



Special points of interest:

- Sexist MPs
- WCI
- Upcoming events

EDITORIAL

Malaysia is abuzz with news about the elections. Women's groups, always one step ahead, decided that Joint Action Group for Gender Equality (JAG) will focus on urging the political parties to keep to their promises to highlight gender equality.

JAG has therefore issued letters to the ruling and opposition parties. They have also listed the number of promises that the government has made. But even way before this letter, in 2007, JAG took the initiative of outing sexist MPs through a JAG brochure called "VOTE FOR A SEXISM-FREE PARLIAMENT!", which was launched in a press conference on 15 May 2007.

In essence, we are urging voters, especially women voters that they vote in members of parliament and state assembly representatives who will put women's agenda on top of the list and we certainly do not believe that sexist MPs can do the job.

This time round, *Inroads* will focus on how women's groups have responded to Elections fever.

We are all looking forward to a more effective Parliament!



JAG'S LETTER TO THE PM

18 January 2008

YAB Dato' Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi

Perdana Menteri Malaysia

YAB Dato' Seri,

Kotakan Kata

(JAG's General Election Wish)

With three years left of the Ninth Malaysia Plan (2006-2010), the Joint Action Group for Gender Equality (JAG) is calling on the government to take immediate steps to bridge the gender gap by implementing all the actions identified in Chapter 13 on Women and Development.

The commitments made to further advance the status of women were as follows:

- to promote greater female participation in the labour force
- to increase education and training opportunities
- to enhance participation in business and entrepreneur activities
- to review laws and regulations to promote the status of women
- to improve further the health status and well being of women
- to reduce violence against women
- to reduce incidence of poverty and improve quality of life
- to strengthen national machinery and institutional capacity
- to advance issues pertaining to women at the international level
- to nominate at least 30% women candidates to stand in the next General Elections at the Parliamentary and State levels;
- achieve the 30% minimum target set for women, including in the public sector, the executive, the legislative, and the judicial arms of government by 2015;
- implement all the commitments made and to develop an effective monitoring system to evaluate the success of government policies and programmes to advance the status of women;
- modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women to eliminate prejudices, sexist conduct, customary, and all other practices which are based on the idea of the inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes or on stereotyped roles for men and women;
- amend all existing laws that discriminate against women and to ensure all new laws adhere to the principles of justice and equality, including all laws made in the name of Islam;
- enact new laws that will enhance and protect the status of women, including a Sexual Harassment Act and a Gender Discrimination Act;

lot more needs to be done. We hope the government will "Kotakan Kata" to achieve his vision of men and women sharing power and responsibility at home, in the workplace and in the community in order to build a more gender responsive and just society.

In view of the coming General Elections, JAG urges YAB Dato' Seri to take concrete actions to:

- nominate at least 30% women candidates to stand in the next General Elections at the Parliamentary and State levels;
- achieve the 30% minimum target set for women, including in the public sector, the executive, the legislative, and the judicial arms of government by 2015;
- implement all the commitments made and to develop an effective monitoring system to evaluate the success of government policies and programmes to advance the status of women;
- modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women to eliminate prejudices, sexist conduct, customary, and all other practices which are based on the idea of the inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes or on stereotyped roles for men and women;
- amend all existing laws that discriminate against women and to ensure all new laws adhere to the principles of justice and equality, including all laws made in the name of Islam;
- enact new laws that will enhance and protect the status of women, including a Sexual Harassment Act and a Gender Discrimination Act;

JAG is ready to work together with the government to develop policies and actions needed to advance the status of women in Malaysia. We are reminded of YAB Dato' Seri's speech at the 2005 inaugural lecture of the Abdullah Ahmad Badawi Women's Institute of Management (W.I.M) annual lecture series, where YAB Dato Seri said:

~"review and amend all laws in order to identify and eliminate negative traditional and customary practices that discriminate against women: ...

~educate men and boys to respect women and girls as equal partners in all spheres of life and society;

~encourage and facilitate harmonious partnership and equal sharing of domestic roles and responsibilities for the family by women and men, girls and boys; ..."

"When the history of the 21st century is recorded, let Malaysia be mentioned in the context of not only of progress and achievement for the country, but also the advancement and empowerment and emancipation of women."

