, Prema and volunteer, Honey Tan were present.

26

At the invitation of Amnesty International Malaysia (Sungai Petani Branch) and in conjunction with International Women's Day 2006, WCC Assistant Secretary, Maria Francisca Belavendram gave a talk on *How to File a Complaint on Domestic Violence* while WCC Shelter Supervisor, June Estrop talked about her experiences on how she helps women who seek assistance at WCC shelter.

27

Prema, Jaya and Shariza were in Perlis to discuss the launching of WCC VCD *OK Tak OK Siri 2* with the officers of the Perlis Education Department.



28

Prema and Jaya gave a talk on *Rape and Sexual Harassment* respectively to 100 students of Universiti Utara Malaysia.

28

At the invitation of SMK Taman Selasih, Shariza gave a talk on *Sexual Assault* to 80 female students while Thomas conducted a 2-hour programme on *Violence against Women* with the 80 male students.

March

2 & 3

WCC organised a 2-day training session for facilitators of the Single Mothers' Support Group and invited Goh Sze Mei to conduct the training.



4	WCC General Committee Meeting.
5	Briefing for single mothers who will participate in WCC's Single Mothers' Support Group programme, a programme to provide single mothers who have experienced domestic violence, with support and courage to face the future.
6	Shariza was on Mutiara FM (Radio Malaysia Pulau Pinang) to talk about the <i>Impact of Domestic Violence on Women and Children in Malaysia</i> .
10	Courtesy call on the Chief Judge of the High Court of Penang, Datuk Su by WCC President Zarizana, Cheng Kooi and Honey as well as to give update of our Court Research under the EU Project.
11 – 12	WCC Service Coordinator Annie Yeap, Project Officer Adilah Ariffin, Shariza, Jaya and Lee Ling contributed a song and dance item <i>Bila Larut Malam</i> at the Relay for Life charity event organised by the National Cancer Society Malaysia Penang Branch and Penang Hospice Society.
12 March – 21 May	WCC conducted six Single Mothers' Support Group training sessions for ex-clients to help them build their confidence and to provide them with emotional support.
18	Cheng Kooi participated in the morning dialogue with the Minister of Women, Family and Community Development on current social issues at USM.
18 – 20	WCC President Zarizana, Vice-President Noraida and volunteer Yuslinov Ahmad attended the International Consultation on <i>Trends in Family Law Reform in Muslim Countries</i> in Kuala Lumpur, organised by Sisters in Islam.
25	WCC 21 st Annual General Meeting at Tanjung Club.
29	WCC staff and members attended the talk on <i>Islamic Family Law</i> organised by Kanita, USM.

April

4	Jaya assisted by Lee Ling gave a talk on <i>Sexual Assault</i> to 40 school prefects at the invitation of Methodist Girls School.	
5	Prema gave a talk on <i>Violence Against Women</i> at USM and Adilah attended as an observer.	
7	Five delegates from the Office of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh and the Medical College Hospital in Bangladesh visited WCC to learn more about our programmes and activities.	

- 22 WCC General Committee Meeting.
- 23 – 24 WCC team, Prema, Jaya and Shariza conducted a 2-day awareness building workshop at YMCA for 18 MTC trainee teachers who are also volunteers of WCC. WCC Committee Member, Lim Kah Cheng was one of the speakers.
- 25 Jaya was invited by Pasukan Puteri Islam and Pandu Puteri to give a talk on *Personal Safety* at Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Batu Kawan. 350 female students from Standard 5 to Form 5 attended.
- 25 Annie assisted by Shariza and Lee Ling conducted a 2-hour session on *Domestic Violence* for the student nurses of Lam Wah Ee Hospital.
- 26 – 28 Prema and Jaya carried out a 3-day training on *Handling Teenage Problems – Relationships* for 40 health staff of Hospital Bukit Mertajam.
- 27 The Penang Baptist Seminary invited WCC to run a ½-day workshop on *Issues of Violence against Women*. Cheng Kooi and Annie conducted the workshop.



