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Final Edits by the Executive Committee 2011/2013 and copy editing by Vivian Yap

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WOMEN'S AID ORGANISATION
PERTUBUHAN PERTOLONGAN WANITA

WHO IS WHO IN WAO

Trustees

Toh Puan Dato' Seri Hajjah Dr. Aishah Ong

Rashidah Abdullah

Dato' Noor Farida Ariffin

Puan Sri Chong Eu Ngoh

Membership

223 members and 318 volunteers

WAO Executive Committee 2011 – 2013

The following members of the Executive Committee (EXCO) were elected for a two-year term (2011 – 2013) at the 28th Annual General Meeting held on 22 May 2011 at the WAO Centre, Petaling Jaya. The EXCO held 8 meetings in 2012.

President	Mok Chuang Lian
Vice President	Vivienne Lee
Secretary	Chin Oy Sim
Assistant Secretary	Lee Shook Fong
Treasurer	Carol Chin
Assistant Treasurer	Kon Cze Yan (resigned August 2012) Grace Lim (w.e.f. August 2012)
Committee Members	Meera Samanther Kerina Francis Shoba Aiyar (w.e.f. August 2012) Grace Lim (co-opted as Assistant Treasurer)
Staff in attendance	Ivy Josiah (Executive Director) Sharmini Kanesamoorthy (Finance & Administrative Manager) Wong Su Zane (Social Work Manager)

WAO Committees, Groups and Coalitions in 2012

Staff and Finance Committee Mok Chuang Lian
Vivienne Lee
Chin Oy Sim
Carol Chin
Kon Cze Yan (resigned August 2012)
Grace Lim (w.e.f. August 2012)
Meera Samanther

Staff in attendance:

Ivy Josiah (Executive Director)
Sharmini Kanesamoorthy (Finance & Administrative Manager)

**Legal Aid Centre (LAC)
Representatives** Meera Samanther
Jessie Ang
Nazlina Abdul Ghani

**Coordinator for United
Nations High Commissioner
for Refugees (UNHCR)
Programme** Wong Su Zane

**International Catholic
Migration Commission** Wong Su Zane

Anak Angkat Coordinator Yogasri Sivanyanam

Volunteer Coordinator Ann Nunis

Website Design and Content Ann Nunis

**National Council of Women's
Organisations (NCWO)
Representatives** Shanthi Dairiam
Nazlina Abdul Ghani

**Joint Action Group for Gender
Equality (JAG)** Ivy Josiah
Meera Samanther

Representatives	Shanthi Dairiam Wong Su Zane Yu Ren Chung (w.e.f. February 2012)
JAG Fiesta Feminista	Meera Samanther Umadevi Rajah Denram
JAG Sexuality Group	Meera Samanther Ivy Josiah
Jaringan Pekerja Malaysia Representatives	Ivy Josiah Yu Ren Chung (w.e.f. February 2012)
Penan Support Group	Wong Su Zane Ivy Josiah Meera Samanther
Malaysian AIDS Council (MAC) Representative	Ivy Josiah
Member of the National Advisory Council (formerly known as NACIWID)	Ivy Josiah
Migration Working Group Representatives	Ivy Josiah Meera Samanther Wong Su Zane Yu Ren Chung (w.e.f. February 2012)
Reproductive Rights Advocacy Alliance Malaysia (RRAAM)	Wong Su Zane Ivy Josiah
Southeast Asia Women's Caucus on ASEAN	Ivy Josiah Yu Ren Chung (w.e.f February 2012)
Wanita Suara Perubahan	Ivy Josiah Yu Ren Chung (w.e.f February 2012)

Meera Samanther

Vivienne Lee

STAFF

Management

Ivy Josiah

Executive Director

Sharmini Kanesamoorthy

Finance & Administrative Manager

Wong Su Zane

Social Work Manager

Refuge

Wong Su Zane

Social Work Manager

Amy Hor Choi Fun

Night Supervisor

Jessie Ang Hoon Ai

Social Worker

Nazlina Abdul Ghani

Social Worker

Umadevi a/p Rajah Denram

Social Worker

Ermawati bt Ahmad Sanusi

Social Worker

Yogasri a/p Sivanyanam

Social Worker

Child Care Centre (CCC)

Shazwani Rhosky bt Fadzir

Child Social worker

Saraswati a/p Balakrisnan

Child Minder

Meryl

Child Minder

Erinee

Child Minder

Administrative Staff

Ammy Juliet

Administrator (resigned October 2012)

Vashani Perimbanayagam

Administrator (w.e.f. October 2012)

Divvyananthini Manoharan

Accounts and Administrative Assistant

Projects Officers

Ann Nicole Nunis

Projects Officer

Vivian Yap

Projects Executive

Advocacy Officers

Sarah Thwaites

Advocacy Officer (resigned in June 2012)

Yu Ren Chung

Advocacy Officer (w.e.f. February 2012)



2.0 WAO SERVICES

At the heart of WAO are our core services to women and their children. They provide us a reality check that informs us on how to shape and direct WAO's advocacy in order to achieve substantive gender equality. We are privileged to work and walk with very courageous women and their children.

2.1 OVERALL SERVICES FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Service	2011	2012
Refuge	110 women & 122 children	133 women & 116 children
Face to Face Counselling (FFC)	104	127
FFC for Refugee Women	35	95
Telephone Counselling	1347	2023
Email Enquiries	346	349
Child Care Centre (CCC) children	16	19

2.2 REFUGE SERVICES

Out of the 133 residents, 9 women were ex-residents and 123 were new residents.

Reasons for seeking shelter	Number	Percentage
Domestic violence	82	62.1
Single and pregnant	12	9.1
Rape	7	5.3

Migrant Domestic Worker abuse	9	6.8
Trafficked	11	8.3
Others	11	8.3
Total	132	100

2.2.1 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS

The majority of residents who sought shelter were Malaysians (83 women) and 14 were from Myanmar. The rest were from Indonesia, Cambodia, Philippines, Singapore, India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, China, Taiwan, Yemen, United States and Somalia.

The Malaysian women were mostly from Wilayah Persekutuan and Selangor. We also had three residents from East Malaysia. 106 residents were between the ages of 20 and 39, while 17 residents were 40 and above and 9 residents were below 20 years.

Although the background of the women is diverse, the women generally get along well with each other. When required, the staff communicated with residents who do not speak Bahasa or English through an interpreter, usually from the UNHCR.

Out of 132 residents, 82 were survivors of domestic violence. 22 women returned to their former situation.

Why did the women return?

- give the husband a chance
- financial reasons
- the husband agreed to change
- children's schooling
- illness in the family

DYNAMICS IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Every year, when we study the nature and type of abuse, psychological abuse rates the highest. Psychological (96.3 %), physical (92.7 %), financial (76.8 %), social (68.3 %) and sexual abuse (41.5 %) which shows that in any violent situation, the woman is subjected to multiple forms of abuse. It is also interesting to note that the high number of financial abuse cases manifest in many ways, including a husband taking the woman's money, depriving her of money and also using the woman's name to take loans that were not serviced, thus causing her to be blacklisted. For example when she wants to buy a house and needs to get a loan, she may not be able to do so. In short, these women remain disadvantaged by being subjected to financial abuse whether or not they have a job and financial independence.

Approximately 40 % of the women said that the perpetrator abused them for no reason at all. A large number, approximately 50 %, cited triggering factors such as jealousy, suspicions and financial

problems that brought on the abuse. **Substance abuse** by the perpetrator was also a factor, including alcohol (32.9 .0 %) and drugs (19.5 %), which are mainly ice, “shabu”, “ubat batuk”, etc. Most of the time it was a mixture of triggering factors, for example, an overly jealous husband is suspicious of his wife and starts hitting her under the influence of alcohol.