It is JAG's fervent hope that this vision will see reality.

While we recognise that the government has taken steps to fulfill some of the commitments made, a

nominate at least 30% women candidates to stand in the next General Elections at the Parliamentary and State levels;

enact new laws that will enhance and protect the status of women, including a Sexual Harassment Act and a Gender Discrimination Act;

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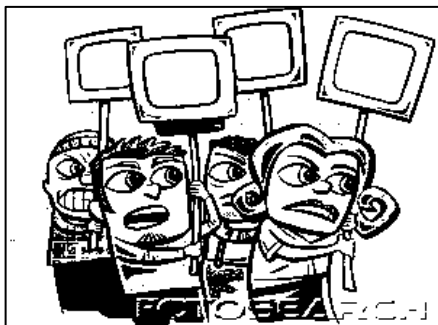
We want MPs who respect women;
We do NOT want sexist leaders.

"It is unusual for women's issues to be touched (raised) by men,... but women are supposed to be touched by men"

Mohamad bin Aziz (BN-Sri Gading) [Malaysiakini, 15 May 2007]



You can stop the sexism!



SEXIST COMMENTS ARE AN INSULT TO WOMEN AND MEN

MPs can help combat sexism in Parliament

Ask your MP to observe the following:

DO :

- Realise that sexism is not a joke - it violates women's rights and must be taken seriously.
- Speak up and push for concrete sanctions against MPs who make sexist remarks.

DON'T :

- Dismiss sexism as a 'women's issue'.
- Encourage sexist MPs by laughing, cheering and clapping hands in support.
- Trivialise the views of women who speak up by calling them 'emotional' and 'aggressive'.

Prepared by

The Joint Action Group for Gender Equality (JAG)

Women's Centre for Change

Women's Aid Organisation

Sisters in Islam

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VOTE FOR A SEXISM-FREE PARLIAMENT!

Sexist comments are NOT jokes.

Sexist comments:

- **VIOLATE** women's rights
- **CREATE** a culture that insults women and men

"Where is the leak? The member for Batu Gajah also leaks once a month."

Bung Mokhtar Radin (BN-Kinabatangan) and Mohd Said Yusuf (BN-Jasin)



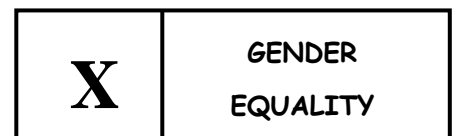
DON'T VOTE for sexist candidates

Before we vote, we want to know what your views on women are...



Forms of sexist and discriminatory comments made by MPs in Parliament over the years