May

- 4 Jaya gave a talk on *Personal Safety* to 120 teenage girls of SMK Inderawasih while Thomas spoke on *Violence Against Women* to 90 teenage boys.
- 6 Shariza and Adilah attended a seminar organised and conducted by Jemaah Islah Malaysia *Seminar mengenai Isu-Isu Wanita dalam Islam* at International Islamic University Malaysia.
- 8  Prema and Jaya gave a talk on *Child Sexual Abuse* to 30 Mandarin speaking MTC trainee teachers, potential volunteers for WCC future programmes for Mandarin speaking school children. WCC President Datin Khuan Sui also attended.
- 9 Annie represented WCC and was one of the panelist at the forum on *Keruntuhan Institusi Keluarga: Satu Fenomena yang Membimbangkan di Pulau Pinang*, organised by Majlis Pembangunan Wanita dan Keluarga Negeri Pulau Pinang.

9 – 26	WCC Vice President Zarizana, as one of the representatives from JAG, was in New York as part of the 6-member NGO Delegation to lobby at the 35 th Session of the United Nation Committee's Review on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).
12 – 13	WCC in collaboration with Pertubuhan Kesedaran Wanita Kedah organised a 2-day workshop <i>Hak-Hak Wanita dalam Islam</i> in Alor Star Shariza, WCC Vice-President Yuslinov Ahmad and volunteer Noraida conducted the workshop for 32 participants. WCC volunteer Datin Mahmuda, Prema and Adilah were also present.
15 – 19	Thomas was in Singapore for a study visit to learn about counselling abusive men as well as to study programmes conducted for youths.
19	A talk on <i>Violence against Women</i> was given by Annie to 20 medical students of the Penang Medical College.
29	Jaya and Shariza were in Sekolah Menengah Convent Bukit Mertajam to conduct a 2-hour workshop on <i>Building Healthy Relationships</i> for 42 Form 4 and Form 5 students.
30	Visit of the Lions Club of Georgetown Perdana. WCC President Chin Khuan Sui and Cheng Kooi briefed the Lions Club's members about WCC activities.

June

5	WCC Legal Officer, Karen Lai attended the seminar <i>Gender Equality: Swedish Experiences</i> in KL. WCC Vice-President Zarizana was one of the speakers at this seminar which was jointly organised by the Embassy of Sweden and the Ministry of Women, Family & Community Development and the Embassy of Sweden.
7	WCC outreach team, conducted a 3-hour workshop with 60 Christian youth between the ages of 13 – 23 years. The youth were divided into three groups according to age and three sessions on <i>Personal Safety, Turning Point and Gender and Sexual Assault</i> were conducted by Prema, Jaya, Shariza, Thomas and Lee Ling together with volunteers Mahen, Noor and Praba.
12	Jaya and Shariza visited Sekolah Kebangsaan Ara Rendang and Sekolah Kebangsaan Penaga on the mainland to discuss organising a workshop on <i>Personal Safety</i> for Standard 5 students with the schools' counsellors.
13	At the invitation of the Children's Protection Society (CPS), Jaya conducted a 2-hour workshop on <i>Personal Safety</i> for 13 primary school students from CPS and Ramakrishna Ashrama.



17	WCC General Committee Meeting.
17 – 18	At the invitation of Lembaga Penduduk & Pembangunan Keluarga Negara (LPPKN) Prema and Jaya went to Kuala Lumpur to conduct a 2-day intensive training for youth facilitators who are involved in the teen café project under LPPKN.
21	Thomas together with volunteers Kumar and Noor conducted the <i>Turning Point</i> programme for 62 Form 4 boys of Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Padang Polo. Jaya together with Shariza facilitated the <i>Building Healthy Relationships</i> programme for the Form 4 girls.
26 & 28	Karen went to Kuala Lumpur to join other members of the Joint Action Group for Gender Equality (JAG) to lobby at Parliament House to coincide with the 2 nd Parliamentary reading of the Penal Code (Amendment) Bill 2004 and the Criminal Procedure Code (Amendment) Bill 2004. WCC has submitted a memorandum to respond to the proposed amendments.
28	WCC started its networking with Adventist Hospital with Annie giving a talk on <i>Domestic Violence</i> to their 50 nursing students.