46.3 % of perpetrators and 29 % of the women came from a violent family background, 80.5 % of the women were abused by their husband or ex-husband while abusive parents and boyfriends also made up another 9 % each. Most of the abusers were intimate partners of the women.

HAVE THE WOMEN LEFT THEIR HUSBANDS BEFORE?

Many of the women, 61 of them, have left their home on previous occasions. Out of this number, 20 had attempted to leave at least once before and 9 left more than five times. They reconciled with their husbands for various reasons, especially after intervention by their families.

POLICE REPORTS

As part of our services at the Refuge, women get assistance for a medical check –up, access to the welfare department, courts and the police. With the police they are guided on how to make detailed reports and give statements. 54 of the domestic violence survivors had lodged police reports prior to coming to the Refuge. During their stay at WAO, we assisted 31 women in making police reports. Some of these reports were follow up reports as some women made incorrect reports or they needed to give additional information. Out of the 81 women who made police reports, only 20 requested for an Interim Protection Order (IPO)1 of them received their IPOs, and the rest did not get an IPO as the police did not open investigation files, their cases were not deemed serious enough.

WAO continues to lobby for better police response.

2.2.2 SINGLE PREGNANT WOMEN

Although WAO is uncomfortable with phrases like “single and pregnant” or worse still “unwed mother”, we want to capture the types of situations where women do get pregnant and may not necessarily have the support from their boyfriends, family or community.

There were 12 single pregnant women in the shelter throughout 2012, compared to 6 in 2011. All of them were between the ages of 18 to 29. 6 were unemployed, 2 were working and 4 were still studying. Out of 12 only 7 single pregnant women had consensual sex and the others were by force. 2 of the women came to us because they were unhappy with the conditions in the previous shelter they were staying.

During their stay at the Refuge, the pregnant women were sent for pre-natal check-ups on a regular basis and were also given information on nutritional intake, post-natal care and pre-natal advice. Since they were first-time mothers, they were also given counselling on how to deal with the stigma and discrimination that they might face. They were also briefed about the options available to them and their babies.

Out of 12 only 9 women said they had some knowledge about family planning. Only 1 used contraceptives. The others who did not use contraceptives gave reasons such as they thought that they would not get pregnant or their partner did not approve and one said she did not know how to use a condom.

7 of the women opted to give their babies up for adoption either to people that they knew or to couples selected by the medical social workers at the hospital and welfare department.

2.2.3 TRAFFICKED WOMEN

We received 11 women aged between 20 and 29 years who were trafficked and abused by their employers or agents. Most of them were referred by embassies. Among these women, 7 were brought in as domestic helpers, the other 4 were forced by the agent or multiple agents into sex work.

9 of the residents were safely repatriated back to their country of origin.

2.2.4 MIGRANT DOMESTIC WORKERS

9 migrant domestic workers from Indonesia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, India and Cambodia sought shelter. The problems that the workers faced included non-payment of wages, withholding documents, deprivation of food and physical abuse. The social workers then deal with the respective embassies, police, immigration department, airlines and if all goes well, drive them to the airport to return to their home country.

The social workers also negotiated with the employers to retrieve their wages and passports. The Philippines and Cambodian embassies were very prompt in taking action and our clients were able to return home in a matter of two months with all their expenses paid.

2.3 CHALLENGING SITUATIONS AT THE REFUGE

At any given time, the Refuge would have at least 15 women and 10 children. At one point we housed 22 women and 18 children. The social workers had their hands full and were pretty exhausted but were at times relieved by help from interns and volunteers.

For the first time in 30 years a perpetrator committed suicide and died in front of WAO's Refuge gate. This incident caused great trauma not just for the women and children who stayed at the Refuge but also the staff. Soon after the death of this perpetrator, there was another husband who came to the Refuge and threatened to commit suicide which created further anxiety.

Prayers and debriefing sessions were conducted for the women, children as well as the staff.

2.4 WOMEN'S PROGRAMMES AT THE REFUGE

In 2012, various activities and programmes were carried out for the women at the Refuge. Our thanks to volunteers like *Vivienne Lee, Goh Poh Kim, Annie Ng, Pricilla Siow Pui Yee, Koochithressia K. Thomas, Josephine Oon Kooi Lian and Tang Siew Fun* for their dedication and efforts in carrying out these programmes. Not forgetting our interns for 2012 *Upama Paul, Katja Annas, Lena Hagen, Anna Blechner, Amerun Aisyah, Auni Najihah, Praveena and Ashwin Ashok*.

Many of the activities and programmes are supported by various partnering organisations such as *Malakoff, Quota Club, Soroptomist International, Pride Foundation and Klinik Kesihatan Jaya*.

Through our diverse volunteers, interns and partners, we were able to design a wide variety of programmes and events catering to the many different interests of the women living within our shelter. Programs such as baking lessons, yoga lessons, beading lessons, English language classes and computer classes were held almost weekly, complemented by talks on breast feeding, breast cancer awareness and general health and hygiene talks. We also conducted occasional educational outings to locations such as the Pusat Sains Negara and Petrosains, as well as recreational activities such as visits to parks, forest reserves, and to the movies.

There was a special programme funded by Club21 in conjunction with their 40th Anniversary which was to fund a teacher who taught "Basic Survivor English". This was a five-day certification workshop attended by five women.

Our Annual Gathering in December had 150 residents, ex-residents and their children getting together for fun, food, gifts and games.

2.5 CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMES AT THE REFUGE

The Refuge housed 108 children who came in with their mothers. The children's ages ranged from newborns to 18 year olds. They came from various degrees of abusive situations and also were in need of physical, psychological and social support.

Child Assessments - the children were assessed to gauge the impact of their home environment. Social Workers who were not in charge of their mothers' cases were assigned to the task of talking to them so that one family is being taken care of by more than one social worker. Based on the child assessments, children workshops were organised to address identified needs. As of 2012, children were each given a pocket file to keep their personal belongings and books. Children were also given workbooks on English, Bahasa Malaysia, Science and Mathematics to facilitate learning. Interns *Amerun Aisyah, Auni Najihah, Praveena, Devise Oktana, Katja Annas* and *Upama Paul* lent a big hand in helping with the kids.

2.6 THANK YOU TO SPONSORS

WAO must put on record our thanks **to Yayasan Sime Darby, Malakoff, Gardenia Confectionary** and **Malayan Flour Mills** for supporting our Refuge and Child Care Centre services. A very special thanks to all donors and sponsors who donated groceries and to all those who sponsored food, door gifts and presents for our year end gathering. **Soroptomist Damansara** assisted one ex-resident to start a small business. Besides that, they also sponsored RM200 per month for groceries for a year for an ex-resident who has special needs.

2.7 WOMEN WITH COURT CASES

Social workers and programme officers continued supporting 17 clients who had court cases. In 2012, the court had subpoenaed 3 social workers to be witnesses for their respective cases.

Among the 6 domestic violence cases whereby the perpetrator was charged for criminal intimidation, 5 were for physical injuries and 1 for threatening to harm. Another 5 cases were rape, outrage of modesty, assault on a migrant domestic worker, sexual harassment and trafficking.

In 2012, there were cases with positive outcomes. There were two cases where the accused was sentenced. In the case where a work colleague raped our client, the perpetrator received 13 years

and 3 strokes. In the sexual harassment case, the perpetrator was sentenced to 1 day imprisonment and fined RM3,000.

In a migrant domestic worker abuse case, both the perpetrators (her employer and the employer's sister) were sentenced to 2 years in 2011. When the perpetrators appealed the judgement in 2012 the High Court rejected the appeal and in fact increased the jail sentence from 2 years to 5 years. The court also rejected a stay on the execution of the sentencing. Both perpetrators were sent to jail immediately.