<p><u>Insulting comments about women's bodies and their biological functions</u></p> <p>Badruddin bin Amiruldin (BN-the then MP for Yan)</p> <p>"Like a menopausal woman" in reference to the debate of another male MP. [Malaysiakini, 15 May 2007]</p> <p>Bung Mokhtar Radin (BN-Kinabatangan) and Mohd Said Yusuf (BN-Jasin -- dropped at 2008 General Election)</p> <p>"Where is the leak? The member for Batu Gajah also leaks every month." [DR 9.5.2007]</p>	<p><u>Blaming women for sexual crimes perpetrated by men</u></p> <p>Badruddin bin Amiruldin (BN-Jerai) on marital rape</p> <p>"Sometimes for reasons of entrapment she lodges a report that she had been raped. If she is a virgin it would have been okay... we can find out. But if she is not then how can we prove whether it was rape or otherwise?" [Malaysiakini, 15 May 2007]</p> <p>Raja Dato' Ahmad Zainuddin bin Raja Haji Omar (BN-Larut)</p> <p>Commented that in order to prevent sexual harassment, all women should be fully covered (<i>tutup aurat</i>) irrespective of their religion. Women were told to cover themselves completely for the good of everyone. [DR 13.3.2000]</p> <p>Idris Haron (BN-Tangga Batu), Dr Mohd Hayati bin Othman (PAS-Pendang), Salahuddin Ayub (PAS-Kubang Kerian)</p> <p>Claimed that the 'sexy uniforms' of the female MAS cabin staff would arouse the passion of male passengers. [Malaysiakini, 15 May 2007]</p>	<p>Timbalan Yang di-Pertua Dato' Haji Muhammad bin Abdullah</p> <p>A woman MP was told not to be too emotional in a debate on the Immigration Act 1963 and the Income Tax Act 1967 and the issues she raised were dismissed as being non-discriminatory. [DR 24.10.2000]</p>
<p><u>Comparisons of women to inanimate objects</u></p> <p>S. Samy Vellu (BN-Sungai Siput)</p> <p>"A woman 50 years ago, she looks beautiful, but today she won't look so beautiful" [Malaysiakini, 15 May 2007]</p> <p>S. Samy Vellu (BN-Sungai Siput)</p> <p>"Toilets are like new brides after they are completed. After some time, they get a bit spoiled. Even if you do not use them frequently, you need someone to clean them every 25 minutes." [Malaysiakini, 15 May 2007]</p>	<p>Shabudin Yahaya (BN-Permatang Berangan) and Datuk Jasmin Mohamed (BN-Sg Dua), Penang State Assembly</p> <p>"The women's dressing <i>menggoda</i> (lures) and <i>mencabar</i> (challenges) men." [Malaysiakini, 15 May 2007]</p>	<p><u>Commenting on women's marital status as a put down</u></p> <p>Bung Mokhtar bin Radin (BN-Kinabatangan)</p> <p>"Why do single mothers find it hard to remarry - most of them are still beautiful and gorgeous, so what are the real reasons?" which was responded to by.... [Malaysiakini, 15 May 2007]</p> <p>Mohamed bin Aziz (BN-Sri Gading)</p> <p>"due to their not-so-favourable age..... men, when it comes to younger women, they will definitely drool." [Malaysiakini, 15 May 2007]</p> <p>Abdul Fatah Harun (PAS- Rantau Panjang).</p> <p>"...Widows are humble... but divorcees, most of them are <i>gatal</i> (randy)." [Malaysiakini, 15 May 2007]</p>
<p><u>Sexual innuendos and double entendres</u></p> <p>Mohamed bin Aziz (BN-Sri Gading)</p> <p>"It is unusual for women's issues to be touched (raised) by men," and after a pause, he added, "but women are supposed to be touched by men." [Malaysiakini, 15 May 2007]</p> <p>Bung Mokhtar Radin (BN-Kinabatangan)</p> <p>"Can I push through a little?" [Malaysiakini, 15 May 2007]</p>	<p><u>Patronising remarks on women being "emotional" and likening women to children</u></p> <p>Tuan Haji Wan Junaidi bin Tuanku Jaafar (BN-PBB-Santubong)</p> <p>Referred to a fellow woman MP as a 'little girl' and told her to go home and suck on a pacifier (<i>hisap pepetlah</i>). [DR 29.3.2000]</p>	<p>Badruddin bin Amiruldin (BN-Jerai)</p> <p>Asked a fellow Parliamentarian if he knew how long YB Fong Poh Kuan's (DAP - Batu Gajah) marriage would last (during a debate on rising divorce cases). [Malaysiakini, 15 May 2007]</p>



Vote for Gender Equality

Press Statement by the Joint Action Group for Gender Equality (JAG)

Challenging Obstacles, Demanding Implementation:

'No' To Sexist MPs, 'Yes' To More Women Candidates!

8 December 2007

Sexist MPs

The Joint Action Group for Gender Equality (JAG) has been monitoring the debates of the Members of Parliament (MPs) for the past few years. We are disturbed that some of the MPs continue to make remarks which discriminate against women, and are sexist. The MPs who make such remarks show that they have a poor grasp of gender issues.

Sexist remarks are not jokes. They are offensive and distasteful. They also demean and devalue women because they insult women and their bodies. Women are viewed as sexual objects. Furthermore, sexist MPs stereotype women as emotional and childish, whose respectability is dependant on their marital status.

When MPs make sexist comments, they discriminate against women because they violate women's right to be treated with respect and dignity. This breeds a culture that is insulting to women and men. MPs must remember that they are accountable to their women voters.