July

12	The start of a series of talks on <i>Personal Safety for Children</i> for Mandarin speaking primary students by staff Annie and Lee Ling, UKM intern Lim Chooi Leng and volunteers Fang Fang and Loh Tze Ning. At SJK (C) Shang Wu, more than a hundred Standard 5 and 6 students benefitted from the programme.
12 & 24	A talk on <i>Lelaki dan Ide-Idenya</i> was conducted by Thomas at SMK Chio Minh, Kulim and SMK Tanjung Bungah for their Form 4 male students.
13	Jaya conducted a <i>Personal Safety</i> programme at SRJK (T) Mak Mandin. 50 Standard 6 students benefitted from the programme.
15	Prema conducted a half day training programme on <i>Child Sexual Abuse</i> geared towards primary school children for WCC staff Jaya, Shariza, Lee Ling, Adilah and volunteers Chooi Leng, Praba and Mahen.
22	WCC Outreach team, Prema, Jaya, Shariza, Adilah, Lee Ling, intern Chooi Leng and volunteers Nazliza, Praba and Mahen conducted a workshop on Personal Safety at Sekolah Kebangsaan Penaga. 70 Standard 5 boys and girls participated in this creative workshop.

- 23 Prema conducted a session on *Gender* for 25 participants in the 3-month counselling course, organised by the Penang Counselling Group.
- 26 Launch of the VCD *Ok Tak Ok Siri 2* in Perlis. 61 primary school counselors attended. WCC President, Khuan Sui gave the opening speech. Prema and Jaya conducted the programme.
- 27 WCC Mandarin speaking staff and volunteers conducted a programme on *Personal Safety for Children* in Mandarin at SJK (C) Sum Sum.



August

- 1, 3, 7, 8 & 10 Jaya ran one hour sessions about healthy relationships with secondary school students to get feedback on creating a poster for youths. The schools involved were SMK Tanjung Bungah, Methodist Boys, Padang Polo, Sri Mutiara and SMK Teknik respectively.
- 4 Cheng Kooi together with Prema, Annie and Thomas met with the Director of the Penang Prison Department to explore the possibilities of WCC working with them on a programme for abusive men.
- 5 – 6 Forty two participants attended the workshop on *Extra-Martial Counselling* at Hotel Cititel, organised by WCC, with invited trainer Ms. Koh Tan Peng.
- 9, 11 & 29 Thomas gave talks on *Lelaki dan Ide-Idenya* at SMK St. Mark, SM Teknik. Air Itam and SMK Hutchings.
- 11, 16 & 29 Programmes on Personal Safety for Children in Mandarin were conducted at SJK(C) Jelutong, SJK (C) Chung Hwa (A) and SJK (C) Kwang Hua for Standard 5 and 6 students.
- 12 WCC General Committee Meeting.

17

Intern Chooi Leng represented WCC and gave a talk on *Domestic Violence* to 50 student nurses of Adventist Hospital.

18

Shariza assisted by intern Chooi Leng conducted a workshop on *Violence against Women and Rape* for 70 Form 3 students of SMK Sri Mutiara.

25

Annie gave a talk on *Violence against Women* to 25 medical students of the Penang Medical College.



25 Aug. – 23 Sept.

Cheng Kooi was in Washington DC together with 24 other participants from 15 countries to attend the Global Women in Management Training organised by CEDPA.

28 – 30



Under the sponsorship of Women Living under Muslim Laws (WLUML) and The Asia Foundation, WCC together with the international solidarity network of WLUML organised an international conference *Mechanisms and Legislation to Promote and Protect Gender Equality* at Hotel Armada Petaling Jaya. WCC Vice-President Zarizana together with WCC Organising Secretariat led by Prema, together with Karen, Lean Kim, Adilah and Shariza were in PJ for the conference.

30

Thomas gave a talk on *Lelaki and Ide-Idenya* to 80 Form 1 students of St. Xavier's Institution.

September

1

Profesor Ellen Hertz together with seven graduate students from University of Neuchatel, Switzerland visited WCC to learn more about WCC's work on abused women and children.

6

Dr. Azlina from USM led a group of 20 visitors from various government departments from Indonesia to visit WCC. Annie briefed them about WCC services.

7

WCC was on the airwaves again when Shariza was invited by Radio Mutiara Pulau Pinang to talk about *Violence against Women* and WCC's role and services.



7



WCC participated in the Penang Women's Day celebration organised by Lembaga Penduduk and Pembangunan Keluarga at KOMTAR. Shariza and Lee Ling set up a booth to distribute WCC pamphlets and to sell our books.



8

WCC President, Khuan Sui, Committee Member Kah Cheng together with Prema and Jaya met with the USM Education Faculty members including its Deputy Dean to discuss the possibilities of WCC giving lectures/workshop on *Child Sexual Abuse and Violence against Women*.