In migrant domestic worker case involving trafficking and assault, the court ruled that prosecution was able to prove a prima facie case and called for defence which will be heard in 2013.

Among the 17 clients with court cases there were civil and syariah cases - 5 cases involved divorce, child custody and maintenance and the 2 syariah cases were divorce under fasakh, child custody and hartanah. All cases are still ongoing.

WAO would like to record our thanks to the watching brief lawyers who represented our clients. They are Goh Siu Lin of Messrs Shook Lin & Bok, Meera Samanther of Messrs Kang & Kang, and Norleini Kamal of Messrs Rusmah Arunan & Assoc.

2.8 TELEPHONE COUNSELLING

There was an increase in counselling calls received in 2012 by 676 calls, from 1,347 calls in 2011 to 2023 calls in 2012. We handled an average of 168 calls per month. Most of the callers called about domestic violence issues while others called about legal matters, sexual harassment, being single and pregnant and some called just to have someone to talk to. Most of the clients are from the Klang Valley although there were calls from other states including Sabah and Sarawak. Calls are exceptionally high after a television talk show or a media story.

In 2013, the telephone counselling calls will be taken in a separate room with a recording system. The social workers will have more privacy and able to focus solely on the calls.

2.9 FACE TO FACE COUNSELLING

There were 127 women who came in for face to face counselling in 2012 compared to 104 in the previous year. These sessions were held at the WAO Centre or the 3rd Centre as it is commonly known. Some of the clients came in because they could not speak over the phone as they were at work or their husbands were at home. They felt more comfortable in a face to face setting instead of talking on the phone. Their problems were similar to those who called in for telephone counselling.

2.10 EMAIL ENQUIRIES

There was an increase of 11 email enquiries. We received an average of 29 emails per month and a total of 349 emails by the end of 2012. Some of the emails were follow-up emails from the same person.

The public sends emails to request information about our services, procedures on getting birth certificates, welfare aid, shelter homes, housing and even crisis issues. WAO is currently a popular option for students researching on women's issues requesting for interviews and information.

Although some came only to interview us about our services (which they could easily get from the website) many others wanted our opinions on matters such as violence against women, the women's rights movement in Malaysia, single pregnant women and sexual harassment among other issues.

WAO ensures that all emails are responded to immediately. As emails are a very one-dimensional mode of communication, the language and tone that the message carries are given utmost priority to ensure that the clients feel reassured and get the support that they need.

2.11 FEMALE ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES

2.11.1 COLLABORATION WITH UNHCR

Our work with the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) began in 2003. WAO gives counselling services at UNHCR premises on alternate Tuesdays to women refugees.

In 2012, WAO provided 95 counselling sessions. These cases involved rape, attempted rape, sexual harassment, depression and domestic violence. There were also other issues such as difficulty coping living in Malaysia.

WAO provided shelter for 17 refugee women of whom 4 were referred by UNHCR (2 from Myanmar, 1 from Palestine and 1 from Yemeni). 1 was a rape survivor and 1 a domestic violence survivor, the other 2 were at our shelter with their family members waiting for assessments and interviews from UNHCR on their cases.

2.11.2 COLLABORATION WITH ICMC

The International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) programme aims to recruit 25 women from various refugee communities to form a Refugee Women Protection Corp (RWPC) which will in turn raise awareness in their community on Gender Based Violence (GBV) issues and provide assistance for refugees who face SGBV.

WAO was contracted to conduct training of trainers' workshops for refugee women who were recruited under the RWPC by community leaders. WAO also conducted an awareness training on GBV's issue for community leaders. Besides the usual training, ICMC had also engaged WAO to conduct a 24-hour training to assist the community in building a team of peer counsellor to assist survivors of gender based violence.

In year 2012, ICMC approached WAO to provide shelter services for survivors who were identified by the RWPC. ICMC referred 13 refugee women for shelter - 11 from Myanmar and 2 from Somalia. They were domestic violence and rape survivors.

2.12 LEGAL AID CLINIC (LAC, BAR COUNCIL)

Fresh out of university, these lawyers are obliged to spend 12 days during their chambering stint at various NGOs so that they may get "real" experiences before they go into the legal workforce.

Prior to coming to WAO, the chambering students were trained in three main areas; syariah law, family law and NGO work. Syariah and family law trainings are conducted by LAC-KL whereas the women NGOs' training is conducted by SIS, AWAM and WAO premises. From WAO, *Meera Samanther, Wong Su Zane* and *Nazlina Ab Ghani* conducted these sessions.

In 2012, we had 10 chambering students - *Koay Kar Ming, Sara Nanthini Dharmaraj, Lynette Tan, Tan Yan Yan, Cassandra Thomazios, Lee Wei Ting, Liyana Muhammad Fuad, Siti Zulaikha Mahadi, Prasana Karunamoorthy* and *Maizura Mohamed Amin* who came once a week for 12 weeks in a stretch. They were required to be on duty either on a Monday or a Friday, from 10.00am until 4.30pm. Each chambering student handled telephone calls, face to face interviews, documented cases and compiled statistical data of residents and ex-residents. They also accompanied some of the women to the courts, police stations and clinics.



3.0 SUPPORT SERVICES FOR EX-RESIDENTS

The Refuge is a response to a crisis situation when a woman needs a safe place for herself and her children. When she decides to lead an independent life away from violence, she faces many challenges; she has to cope with finding a job, housing, child care and earning enough money to support her family.

WAO realised this as far back as June 1985, when we developed the Anak Angkat Programme to help women who decided to make it on their own. Single mothers have a right to institutional support. Based on the experiences of our women, WAO lobbies for the government to set up affordable child care centres, low cost housing and financial support for survivors of domestic violence.

3.1 THE CHILD CARE CENTRE (CCC)

The CCC is a very special children's home, which solely caters for the children of our clients who had sought shelter at the Refuge. The children may have witnessed the domestic violence or be the victim of the violence themselves. CCC serves as a safe and temporary home for the children up to 16 years old, to allow their mother to rebuild her life, secure a stable job, have some savings, and eventually have a home so that they can live together as a family.

The number of children in our facility is kept to a maximum of 15 so they can be given specialised care and attention by a group of dedicated and trained full time staff consisting of a social worker and three child-minders who work on rotation basis. Social worker will help the mothers with regards to school transfer and kindergarten enrolment.

As the end aim is to unite the mothers with their children, mothers are encourage to visit or stay over during weekends or on their off days every week and spend quality time with their children.

3.1.1 NUMBER OF CHILDREN

In 2012, we had 19 children staying at CCC. There were 12 girls and 7 boys from 11 mothers. One of the children stayed for a month while most of the children have been living at the CCC for more than nine months.

The following table shows the number of children and the length of their stay.

Length of stay	Number of children
2 years	3
2 year	1
1 year, 3 months	3
9 months	2
5 months	2
4 months	1
3 months	4
1 month	1

Refugee Children

CCC housed four refugee children from Myanmar. Two of the children went to kindergarten, while another child had a chance to study in an international school in Genting. One child could not be registered in a regular school and was given home schooling. She was taught by our interns, *Jona Vantard* and *Tim Katzek*.

Two non -Malaysian children

Two teenage children admitted into CCC were categorized as non-Malaysian children as their mother is a foreigner and her marriage to a Malaysian man was not registered. Both children had not gone to school for more than one year.

It was a struggle to put them back into school as the procedure for admission of non-Malaysian children varied from state to state. Besides that not many schools were willing to accept non-Malaysian children. However, after pursuing tirelessly for three months both of them were able to get back into a government school.