We have no confidence in MPs who do not respect, but instead, discriminate against women. We urge women as well as men not to vote for them. The sexist MPs include :

- Datuk Bung Mokhtar Radin (BN-Kinabatangan)
- Datuk Mohd Said Yusuf (BN-Jasin)
- Dato' Paduka Haji Badruddin bin Amiruldin (BN-Jerai)
- Datuk Idris Haron (BN-Tangga Batu)
- Datuk Mohamed Aziz (BN - Sri Gading)
- Abdul Fatah Harun (PAS-Rantau Panjang)
- Mohd Hayati bin Othman (PAS-Pendang)
- Salahuddin Ayub (PAS-Kubang Kerian)
- Dato Seri S. Samy Veu (BN-Sg Siput)

Women candidates

The Ninth Malaysia Plan aims to put in place at least 30% of women in decision making positions by 2010. So at the general elections, the political parties should:

- field at least 30% women candidates;
- allocate seats to these women in 'win-able' constituencies; and
- nominate at least 30% of women into local councils.

This is also in line with the Government's commitments and obligations when it ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1995 to "adopt the measures required for the elimination of such discrimination in all its forms and manifestations".

By not fielding sexist MPs, and nominating more women to run as candidates in the elections, more women can take leadership roles in the political, economic and social development of Malaysia.

Honey Tan Lay Ean

Executive Director

All Women's Action Society (AWAM)

For and on behalf of the Joint Action Group on Gender Equality (JAG) comprising:

All Women's Action Society (AWAM)

Pusat Janadaya (Empower)

Sisters In Islam (SIS)

Women's Aid Organisation (WAO)

Women's Centre for Change, Penang (WCC)

Women and Politics in Malaysia

An Article by
ALIRAN Monthly

Women have been underrepresented in Malaysian politics. Currently less than 10 per cent of all MPs in Parliament are women, yet women constitute almost half of registered voters.

Do you think that this country can ever be led by a woman?



Why not? But not just any woman. She must be honest, compassionate and have the political integrity to lead. Then she must get the right and competent team to support her.

Dr. Cecilia Ng

In that respect then, how important is electoral politics for women to achieve equity?



Women need to know how they can affect the governance of this country, and ultimately their issues and interests. We need to assert that if our votes count, then our issues must count as well!

Zaitun Kasim

How would women politicians make a difference? Is it a question of "quantity"?



I feel women are more empathetic and compassionate towards the problems faced by other women. I think women usually find other women more approachable to speak about their problems.

Zaitun Kasim



Certainly having more women politicians does not mean that women will automatically speak for women if they are elected.

Dr. Cecilia Ng

What are the most pressing issues facing women today which need reforms?



The Domestic Violence Act, for example, took 10 years before it became law. The laws related to rape are completely inadequate, and there is no law on sexual harassment nor does there seem to be plans for one. The lack of commitment to addressing these alone is glaring. The Syariah Court system is another area where, despite the numerous complaints that have been received, there has been almost no difference.

Zaitun Kasim

Zaitun Kasim, or popularly known as Toni, is currently a member of Sisters in Islam. She is also a member of a fledging group called Forum for Equitable and Environment-Friendly Transport (FEET). Toni received her education in Australia in Economics and Computer Studies. She worked for six years in Community Aid Abroad in Australia. She hails from Ipoh.

Dr. Cecilia Ng is a feminist researcher in this country and is currently an Associate Professor at Universiti Putra Malaysia. She has been actively involved in the women's movement since the early eighties. She is a founder member of WDC (Women's Development Collective) and AWAM.



WOMAN'S RIGHTS.
POLICEMAN. "I will take him to the polls, Madam, and see that he votes as you dictate."

" Woman's Rights "

Cartoonist: Lloyd

Source: Harper's Weekly

Date: November 25, 1876, p. 960

Complete HarpWeek Explanation:

Although women could not vote in 19th-century America, they often took a keen interest in politics and participated in political events (see "Women's Role" in Campaigning). From the days of the early republic, the ideal of "republican motherhood" assigned women the vital task of ensuring that their children were educated in the values and practices of good citizenship. In 1848, the women's rights movement

gained prominence at the Seneca Falls Convention. This cartoon draws upon common assumptions (held by women as well as men) that were contrary to the ideology of 19th-century women's rights advocates. First, that women already had significant influence on how men voted; and second, that a husband's vote would be cast in the interests of his entire family; therefore, the right to vote was unnecessary for women, and could undermine the family unit.



