

# IT'S TIME TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

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Women's Aid Organisation (WAO) is releasing this brochure to coincide with the **International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women** on 25 November 2011. This day marks the start of **16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence**, a global campaign to raise awareness of gender-based violence.

In 1999, the United Nations designated 25 November as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. This date commemorates the anniversary of the murder of the Mirabel sisters who were brutally murdered in 1960. The 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence global campaign runs until 10 December – International Human Rights Day.

During this year's 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence, WAO is focussing on domestic workers in Malaysia and asking employers – is your home a fair and safe place? Many employers do provide a safe working environment for their domestic workers. However, over recent years there have been an alarming number of reports of abuse and exploitation of domestic workers. Please take the time to also have a look at our other brochure called "Is your home a fair and safe place?"

The brochure you are now reading provides you with:

- An overview of the statistics on violence against women in Malaysia, and
- Information on what constitutes violence against women.



WAO counselling line: 03 7956 3488 | [www.wao.org.my](http://www.wao.org.my) | [www.facebook.com/wao.malaysia](http://www.facebook.com/wao.malaysia)

To get an idea of the overall picture of the prevalence of violence against women over the last 10 years in Malaysia, let's have a look at the number of cases reported to the police. It is important to remember that the statistics here show the number of reported cases only – the actual number of cases is most likely much higher as many women do not report abuse.

## Statistics on Violence against Women in Malaysia

Police Reports	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Domestic Violence	3468	3107	2755	2555	3101	3093	3264	3756	3769	3643	3173
Rape	1217	1386	1431	1479	1760	1931	2454	3098	3409	3626	3595
Incest	213	246	306	254	334	295	332	360	334	385	unavailable
Abuse of Domestic Workers	56	66	39	40	66	37	45	39	unavailable	unavailable	unavailable
Child Abuse	146	150	123	119	148	189	141	196	unavailable	203	257
Outrage of Modesty (Molestation)	1234	1393	1522	1399	1661	1746	1349	2243	2131	2110	2054
Sexual Harassment in the Workplace	112	86	84	82	119	102	101	195	unavailable	unavailable	unavailable

Source: Royal Malaysia Police and Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development

# What is Violence against Women?

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Violence against women is a chosen action against a woman or girl simply because she is female.

Violence against women is a form of regulating and controlling a woman's sexuality – her body, identity, behaviour, movement, expression, thoughts and her choices.

Violence against women is deeply embedded in all cultures so much so that millions of women endure it.

**Violence against women must not be tolerated. It is against the law and women have the right to live their lives free from violence.**

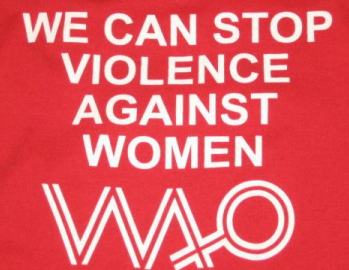
Forms of violence against women:

- Domestic violence
- Rape
- Sexual assault
- Sexual harassment
- Sexual harassment through multimedia, including cyber stalking
- Marital rape
- Incest

- Violence during pregnancy
- Female genital mutilation
- Trafficking

## What is Domestic Violence?

Domestic violence is an abuse of power in intimate relationships where one partner (usually male) attempts to control and dominate the other. It is a repeated pattern. Domestic violence encompasses physical, sexual, economic and almost always psychological abuse which leaves women living in fear.



WE CAN STOP  
VIOLENCE  
AGAINST  
WOMEN

**There is no excuse for domestic violence – you do not have to put up with it!**

The court can order the offender not to abuse you and punish him if he fails to obey.

### **Signs to indicate your friend, sister, neighbour, relative or colleague may be a victim of domestic violence:**

- She has multiple injuries at various stages of healing.
- She has injuries on unusual parts of her body, usually hidden.
- She claims that her injuries are due to clumsiness.
- She is often insulted and humiliated by the perpetrator in public.
- She expresses fear of the abuser.
- She has to account for all her movements to the abuser.

### **What is Rape and Sexual Assault?**

Sex without your consent is rape. Rape is the insertion of the penis into your vagina against your will. If you are under 16 years old, sex with or without your consent is rape. Sexual assault includes insertion of objects into your vagina, mouth or anus or forced anal sex.

A person who commits rape or sexual assault will be punished with imprisonment or whipping.

**Often victims feel deeply ashamed and powerless – you need to know that you are not to be blamed. The offender has committed a serious crime against you.**

### **What is Sexual Harassment in the Workplace?**

Sexual Harassment in the workplace refers to sexual conduct that is unwanted and unwelcome. This includes requests for sexual favours which are inappropriate and offensive.

### **Forms of Sexual Harassment:**

- Verbal harassment e.g. offensive or suggestive remarks, jokes, jesting, comments, sounds or questioning.
- Non-verbal harassment e.g. leering or ogling with suggestive overtones, licking lips, holding food provocatively, hand signal denoting sexual activity or persistent flirting.
- Visual harassment e.g. showing pornographic materials, drawing sex-based sketches or writing sex-based letters or sexual exposure.
- Psychological harassment e.g. repeated unwanted social invitations, relentless proposals for dates or physical intimacy.
- Physical harassment e.g. inappropriate touching, patting, pinching, stroking, brushing up against the body, hugging, kissing, fondling and sexual assault.

**You do not have to put up with this behaviour. Everyone has the right to feel safe and secure in the workplace.**

### **Tell the harasser to stop:**

- Say it firmly so the harasser knows you mean business!
- If the harassment continues, tell someone at your work e.g. personnel officer, employee/union representative.
- Record details of each event: date, time, location, what happened, what was said, how you felt and the names of any witnesses or others victimised by the person.

**What can you do if you or someone you know is a victim of domestic violence, rape, sexual assault or sexual harassment?**

- **Call WAO on 03 7956 3488** and talk to a social worker who will be able to assist you.
- You can contact the police or the welfare department.
- You can stay at a WAO shelter if you do not feel safe at home.
- You can seek assistance from the court to punish the offender and prevent them from hurting you again.

**WAO is a non-profit organisation that:**

- Provides refuge and counselling to women in crisis. This includes abused women and their children, single mothers, abused foreign domestic workers, refugees and rape survivors.
- Conducts public education to create awareness of violence against women and women's human rights.
- Advocates for reforming laws and government policies that are unfair and discriminatory to women.