The child who sat for her PMR exam was able to get five passes despite dropping out from school for the whole of Form Two. The mother sent a text to the staff *"Thank you WAO. I am so happy that my children finally can go back to school. I want to thank the CCC staff, interns and tuition teachers for providing my children the extra help in coping with the school syllabus. I am so happy for them."*

3.1.2 THE SMILE BUDDY PROGRAMME

"The Smile Buddy Programme" which began in October 2010 was coordinated and managed by *Ms. Urmila Dass and team*. The objectives of the programme were for the children to improve their social skills, increase their self-esteem, learn to build trust and cooperate with other people in the group. Each child is partnered with a buddy who mentored the child

throughout the programme on the above skills. The sessions/activities were held on Saturday afternoons. The coordinator helped by providing advice to the CCC child worker on certain children's weaknesses, gave feedback from each mentor and of course highlighted the positives too.

We would like to thank the following mentors for their dedication to work with the CCC children - *Mathew, Leena, Moni, Natasha, Amira, Amin, Rajur and Urmilah Dass.*

3.1.3 SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF DAMANSARA

In July, 6 CCC children took part in the Annual English Literacy Competition organised by *Soroptimist International of Damansara*. We are proud that one of the children won the second prize in the Writing Competition for Standards 1 to 3.

We convey our thanks to *Soroptimist International of Damansara* and *Dr. Saradha Narayanan* for their sincere contributions to CCC children.

3.1.4 VOLUNTEERS AT THE CCC

The staff are supported and complemented by a bigger group of volunteers who consistently come every week on different days to give extra classes in languages, science, maths and drawing and counselling sessions, playing games, sport, yoga classes and dance classes. Sometimes they take the children for outings like swimming, going to the playground or movies.

We put on record our thanks to these volunteers and organisations:

Urmilah Dass, Joginder Kaur, Vara, Sharon Hariharan, Carol Chin, Shireen Hariharan, Eva San, Ling Fei Wen, Danish, Arfah, Yen, Corine Gomes, Lai Ley Yoon, Annie Ng, Maheswari D/O Balan, Lim Hooi Pin, Clio Chan, Mira Bouwmeeste and the Community Baptist Church group.

3.1.5 MALE INTERNS AT THE CCC

We take pride in the fact that the CCC does pay a lot of attention to the children's special needs as they have survived domestic violence. We have four staff who were largely assisted by interns and in 2012 we were fortunate to have two male interns, Jona Vantard who joined us in August 2011 and Tim Katzek who joined us in January 2012. They helped in home schooling and acted as good male role models for the children.

3.2 ANAK ANGKAT SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME – 77 CHILDREN

Single mothers often face challenges affording the cost of living. Living on a low income can mean living in a substandard environment or simply going without necessary things like nutritious food, good housing, adequate medical care and educational needs for their children.

Hence, WAO has always been there to empower single mothers through the Anak Angkat Sponsorship programme, designed to help our ex-residents from the Refuge who have decided to live independently with their children, by giving them financial assistance of RM70 per month.

An assigned social worker is responsible for the communication between the sponsor and child via school report cards. In 2012, we had a total of 78 sponsored children. We were now able to see more engagement and commitment from our sponsors. Some of the sponsors attend the annual get together, while a few made home visit to personally meet the mothers or prepare gifts for their sponsored children during festive seasons.

The list of sponsors who sponsored one child:

Lim Hui Ru	Shamala Nair
Jacqueline Ann Surin	Onn Cheng Yoke
Lynette Yeow	Darina Yusof
P. Raj Kumar	Eswari Nagaraju
Julian C.H.Lee	Premila Sivam
Indra Kulasegaran	Subashini Selvaratnam
Usha Narayanan	Karpana Somasundram
Anna Maria Fenandez	Mohd Ariff bin Abdullah
Kevin Eruthiaraj	Kon Cze Yan
Subbiah / Kamal Gehi	Chan Whye Ling
Tan Sze Huei	Kamariah Mohd. Ali
Dr. Tan Lee Nak	Mok Tuang Wah
Gunathevi Sinnadurai	Dr. Resha A. Malik
Rachel Tan	Paul James Sapwell
Dr. Jayalakshmi Pailoor	Chin Kean Wai
Sharmila Begum	Tan Swee Mi
S. Imran bin S. Ahmad	Arne Hayn
Gordon-Lew & Co	YM Tunku Abang Faisal Amir
Dr Saradha Narayanan	Shirin binti Ismail
Fong Ju Li	Janice Soo
Phunita Thevathesan	Sheela Vasuthevan
Vincent Quah	Koh Man Choon
General Electric Int.Inc.	Tan Chwee Gek
Karla Ranie	Billy Akunna

These are the sponsors who sponsored more than one child:

Renee Marcia Chandran (3 children)
 Soroptomist International Club of Damansara (5 children)
 Putri Nor Shariza Noordin (2 children)
 Chan Chee Beng (3 children)
 Tracy Toh (2 children)
 Su Lee Soon Nee Yeo (3 children)
 Nariza Hashim Petra (5 children)
 Shamala Nair (2 children)
 Iskandar Hashim/Christa (2 children)

3.3 TUN TAN SIEW SIN MEMORIAL FUND

Upon the passing away of our patron Tun Tan Siew Sin in 1988, the TTSS Memorial fund was set up in 1990 to provide financial assistance, some seed money when women need to set up their home or start a business. Loans ranging from RM300 to RM1,000 are given to our ex-residents. In 2012, four women benefited from this fund. We have a balance of RM13,000 in the fund.

3.4 LEGAL AID FUND 2012

Services of lawyers are crucial in custody issues but these services can be expensive. With seed funding of RM40,000 from **Wheel to Wheel**, we began a Legal Aid Fund in 2012 to assist women who have to go to court. The recipients do not have the financial means and they are unable to wait for lawyers from the Legal Aid Centre or Legal Aid Bureau because of the urgency of the case. The cases are usually about fighting for custody of their children. Three women applied for the legal aid fund. In total WAO gave out RM9,200 in 2012.



4.0 WAO INTERNS

From just one intern in the 90s we now host almost 20 interns per year. In 2012, WAO hosted 18 interns from January to December. These interns hailed from Malaysia, Indonesia, Germany, America, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. Although we hosted less interns in 2012 compared to 2011 (22 interns), this may be because there were fewer interns who came in pairs from various universities.

Interns have always been an integral part of the WAO team. While most are placed at the Refuge and CCC, some interns assisted in advocacy, public education and fund raising activities. The interns' contribution to WAO was invaluable, as their various perspectives and suggestions helped make our work environment more dynamic.

It is great to know that we hold a good repertoire for internships as past interns at WAO have recommended their classmates and friends to join us as interns. WAO is also happy to have a good relationship with Antarabudaya Student Exchange programme (AFS) in Malaysia, who continues to attach their interns at our organization since 2009.

We thank the following interns for their assistance and involvement in our work and services:





4.1 HOW DID THE INTERNS CONTRIBUTE?

4.1.1 AT THE REFUGE

Majority of our interns were placed at the Refuge. At the Refuge, one of their main goals is to follow a case or two with a social worker. To accomplish this goal, they carry out a variety of tasks such as following women to courts and police stations, reading over reports and observing counseling sessions (provided our residents are comfortable with this arrangement and that the intern can also understand the language being used). Interns also conduct data entry, organise women and children's programs, assist in organising our Annual Gathering and teaching the children. They even attended other public education events such as talks, booths and bazaars.

Interns also plan and conduct a variety of activities for our women and children at the Refuge. Thanks to the dedication and frequent English classes conducted by Katja and Upama, the level of English of the children seeking at the shelter improved immensely. Ameirunaisyah and Auni also planned an outing for our residents to Pusat Sains Negara and Petrosains, an outing that provided an opportunity for the women and children to learn, have fun and to bond at the same time.