Manifesto

We believe that everyone in Malaysia has a right to a government that is truly democratic, and a society where all of us are treated equally. We also believe that adequate women's representation is very important so that women do not continue to face discrimination.

Kami percaya bahawa setiap orang di Malaysia berhak memiliki sebuah kerajaan yang benar-benar demokratik, dan satu masyarakat yang mana semua orang dilayan secara saksama. Kami juga percaya bahawa perwakilan wanita yang secukupnya adalah amat penting agar wanita tidak terus menghadapi diskriminasi.

In order to achieve this, we want:

Bagi mencapai matlamat ini, kami mahukan :

1. Democracy that belongs to all

Politics belong to the people, not to politicians. We have a right to clean and fair elections and equal representation at all levels. We need more women in Parliament, at least 30%, to better represent women's specific needs and realities.

1. Demokrasi yang dimiliki oleh semua

Politik adalah milik semua, bukannya milik ahli politik. Kita berhak mempunyai pilihanraya yang bersih dan adil, dan perwakilan yang saksama di setiap peringkat. Kita perlukan lebih ramai wanita di Parlimen, sekurang-kurangnya 30%, untuk mewakili keperluan khusus wanita dan kenyataan hidup masakini dengan lebih berkesan.



Women in Malaysian Politics

- The 11th General Elections (2004) saw an increase in the number of female candidates contesting both Parliamentary and State seats (from 63 in 1999 to 97 in 2004).
- For the past two elections, the number of elected women in Parliament has remained relatively unchanged. In 1999, 20 (10.4%) of the 193 Members of Parliament were women. Today women make up 23 (10.5%) of the 219 Members of Parliament. This figure falls far short of the 30% "critical mass" needed to truly make an impact.
- Statistics by the Inter-Parliamentary Union show that Malaysia, with 9.2% women in its lower House, ranks 86th out of 183 countries in terms of the number of women in the lower or single House of government. The Asian average of 15.2% is still out of Malaysia's reach even after the latest elections in 2004.
- This in effect means that women, who form 52% of voters, remain disproportionately unrepresented in government.

2. A society that does not discriminate

The Federal Constitution guarantees non-discrimination, regardless of religion, race, descent, gender or place of birth. However, over the years we have seen the negative impact of ethnic-based policies as well as disrespect of different religious beliefs. There is also discrimination based on sexuality, sexism, disability, age and income. We call for an end to all forms of discrimination. We all contribute to this country in many ways, and therefore deserve equal treatment.

2. Sebuah masyarakat yang tidak mendiskriminasi

Perlembagaan Persekutuan menjamin satu masyarakat tanpa diskriminasi, tidak kira agama, bangsa, keturunan, gender atau tempat lahir. Namun, kebelakangan ini kita telah menyaksikan kesan negatif yang lahir dari polisi-polisi yang berasaskan perkauman, dan yang tidak menghormati kepercayaan agama yang berbeza. Diskriminasi berdasarkan seksualiti, seksisma, ketiadaupayaan, umur dan pendapatan juga wujud di negara kita. Kami menyeru agar segala bentuk diskriminasi dihapuskan. Kita semua menyumbang kepada negara ini dengan pelbagai cara, maka sepatutnya kita berhak dilayan secara sama rata.

3. The right to basic freedoms and human rights

We are often warned that demanding our rights will affect economic growth. The experiences of many countries show that this is not true. We have a right to economic growth as well as the right to speak, to earn a minimum wage, to form and join a trade union of our choice, to gather peacefully, to access information, to move freely, to have a balanced media and to privacy. These are not luxuries - these are basic rights.

3. Hak kebebasan asasi dan hak asasi manusia

Kita seringkali diberi amaran bahawa tuntutan terhadap hak asasi akan memberi kesan kepada pertumbuhan ekonomi. Pengalaman negara-negara lain membuktikan pernyataan tersebut tidak benar. Kita berhak menikmati pertumbuhan ekonomi disamping menikmati hak bersuara, hak upah minima, menubuh dan menyertai kesatuan pekerja pilihan kita, berhimpun secara aman, hak mendapatkan maklumat, kebebasan bergerak, mendapatkan media yang seimbang dan juga hak peribadi. Semua ini bukanlah satu kemewahan - tapi satu hak asasi.