9	WCC Vice-President Zarizana together with Karen attended the 2006 Malaysian Human Rights Day conference organised by SUHAKAM in Kuala Lumpur.	
12 & 21	The talk <i>Lelaki dan Ide-Idenya</i> was conducted by Thomas at SMK Perai and SMK Haji Ahmad Said.	
14 – 18	WCC volunteer, Mahen attended the Man.V (Man against Violence) training of trainers workshop in Kuala Lumpur organized by AWAM.	
15	At the invitation of Lam Wah Ee Hospital, Shariza gave a talk on <i>Violence against Women</i> to their nursing students.	
17	WCC together with Majlis Pembangunan Wanita and Keluarga, Parlimen Bukit Bendera organised a half day workshop on <i>Manage Your Finance</i> for 40 single mothers.	
19	Annie represented WCC and gave a talk on <i>WCC's role in Preventing Violence against Women</i> at the seminar <i>NGOs' Role in Violence Prevention and How to Handle Violence Cases</i> organised by Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Pulau Pinang.	
20	Annie gave a talk on <i>Violence against Women</i> to 25 medical students of Penang Medical College.	
21	Prema was the panel speaker on <i>Issues in Contemporary Policing</i> at the 3 rd Forum on Crime and Policing in Malaysia, organised jointly by the Malaysia Crime Prevention Foundation, USM School of Social Sciences and Sukarelawan Polis Siswa-Siswi.	
27	WCC Vice President, Zarizana was in Kuala Lumpur for the JAG meeting to discuss the proposed Gender Equality Bill.	
27	The Mandarin speaking programme on <i>Children Personal Safety</i> was conducted at SJK (C) Jit Sin (B) by Annie, Lee Ling, Chooi Leng, Fang Fang and Loh Tze Ning.	
26 -28	Thomas conducted a series of workshops on <i>Lelaki and Ide-Idenya</i> for 250 Form 1 students of St. Xavier's Institution.	
29	Thomas visited key police stations to promote WCC's counselling service hotline for abusive men with the aim reducing domestic violence in our society.	

29	Meeting at WCC with six single mothers to plan further activities for the Single Mothers' Support Group.	
October		
4	Jaya visited Sekolah Kebangsaan Aman and conducted a <i>Personal Safety</i> Programme for their Standard 6 students.	
6 - 8	WCC was invited to set up a booth to create awareness and disseminate information during the Freedom Film Festival while Prema and WCC Secretary, Shakila Abdul Manan, co-led a discussion amongst film festival attendees on women's issues.	
11	Thomas and WCC volunteers Kumar and Mahen, conducted the <i>Turning Point</i> programme for 90 Form 3 students of St. Xavier Institution.	
13	Shariza talked on issues pertaining to <i>Violence against Women</i> at the invitation of final year USM Mass Communication students.	
14	A half day WCC workshop on <i>Personal Safety</i> for 63 Standard 5 & 6 students from 3 Chinese Schools, SJK Sum Sun, Chung Hwa A and B was held at YMCA.	
19	At the invitation of SMK Westland, Thomas gave a talk on <i>Men and Violence</i> to 25 Form 3 students.	
20	Cheng Kooi conducted a training session for WCC staff based on skills and knowledge acquired from her CEDPA Management Training in Washington DC.	
November		
2	WCC Outreach Team with the assistance of two YMCA staff together with volunteers and teachers from SK Pendidikan Khas conducted a half day workshop in sign language on <i>Personal Safety</i> for hearing impaired students.	
2	Shariza conducted a session on <i>Gender</i> for 120 participants at a seminar organised by Biro Keluarga Muda, under the Women's Ministry Kepala Batas Branch.	
2	Talk on <i>Men and Violence</i> by Thomas for 30 Form 3 students from SMK Hutchings.	
6 & 16	More than 200 Secondary School students from SMK Raja Tun Uda and SMK St. George's attended a talk on <i>Rape</i> conducted by Jaya.	