4.1.2 AT THE CHILD CARE CENTRE (CCC)

All our male interns are primarily based at the CCC. These interns were from Germany and came under Antarabudaya Student Exchange programme (AFS). The inclusion of male interns at our CCC has led to tremendous growth amongst our children as they learn from positive male role models who are like big brothers to them. Through behavioral examples and activities, the interns challenge the stereotypes of what a male should be. They also play an integral part in providing feedback on our children's development both emotionally and education wise. Through the dedication and commitment of Tim Katzek, the children explored new subject matter such as the history of the Olympics which led to the involvement of the interns in planning the first Mother-Child Olympics at WAO.

Some of our female interns also spent part of their week at the CCC. Together the interns planned excursions, games, activities and lessons all aimed at enhancing the children's education and social skills.

4.1.3 AT THE WAO CENTRE

Interns at the WAO Centre were involved in advocacy. They attended various meetings with other NGOs, talks, court proceedings and conducted small research on gender issues. The WAO Centre organizes fundraising and public education events and welcomed the help of extra hands. Some of the interns also assisted in the preparations for our Pesta WAO in conjunction with our 30th Anniversary. Research work done by Andie Tucker on best practices of the police in handling domestic violence cases provided us with useful information in tackling the effectiveness of the system in providing assistance to such cases. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank Ashwini, Josephine, and Jona for providing valuable feedback and assisting in the redesigning of our WAO Intern Handbook.



5.0 WAO Volunteers & Members

“Volunteers are seldom paid; not because they are worthless, but because they are PRICELESS!” Unknown

5.1 RUN FOR RIGHTS: A VOLUNTEER INITIATIVE

It is always great to see individuals taking time off and participating in our events and activities. It's even better when these individuals are inspired by our work and go the distance, in this case run the distance to raise funds for WAO. Volunteer extraordinaire Lai Ley Yoon teamed up with German intern Tim Katzek and took part in the Penang Bridge Marathon 10 KM run and raised RM 5,855.00. The pair did quite a bit of campaigning to get the word out, even going live on BFM.

Since our inception in 1982, volunteers have played a vital role in keeping the wheels of our organization well-oiled and functioning. In 2012, we continued to reach out to volunteers through an e-group, Facebook and our newly minted Twitter account. We do have many volunteers but not all of them are members but volunteers are given the option to become a member. By becoming a member of WAO, one becomes eligible to attend and vote at the AGM whereas volunteers are not. Only members are allowed to vote and be nominated for the EXCO committee.

5.2 VOLUNTEER DEVELOPMENT – 76 NEW VOLUNTEERS IN 2012

WAO holds volunteer orientations once every three months on a Saturday. A member of the EXCO committee also attended these orientations to get to know volunteers better. We'd like to thank our President, Mok Chuang Lian, for attending almost every orientation conducted last year. There were also orientations conducted on an ad hoc basis for some volunteers who were unable to make it for the Saturday meetings. In total, 76 volunteers went through both the weekend and weekday orientations, out of which 21 remained as active volunteers and another five, became members. Most of them were unable to join activities on a regular basis due to their work, studies or personal reasons. New volunteers became aware of WAO through the media, website, friends, universities/colleges, magazines, newspaper and public education booths.

This year, we saw more fresh graduates and working adults join as volunteers. Some working adult volunteers even contributed their expertise to the enhancement of our organization. We would like to specially thank *Hetal Doshi-Suhana Daswani* who volunteered her time to conduct our 2012 Staff Retreat training as well as training for our social workers.

5.3 VOLUNTEER LED ACTIVITIES

In 2012, WAO held a meeting with existing volunteers to plan a series of volunteer led activities. This meeting resulted in 7 fully volunteer led activities for our women and children. These activities included a Mother-Child Olympic Day, sandwich making, line dancing and even a movie education day which focused on mother-child relationships. Special mention and “Thank You” go to our volunteer Lai Ley Yoon for leading these activities and to all volunteers who made these activities possible.

In addition to the above activities, volunteers also helped out at public education activities, fundraising events as well as administrative work. Providing transport to the clinic, police stations, hospital and other outings organized for our residents and children and other regular activities such as computer classes.

Of course we must mention our most regular of volunteers who as members gave their time as the Executive Committee, meeting once a month to deliberate on WAO policies and to provide guidance to the staff.

We can end violence against women!
Violence Against Women is deeply embedded in all cultures, so much so that millions of women consider it a way of life.



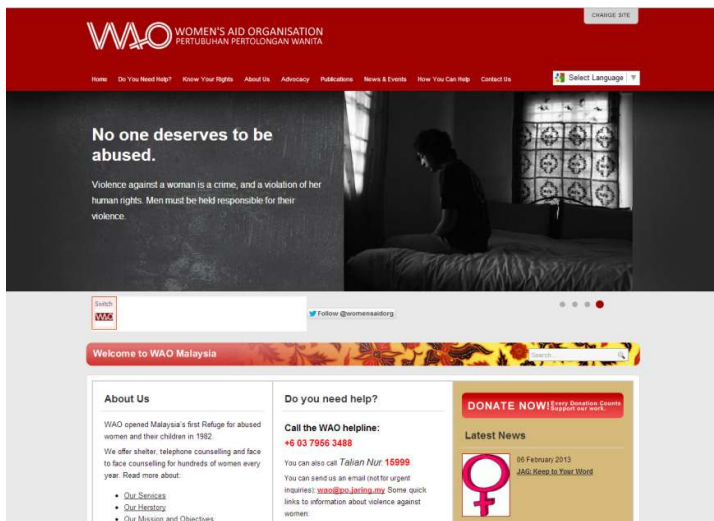
6.0 WAO Website (www.wao.org.my)

WAO was one of the first women’s organisations to set up a website in 1999. Since its launch, the website has received over a million hits and WAO continues to enhance its visual appeal and accessibility.

Our website has always been the main source of information for members of the public and funders who are interested in our work and services. In today’s digital age, our website is also a source where women in need resort to find out how they can reach us, the services we provide and other organisations they can contact for help. New content in the form of news, press statements, events and articles are uploaded consistently.

In 2011, the WAO website underwent a major revamp and the new look was launched in October 2011. The new interface was more user-friendly and allowed us to upload new content more frequently and quickly.

6.1 SECTIONS WITHIN THE WEBSITE



Snippet of Main Webpage

Throughout 2012, the website’s main page carried news and updates on our work, services, counselling line number, and news related to advocacy, fundraising and campaigns. The “Donate Now” button also continued to be a feature on our Home page as a sign for our constant appeal for much needed funds.

The website is divided into various sub-sections to enable easy navigation. A new section titled “Know Your Rights” was added last year. The sections are as below:

- **Home (Main page):** Picture reel, “Donate Now” button, summary of news updates, newsletter, basic details about WAO, contact details.
- **Do You Need Help?:** WAO contact details, summary on definition of domestic violence, signs an abuser is and is not changing, 15 ways to be a friend to a victim of domestic violence.
- **Know Your Rights:** Series of articles on various issues, for example rape, guardianship act, how to register to vote, maintenance and custody and many more. The articles brief visitors on steps they can take and legal limitations.
- **About Us:** Basic information of WAO (History, Mission & Vision, Objectives, Philosophy), WAO services.
- **Advocacy:** FAQ on domestic violence, rape and sexual harassment, findings on WAO’s research (Single Mother’s Survey), summary of JAG, migrant domestic workers and 35th CEDAW Session in NY, as well as a compilation of statistics from the Royal Malaysian Police (2000-2010)
- **WAO Publications:** Electronic version of the annual report, annual statistics, INROADS (newsletter), Malaysian NGO Alternative CEDAW Report, WAO brochures and booklets
- **News and Events:** Divided into 4 sections; news (WAO in the press), events, WAO press statements and press statements by other NGOs
- **How You Can Help:** Link to donate online, member and volunteer application, information on corporate support, summary of Anak Angkat program, child sponsorship form and vacancies.
- **Contact Us:** WAO contact details and operating hours, contact details of other NGOs.