4. A transparent, corruption-free Government

Whether it is the judiciary, the police, the transport authorities or the local council - we have seen how corruption has benefited a small group of powerful people. We want professionalism and transparency because corruption hurts us all, and hurts the growth of the country in the long run.

4. Kerajaan yang telus dan tanpa rasuah

Samada badan kehakiman, pihak polis, pihak berkuasa pengangkutan ataupun kerajaan tempatan - kita sedar rasuah hanya menguntungkan segelintir kumpulan yang berkuasa. Kita mahukan profesionalisma dan ketelusan kerana rasuah menjejaskan kehidupan kita semua dan juga pertumbuhan negara dalam jangkamasa panjang.

5. A safe, violence-free society

We have the right to be free from violence by the authorities - no corruption, no arbitrary arrests, no tear gas, no water cannons and no beatings. Women and children also have the right to be safe and free from violence in the community and violence in the home - stop rape, stop sexual harassment, stop domestic violence. Stop all forms of gender-based violence.

5. Masyarakat yang selamat, tanpa keganasan

Kita berhak untuk bebas dari keganasan oleh pihak berkuasa - yang bebas dari rasuah, tiada tangkapan sewenang-wenangnya, tiada gas pemedih mata, tiada meriam air, dan tiada pukul-belasah. Wanita dan kanak-kanak juga berhak hidup dalam suasana yang selamat dan bebas dari keganasan di dalam masyarakat dan keganasan di dalam rumah - hentikan rogol, hentikan gangguan seksual, hentikan keganasan rumahtangga. Hentikan segala bentuk keganasan berdasarkan jantina.

6. A good and affordable standard of living for all

The rising cost of food, transport and daily goods is a burden on the lower income groups because wages have not kept up with inflation rates. It is even worse for vulnerable and marginalised groups - single mothers, the elderly, children, the disabled, people with HIV/AIDS, the mak nyah community, refugees, migrant workers and many more. We all deserve a good standard of living.

6. Taraf hidup yang baik dan mampumilik untuk semua

Kenaikan kos makanan, pengangkutan dan barangan harian menjadi beban keatas kumpulan pendapatan rendah disebabkan kenaikan upah tidak setara dengan kadar inflasi. Ianya lebih teruk lagi bagi kumpulan terpinggir - ibu tunggal, warga tua, kanak-kanak, orang kurang upaya, mereka yang menghadapi HIV/AIDS, masyarakat mak nyah, mangsa pelarian, pekerja migrant dan banyak lagi. Kita semua berhak menikmati taraf hidup yang baik.

7. An end to privatisation of healthcare and other basic needs

Healthcare, water, education, sanitation - we have a right to these basic needs and services. The Government has a duty to provide quality and affordable services. Privatisation will turn these into 'luxury' items, making them inaccessible especially to the poor and vulnerable.

7. Hentikan penswastaan perkhidmatan kesihatan dan keperluan asas.

Perkhidmatan kesihatan, air, pendidikan, sistem pembersihan - kita berhak mendapatkan keperluan asas dan perkhidmatan ini. Kerajaan bertanggungjawab untuk menyediakan perkhidmatan bermutu dan mampu dibiayai. Penswastaan akan menyebabkan perkhidmatan-perkhidmatan ini menjadi 'barangan mewah', terutamanya bagi golongan miskin dan lemah, yang susah diperolehi.

8. An end to unfair and oppressive laws

Laws must protect the rights of the people, not protect unjust practices. However, oppressive laws like the Internal Security Act, the Police Act and the Sedition Act have been used to silence us even when we witness injustices. This has to stop. Similarly, laws that discriminate against women - whether civil or Syariah - must be abolished or amended.

**End Discrimination,
Vote Equality**

停止歧视、投选平等。

8. Hentikan undang-undang yang tidak adil dan menindas

Undang-undang sepatutnya melindungi hak-hak orang ramai, bukannya melindungi amalan-amalan yang tidak adil. Namun, undang-undang yang menindas seperti Akta Keselamatan Dalam Negeri, Akta Polis dan Akta Hasutan telah digunakan untuk menutup mulut kita walaupun kita ingin bersuara menentang ketidakadilan. Ini mesti dihentikan. Undang-undang yang mendiskriminasi terhadap wanita juga - samada sivil dan syariah - mesti di hapuskan atau dipinda.