7	Thomas conducted a 4-session pilot programme using the proposed module for helping violent men change their behavior at the Agape Church at Farlim, Ayer Itam.
7 & 10	Jaya was at Sekolah Kebangsaan Bagan Ajam and Convent Bukit Mertajam respectively to conduct the <i>Personal Safety</i> Programme for their Standard 6 students.
9	A talk on <i>Rape</i> was conducted by Jaya at SMK Sri Mutiara. More than a 100 students attended the talk.
8 Nov – 23 Nov	Mandeep Dhillon from the College of Law, London volunteered at WCC for two weeks.
17	Cheng Kooi represented WCC at the meeting between the Ministry of Health and NGOs on health promotion programmes held at Cititel Penang.
23	WCC Vice President Zarizana, Kah Cheng, Lalitha Menon and staff Karen and Shariza attended the talk on <i>Apostasy from a Syariah Perspective</i> organised by the Penang Bar Syariah Sub-Committee.
24	Jaya and Shariza attended the KDU Indian Cultural Society's celebration of 16 days of Activism on Gender Violence and shared WCC's activities on <i>Violence against Women</i> with the students.
25	At the invitation of Thang Siang Mitra Welfare Centre, Annie gave a talk on <i>Domestic Violence</i> to their 20 volunteers.
26	The 2 nd Single Mothers' Support Group Session was held at WCC and volunteer, Ms. Lee Saw Bee taught the single mothers the skill of making bead earrings and bracelets. A pot luck meal was held after the session.
26	In conjunction with the 25 th anniversary celebration of the Art of Living at Youth Park, Adilah and four volunteers from USM set up a WCC information booth.
28	Shariza together with Adilah gave an interactive 2-hour talk on <i>Violence against Women</i> to 40 women army personnel from Markas 2 nd Divison Infantry Tun Abdul Razak Camp.
29	Seven WCC staff and volunteers attended the training session organised by Brahma Kumaris Penang. Lee James, an experienced psychologist and counsellor from Australia spoke on <i>Advanced Counselling Techniques</i> .



December

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 6 | Five delegates from Indonesia together with 3 representatives from Pejabat Pembangunan Wanita Negeri Pulau Pinang visited WCC to learn more about WCC's work on empowering women and families. |
| 9 | WCC Project Officer Marie Tan and Jaya participated in the National Roundtable discussion on <i>Internet Media in Malaysia</i> at Vistana Hotel. |
| 10 – 16 | Karen attended the Regional Training of Trainers Programme on CEDAW organised by the International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific in Bangkok, Thailand. |
| 17 | At the invitation of the Penang Tamil Youth Bell Club, Jaya gave a talk on WCC and its services to 30 Tamil speaking single mothers at Komtar. |
| 29 | Cheng Kooi conducted an informal leadership and strategic communication training session for WCC staff. |



Sponsors and Donors

Agencies & Foundations

- Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst e.V. (EED)
- European Union
- Lions Club of Georgetown Perdana
- Lim Lean Teng Foundation
- Ford Motor Company
- International Women's Association, Penang
- Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat Negeri Pulau Pinang
- Junior Chamber International Tanjung Bunga
- Star Publications (Malaysia) Berhad
- Sunshine Wholesale Mart Sdn. Bhd.
- The Asia Foundation
- Tun Sardon Foundation

Individuals

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- Loh Lean Kang
- Ooi Guat Ai
- Tan Ah Hio
- Tan Siew Tee
- Ms. Yap
- Yeoh Eu Hock (Dr.)



Partners & Supporting Agencies

- All Women's Action Society (AWAM)
- Amnesty International Malaysia
- Bahagian Pembangunan Kesihatan Keluarga, Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia
- Bahagian Pendidikan Kesihatan, Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia
- Lam Wah Ee Nursing College
- Hospital Pulau Pinang
- Hospital Bukit Mertajam
- Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Pulau Pinang
- Jabatan Pelajaran Negeri Perlis
- Jabatan Pelajaran Negeri Pulau Pinang
- Lembaga Penduduk & Pembangunan Keluarga Negara Malaysia
- Majlis Pembangunan Wanita & Keluarga, Negeri Pulau Pinang
- Majlis Pembangunan Wanita & Keluarga Parlimen Bukit Bendera
- Malaysia Baptist Theological Seminary
- Mitra Welfare Centre (Than Hsiang)
- Ramakrishna Ashrama
- Penang Adventist Hospital
- Penang Medical College
- Penang Office for Human Development
- Pertubuhan Kesedaran Wanita Kedah
- Rumah-Rumah Nur di Pulau Pinang
- Sekolah Jenis Kebangsaan (C) Kwang Hua
- Sisters in Islam (SIS)
- Socio-Economic & Environmental Research Institute (SERI)
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- Women's Development Collective (WDC)
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- Wendy Ang
- Winnie Yong Phui Wan
- Yeap Leay Fong
- Yeo Siew Yeap

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





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