6.2 UPDATES

There were approximately 45 updates in 2012, with an average of four (4) new articles every month. This is almost the same frequency level in 2011 where a total of 45 new articles were uploaded throughout the year.

Since 2011, four (4) new publications were made available online under the WAO Publications section. These include:

1. Annual Report 2011
2. Annual Statistics 2011
3. Quarterly Newsletter
4. Malaysian NGO CEDAW Alternative Report

These publications are in addition to other publications already made available online. The publications are listed below:

1. Organisational Brochure (English and BM version)
2. Service Brochure (English, BM, Chinese and Tamil version)
3. Body Shop Brochure on 16 Days of Activism and Safety Online
4. Single and Pregnant: What Are My Choice? Booklet (English and BM version)
5. CEDAW Booklet
6. Choose to be Safe (English and BM version)
7. Is Your Home A Fair and Safe Place Brochure
8. 16 Days of Activism 2011: Violence Against Women Brochure

6.3 POSTINGS

45 new articles, which include announcements, press statements, news articles, updates on fundraising activities and memoranda, were posted on the website in 2012. A list of the updates is as below:

POSTED 2012	ITEM
20 Jan 2012	MWG: The Migration Working Group welcomes the Ministry of Home Affairs recent announcement to allow migrants who were trafficked the right to work once released from government shelters
2 Feb 2012	EC Chairman and Politicians do not understand the Federal Constitution, Election Laws or the Income Tax Laws
21 Feb 2012	Association of Women's Lawyer's in Malaysia make their Inaugural radio appearance on Capital.FM 88.9
21 Feb 2012	Erykah Badu, Live in KL! Supports WAO through ticket sales
24 Feb 2012	JAG condemns anti-Ambiga smear poster campaign
24 Feb 2012	Wanita Suara Perubahan: A call for a clean government
6 Mar 2012	Wanita Suara Perubahan: ADUN's and MP's to receive an important package on International Women's Day
7 Mar 2012	Pink Heart Campaign: Unilever and Guardian unite to help address violence against women
7 Mar 2012	Happy International Women's Day! MSN interviews Executive Director of WAO and she picks her five must reads

15 Mar 2012	WAO: Why Are women marching on 18 th March?
23 Mar 2012	JAG: Women must be able to retire at the same age as men
5 Apr 2012	The wheels of justice come off track for 42 rescued Vietnamese women
12 Apr 2012	Clean elections for our children – The declaration of Mamas @ BERSIH 3.0
20 Apr 2012	JAG: Response to SUHAKAM on human rights violations based on gender
23 Apr 2012	BERSIH 3.0: Malaysia’s electoral fraud by numbers
23 Apr 2012	WAO’s President Mok Chuang Lian explains why she is joining BERSIH 3.0
8 May 2012	PROHAM: Appeal to end vendetta against Datuk S. Ambiga
10 May 2012	TENAGANITA: A letter to the Jakarta Post on corrections to be made on Irene Fernandez’s statements
10 May 2012	TENAGANITA: The truth about migrants in Malaysia
16 May 2012	JAG: Letter to the Editor on Malaysia’s questionable process of law reform
21 May 2012	Vigil held for maid who was starved to death
29 May 2012	WAO’s Vice-President Vivienne Lee on why “Dignity is Under-rated”
8 Jun 2012	UN Rights experts call for protection of NGOs working for free and fair elections
19 Jul 2012	Civil rights organisations deeply concerned by on-going violence against stateless Rohingya in Myanmar and their refoulement from Bangalore
9 Aug 2012	Open letter to the Prime Minister of Malaysia as the First male Women’s Minister
13 Aug 2012	JAG: Clarify judgment on national bowler
13 Aug 2012	JAG: JAG urges judiciary to clarify judgment in appeal of national bowler’s case
15 Aug 2012	JAG: Attorney General for judicial review of Court Appeal’s decision concerning national bowler
3 Sept 2012	COMANGO: Malaysian NGOs discuss ASEAN Human Rights
5 Sept 2012	JAG: Consider the needs and perspectives of our young people
6 Sept 2012	Launch of Malaysian NGO CEDAW Alternative Report 2012
13 Sept 2012	WAO launches 30 th Anniversary and speaks about IPOs
14 Sept 2012	Hong Kong’s transcontinental adventure ride for charity premieres on Nat Geo
21 Sept 2012	Women’s groups call to remove “public morality” from ASEAN Human Rights Declaration

21 Sept 2012	WAO: DV no longer a silent problem but still work to do
24 Sept 2012	JAG: Not a routine investigation on SUARAM
24 Sept 2012	WAO marks 30 years of empowering women
3 Oct 2012	JAG: PM must take Womens Ministry portfolio seriously
3 Oct 2012	WAO: Not up to PM to decide need of women's rights movement in Malaysia
3 Oct 2012	WAO celebrates 30 years of empowering women
9 Oct 2012	Pesta WAO: Celebrating 30 years of Empowering Women
19 Oct 2012	JAG: More consultation on rape laws needed before public response
25 Oct 2012	10 KM for 10K: Volunteers run for WAO
30 Nov 2012	Open letter on selecting Malaysia's next ASEAN Human Rights Commissioner by Southeast Asia Women's Caucus
12 Dec 2012	Beyond the baby hatch: Social causes behind the statistics

6.4 WEBSITE TRAFFIC

The total number for the overall website traffic was taken from January 2012 – December 2012. The total number of visitors in 2012 was 53,026 with 73.7% of the total being unique visits. Unique visits indicate the number of people who visited the website more than once within a specific period of time, i.e. users that return to the website. There was also an average of 2.51 pages viewed per visit to our website.

Please refer to the table below for the breakdown of the traffic.

Number of Visitors and Visits

Month	Total Visits	Unique Visits	Total Page Views	Pages per Visit
January 2012	2639	2026	7993	3.03
February 2012	3721	2777	10324	2.77
March 2012	4628	3429	12188	2.63
April 2012	4632	3528	11805	2.55
May 2012	4981	3672	12397	2.49
June 2012	4542	3441	10576	2.33
July 2012	3966	2955	9773	2.46

August 2012	3582	2647	8704	2.43
September 2012	4965	3657	12536	2.52
October 2012	5729	4255	13280	2.32
November 2011	5038	3419	11621	2.31
December 2011	4603	3289	10746	2.33
Totals	53026	39095	131943	2.51

Geographical Locations of Visitors

The geographical location of visitors is determined by the IP address of the visitors who come to the site. IP address is the address that is assigned to each computer that is on a network, such as the Internet. The top 3 countries that visited our website in 2012 are Malaysia, United States and United Kingdom.

This information is based on data provided by Google Analytics (January 2012 – December 2012) installed into the back end of our website by Just Simple.

The Top 10 countries from which visitors access the website is as follows:

Country	Percentage
Malaysia	87.06%
United States	3.46%
United Kingdom	1.90%
Australia	1.41%
India	0.99%
Canada	0.75%
Indonesia	0.74%
Germany	0.71%
Philippines	0.37%
Other*	2.57%
Total	100%

*Others: Thailand, Vietnam, New Zealand, South Africa, Nigeria, Pakistan, China, Japan, South Korea, France, Ireland, Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, and United Arab Emirates.



Women's Aid Organisation is on Facebook.