9. An end to forced evictions

Everyone has a right to their land and homes, and must never be forcibly evicted. They must be fully consulted and compensated if their property is required for public need. Every year hundreds of people are forcibly evicted in the name of development. This practice must be eradicated.

9. Hentikan pengusiran secara paksaan

Setiap orang mempunyai hak terhadap tanah dan rumah mereka, dan tidak boleh di usirpaksa. Mereka mesti terlibat dalam sebarang perundingan dan diberi pampasan setimpal jika harta mereka dikehendaki untuk keperluan awam. Setiap tahun beratus orang diusirpaksa atas nama pembangunan. Amalan ini hendaklah dihapuskan.

10. Responsible, sustainable and equitable development

Economic growth must be for all because poverty hurts, regardless of race or religion. Therefore any affirmative action policy must be based on needs. Development practices that lead to poisonous air from incinerators, flash floods, polluted rivers and oceans, and destruction of heritage sites must be stopped. Responsible development benefits us and the future generations.

10. Pembangunan yang bertanggungjawab, berlanjutan dan saksama

Pertumbuhan ekonomi harus memanfaatkan semua, kerana kemiskinan memudaratkan setiap insan, tanpa mengira bangsa atau agama. Oleh itu, sebarang dasar bercorak bantuan hendaklah berlandaskan keperluan. Amalan pembangunan yang buruk yang mengakibatkan udara beracun dari pusat pelupusan sampah, banjir kilat, sungai dan laut yang tercemar, dan pembinasaan tapak-tapak warisan hendaklah dihentikan. Pembangunan yang bertanggungjawab berfaedah kepada kita dan generasi masa hadapan.

**Tolak Diskriminasi,
Pilih Kesaksamaan**

**வேற்றுமையை
ஒழித்திட்வோம்
சமத்துவத்தை
தேர்வுசெய்வோம்**

ONGOING EVENTS

ONE RED LILY FLORIST

In an effort to contribute to society, One Red Lily decided to support WAO through the sale of the floral arrangements as well as hampers at their outlet. For every order received, One Red Lily pledged to donate RM1.00 to WAO.

Established in 2002, One Red Lily is a new online florist committed to providing customers with high standards of service for floral arrangements and deliveries. Currently operating primarily in the Klang Valley providing free delivery to the metropolitan areas of Kuala Lumpur & Petaling Jaya, One Red Lily combines 20 over years of experience in the floral design and arrangement with 15 years of business management and consulting experience to bring you what it hopes is a convenient and high quality website / call centre for your floral and gift needs.

LA GOURMET RESTAURANT

La Gourmet Restaurant decided to raise funds through a unique idea of placing table cards with messages on them. These cards carry a particular message on the outside that reads: "*Domestic Violence does not EXIST*" however, when lit with a candle, the message changes to read :

"If you don't witness Domestic Violence, it does not mean it doesn't EXIST",

Out of sight shouldn't be out of mind.

Women's Aid Organisation (WAO) shelters victims of domestic violence who are tired of hiding. With your support, these women and children can be free from violence.

To change their lives and make a difference all we need is one Ringgit.

Your donations are welcome at the cashier.

This fundraising campaign is still ongoing at La Gourmet Restaurant. It is hoping to raise more this year through this campaign.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Timetable of the Three Day Event for International Women's Day (IWD)

Date and time	Events	Venue	Note
Wed, 5 th March 08 10am-3pm 12pm-2pm	Educational Booths Talk	Exhibition Area (AE1)	WAO, AWAM, SIS, AI, ARROW, MAC Speakers: Marina Mahathir and Shanon Shah Welcoming Speech: Dr. Goh
Thurs, 6 th March 10am-3pm	Educational Booths	Exhibition Area	WAO, AWAM, SIS, AI, ARROW, MAC
Fri, 7 th March 10am-3pm 12pm-2pm	Educational Booths Competition	Exhibition Area (AE1)	WAO, AWAM, SIS, AI, ARROW, MAC MC: Asha Gill (TBA) Judges: Marion d'Cruz and Azah Yasmin Yusof

In Malaysia, International Women's Day (IWD) has been celebrated with a focus on violence against women since 1985. At that time, violence against women was hardly considered as an issue. Domestic violence was largely perceived to be a private 'family matter', rape was blamed upon the victim, and sexual harassment was not seen as a problem with serious consequences.

In March 1985, the Joint Action Group (popularly known as JAG) was formed, comprising individual women and five organisations - Women's Aid Organisation, Association of Women Lawyers, Malaysian Trade Unions Congress-Women's Section, University Women's Association (University Malaya) and the Selangor and Federal Territory Consumer's Association - to forge a force against violence against women.

Since then, seminars, conferences, exhibitions, events, public education campaigns and carnivals have been held to raise the voices of women strongly against gender violence. There have been two significant legal achievements: one, the implementation of the Domestic Violence Act in 1996 with Malaysia being the first country in South East Asia to legally recognise domestic violence as a crime; and two, the reforming of laws regarding to rape.

International Women's Day in Malaysia has therefore become a day of recognition of women's struggles, a celebration of women's successes, and a statement of a definitive stance against violence against women.

IWD 2008

This year Help College University, in collaboration with WAO, is holding a 3 day public education event in conjunction with International Women's Day 2008. The events will take place from the 5-7 March. The activities range from talks by established speakers on the various issues affecting women to educational booths by several NGOs and a performing arts competition open to all HELP students focusing on the theme "*Investing in Women and Girls*"

Details on the activities:

1. Educational Booths

WAO, All Women's Action Society (AWAM), Sisters In Islam (SIS), Amnesty International (AI), Malaysian Aids Council (MAC) and ARROW will be setting up their booths in an exhibition area on campus (Level 4, Block E, Kompleks Pejabat Damansara, Jalan Dungun) throughout the three days. Students will be exposed to the various issues these NGOs stand for, learn more about the organisations and support them e.g. by signing up as volunteers/ buying merchandise etc.

2. Talks

A talk by Marina Mahathir on 5 March (Auditorium, Level 4, KPD, Jalan Dungun) will cover the issue of the AIDS epidemic in Malaysia and its impact specifically on women. This will be followed by an interactive session on the role of men in improving gender equality by a male feminist and local singer, Shanon Shah.

3. Competition (Purp Out Loud!)

A competition open to all students of HELP to express their views on issues affecting women through performing on stage. Performances range from singing and dancing to doing skits, monologues, poetry recitals. Prizes will be sponsored by The Body Shop. Judges will be Marion D'Cruz (veteran actor and founder of the Five Arts Centre) and Azah Yusoff (host of youth TV show 3R).

WAO's Wish List for the Shelter & Child Care Centre

IMMEDIATE NEEDS

Office Items

Desktop computers
Fax & Copier machine
LCD projector

Furniture for Refuge & CCC

Standard dining table with 6 chairs
Stand & Wall Fans
Washing machine
Sofa set

ONGOING NEEDS

Basic needs

Towels
Shampoo
Combs
Bath Soap / Shower Gel
Soap Powder
Talc powder
Diapers (all sizes)
Toothpaste and toothbrushes
Women toiletries
New undergarments for women & children (all sizes)
Detergent
Toilet Rolls
Sanitary towels

Medical Needs

Handiplast
Panadol - Syrup for children
Panadol for adults
Cough syrup
Dettol
Burnol
Vicks

Foodstuff

Sugar
Noodles
Milo
Curry powder
Chilli powder
Light and dark soy sauce
Oyster sauce
Sardine tins
Dry condiments
Chilli/Tomato sauce
Cornflakes/cereals
Eggs
Rice
Kaya
Jam/Peanut butter
Marjerine
Dried prawns
Canned food - green peas/red beans
Milk powder
Condensed milk

Household Items

New Magazines (women or children, malay)
Bedsheets
Blanket
Pillows and pillow covers
Curtains
Rubbish bags
Children's stationery/story books
Board games for children
Sewing machine
Electrical cake mixer
Oven-table top.
Footmat
DVD Player
Outdoor play equipment



If you can provide any of these items or make a cash donation, please contact us at
03 7957 5636 / 0636 or drop us a mail at wao@po.jaring.my



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