To connect with Women's Aid Organisation, sign up for Facebook today.

Sign Up

Log In



Women's Aid Organisation

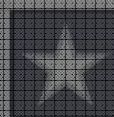
2,409 likes · 129 talking about this

Like



7.0 SOCIAL MEDIA

2,409



30

Engaging with social media and virtual communities has been great fun. However, this is a new area of work and we are still learning and improving. We are making efforts to improve our social media presence by sending staff for trainings on social media, such as the social media boot camp organized by the US Embassy on 16th February 2012.

7.1 FACEBOOK (FB) - www.facebook.com/womens.aid.org



Snippet of WAO Fb Page

The history of WAO on Fb started in late 2008 for 16 days of activism against VAW. At the time, we were the first NGO to have its own Fb account. Friends and supporters of WAO were invited to put up a customized logo throughout the 16 Days of Activism to show their support besides spreading awareness. At the start of 2012, WAO shifted all Fb activity from a Fb profile to a Fb page because we found that NGO's and corporations can only operate as a page or group on Fb and not a profile. However, while our page is now the centre of activity, our organisation profile still exists on Fb to serve as page administrator. To date the page has 2,217 likes.

Our Fb account's main function is as an interactive platform where WAO can put up news, links, events campaigns and press statements in a fun way to further promote discussion. It is important for us to present issues surrounding our cause in an interactive and visually appealing way to appeal especially to the young.

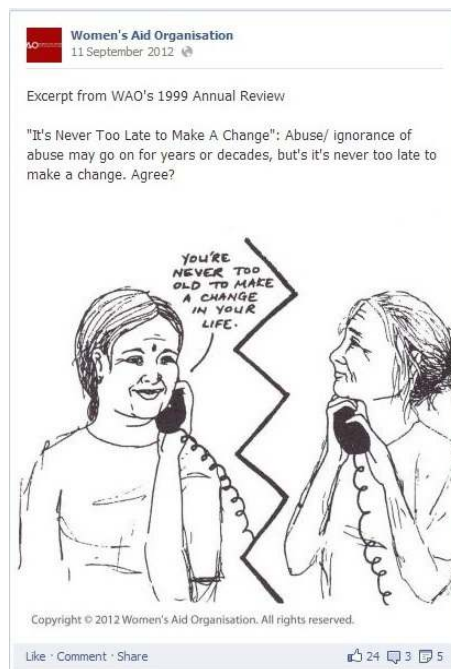
Our largest audience are made up of 25 year olds to 34 year olds and our second largest audience are within the age range of 18 to 24. While 75.9% of our followers are female, we hope to garner more interest from young men in our cause. We would like to note that percentages do not add up to 100% as not everyone specifies their gender on Facebook.

Our Facebook page is updated almost daily with current news, campaigns, press statements, images, and videos. These link sare shared with one aim in mind; to promote and spread awareness about domestic violence and women's rights. We found that the sharing and uploading of pictures/photos garnered the most shares from our Facebook community.

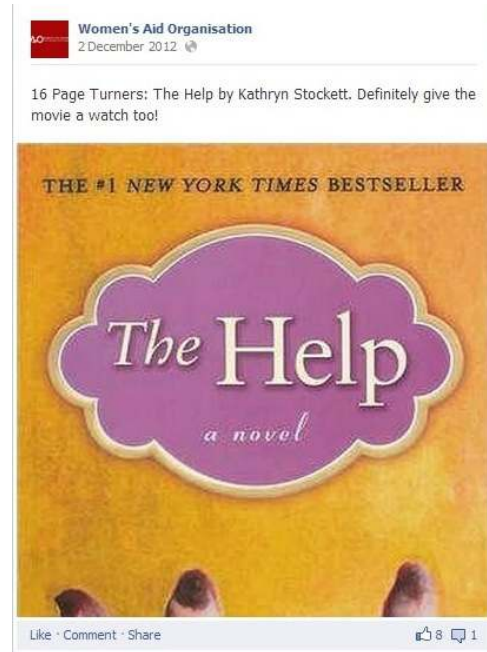
Apart from engaging in discussions on both local and international news on violence against women, we also receive messages from individuals seeking advice and help from WAO. These individuals are either victims themselves or a close friend or relative of a suspected victim. Individuals also contact us with queries on membership, volunteering or public education collaborations.

WAO had two online campaigns using social media last year; WAO's 30th anniversary and 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence. For our 30th anniversary, pictures and excerpts from past newsletters, annual reports and Pesta WAO teasers were shared on Fb. These posts did very well as

our followers were able to have a glimpse of the organisations growth over the past 30 years. The tone of the posts were kept light and fun so that followers could share in our excitement at reaching 30 years of empowering women.



As for the annual international 16 Days of Activism campaign, WAO had 3 major activities to commemorate the campaign, namely radio Public Service Announcements (PSAs) on Capital.FM, a walk in collaboration with Soroptimist International and also a ‘tweetathon’ with the Bell Bajao organisation in India. In addition to these 16 movies, books, and songs were shared on both Facebook and Twitter under the titles 16 Reels, 16 Page Turners, and 16 Anthems for Women. The list included cartoons with empowered female leads like Brave which families could watch together. Below are snippets of some post during the campaign.



7.1.1 FACEBOOK PAGE TRAFFIC

Statistics for traffic to our Facebook page was taken from January 2012 – December 2012. As of December 2012, our Facebook Page had a total of 1,973 likes compared to December 2011 when there was a total of 388 likes.

Traffic statistics are available via Google Analytics which is built into our current web design. Please refer to the table below for the breakdown of the traffic.

Number of Likes and Unlikes

Month	Total Likes	Total Unlikes
January 2012	160	0
February 2012	180	3
March 2012	334	0
April 2012	200	6
May 2012	119	5

June 2012	104	4
July 2012	108	1
August 2012	133	2
September 2012	277	15
October 2012	137	14
November 2012	128	13
December 2012	93	11
Totals	1973	68

Geographical Locations of Visitors

The geographical location of visitors is determined by the estimated location of the visitor who comes to the page. This estimation is automatically done by Facebook. The top 3 countries of visitors who come to our website are from Malaysia, United Kingdom and United States.

This information is based on data provided by Facebook Analytics (January 2012 – December 2012).The Top 10 countries from which visitors access the website is as follows:

Country
Malaysia
United Kingdom
United States
India
Singapore
Australia
Indonesia
Pakistan
Taiwan
Germany

*Others: Egypt, Ireland, Canada, Turkey, Sweden, Nigeria, Fiji, France, New Zealand, and Thailand.

7.2 TWITTER - www.twitter.com/womensaidorg



Snippet of Twitter Home Page

WAO's newly minted Twitter account (@womensaidorg) was launched in September 2012 in conjunction with WAO's 30th Anniversary. Our aim on Twitter is to deliver concise information on women's rights and information on where to get help. Besides being a platform for live chats and discussions with like minded individuals and organisations, twitter is also a tool that can deliver up to the minute information during events and forums. To date we have 696 followers on Twitter.

We schedule and tweet hourly seven days a week various types of information via Hootsuite (a social media management dashboard). Besides tweeting information, we also answer questions posed to us by the public. Hashtags are almost always included in our tweets in order to archive our topics and also to create new topics. As our account is new, we continue to build stocks of informative tweets from our website archives to be used at any given time.

These are the types of information tweeted out:

- Helplines: Names and numbers of various local NGOs, homes, welfare and police stations
- Know YourRights: Various information on IPOs, divorce, child custody, voting, polygamy, rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, birth certificates and other topics. These are tweeted with the tag #KnowYourRights
- Myths and facts: Tweets cover topics such as rape, domestic violence, sexual harassment in the workplace, and laws surrounding the above.
- Tips: These tips include how to be a friend to domestic violence survivors, how to obtain an IPO, what to do if sexually harassed or raped, and how to create a safe and fair environment for migrant domestic workers
- Warning signs: What are the signs to look out for in an abusive relationship

- WAO brochures and booklets: Snippets from our public education collateral are tweeted together with a link to the online version of the collateral
- News: Both local and international news are tweeted out
- Quotes: Quotes are based on feminism, empowerment and equality

In addition to the above information, we have also held two joint tweetathons with Bell Bajao (India) and The Star Editor's Choice. A tweetathon is an online discussion that takes place on Twitter and is moderated by a host profile. The public can either pose questions to us and we answer, or we can moderate a discussion on a particular topic. The response to both these sessions was very encouraging and we hope to hold more frequent tweetathons with both local and other international organisations.

WAO Twitter Campaign #WhyWomensRights

In October, our Prime Minister and Minister of Women, Family and Community Development Datuk Seri Najib Razak said that women's rights groups were not needed in Malaysia as equality has been given "from the start". The Joint Action Group not only released a press statement in reply to the Prime Minister's statement but WAO also took to Twitter to ask the public's opinion on why we need women's rights groups and movement in Malaysia. Tweeters were asked to tweet using the tag #WhyWomensRights. This campaign did immensely well and was covered by Free Malaysia Today.

Here are some of the tweets from followers:

#WhyWomensRights because women are still afraid of men, and in fear and dependency, they succumb to abuse - both physical and emotional.

#WhyWomensRights because people are all human regardless of gender

#WhyWomensRights because 14 year old girls can get married while not even be allowed to drive or vote.

#WhyWomensRights because somewhere RIGHT NOW, a woman is being raped or abused.

#WhyWomensRights Because how many Federal Court judges are female?

Women go on Twitter blitz against Najib

K Pragalath | October 3, 2012

They are offended that the PM has dismissed the need for women's rights groups.



PETALING JAYA: Several hundred women have resorted to tweets to protest against Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak for asserting that there is no need for women's rights groups in Malaysia.

The Twitter drive, which uses the #WhyWomensRights tag, is part of a campaign begun yesterday by the Women's Aid Organisation (WAO).

Najib, who is also Women, Family and Community Development Minister, said

yesterday that women's rights groups were not necessary because the government provided equality to all, regardless of gender.

The women on Twitter highlighted various issues of concern to women, such as gender inequality at work, marital rape, statutory rape, domestic violence, underage marriages, physical abuse and sexual harassment.

The tweets also referred to the low representation of women in the judiciary, politics and decision-making positions.

Article in Free Malaysia Today



8.0 PUBLIC EDUCATION

WAO engages with the public in several ways, either directly through talks or through the media. Our public education programmes are preventive measures against violence against women (VAW) as it provides the public an understanding on the nature of VAW and the tools to take action.

We receive many invitations to give talks at college events, seminars, workshops and conferences. Topics range from women's rights to domestic violence to sexual harassment and are presented to a wide variety of audience including expat societies, corporate groups and universities. In 2012 we managed to give a total of 44 talks.

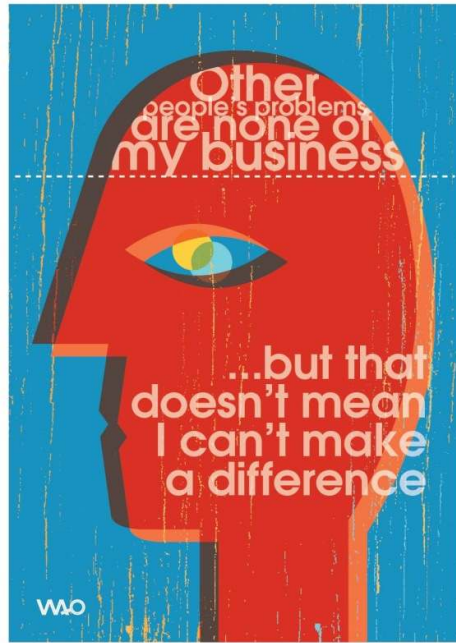
WAO's presence is also on radio and television. We would like to take this chance to specially thank BFM radio station for inviting WAO numerous times besides airing our radio Public Service Announcements.

WAO initiates campaigns, letters to the editor and press statements to respond to current issues, challenge attitudes, raise awareness and offer solutions to gender issues. Last year alone WAO was in the media 177 times (Read WAO in the Media section). We reach out to young people via universities in the form of public education booths and social media (Read Social Media section).

8.1 "THE PROBLEM" SURVEY

In 2012, WAO collaborated once again with **ARC Worldwide** to develop public education collateral to be used at public education booths to encourage interaction. A survey was developed by WAO and designed by ARC Worldwide. The survey comprised of five Yes/No questions on violence against women and sexuality rights. It included a section of answers that students could tear off and keep with them. Below are images of the survey that came in two different designs.

Design A



Most of us prefer not to think about other people's problems. But it's when we turn away from them that these problems – such as domestic violence and sexual discrimination – continue. Please answer the following survey, then tear off this section and drop it in our drop box. Then keep the remaining card, and learn how we all can be open-minded and treat each other better.

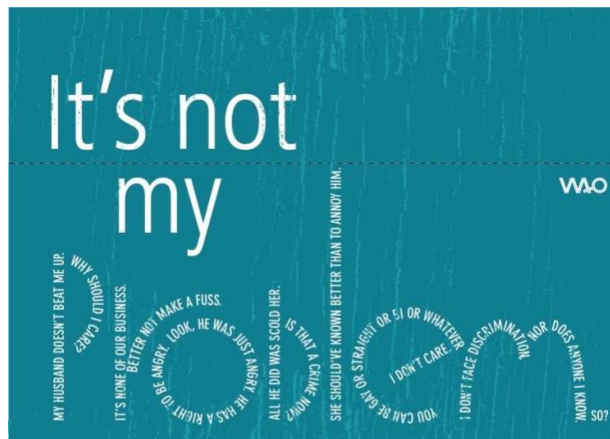
Age: _____ Gender: _____
Education level: _____

1. Domestic violence is a private matter and should be handled within the family. Do you agree? YES NO
2. Is it wrong to call your partner degrading names e.g. "you're stupid and fat and ugly"? YES NO
3. If someone is unfaithful to their partner, do they deserve to be hit? YES NO
4. If you suspect a friend is being abused by her partner, would you talk to her about it? YES NO
5. If your friend came out as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender, would you support them 100%? YES NO

For more information, visit these links: www.wao.org.uk www.facebook.com/womenanddrag

30
30 Years of Women's Aid

Design B



Most of us prefer not to think about other people's problems. But it's when we turn away from them that these problems – such as domestic violence and sexual discrimination – continue. Please answer the following survey, then tear off this section and drop it in our drop box. Then keep the remaining card, and learn how we all can be open-minded and treat each other better.

Age: _____ Gender: _____
Education level: _____

1. Domestic violence is a private matter and should be handled within the family. Do you agree? YES NO
2. Is it wrong to call your partner degrading names e.g. "you're stupid and fat and ugly"? YES NO
3. If someone is unfaithful to their partner, do they deserve to be hit? YES NO
4. If you suspect a friend is being abused by her partner, would you talk to her about it? YES NO
5. If your friend came out as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender, would you support them 100%? YES NO

For more information, visit these links: www.wao.org.uk www.facebook.com/womenanddrag

30
30 Years of Women's Aid

A total of 622 students took part in this survey with a breakdown of 372 women and 250 men. From the results, 63% of the total respondents agreed that domestic violence is not a private matter to be handled by family only. We were glad to see from the results that 95% of the students said they would talk to their friend if they suspected she was being abused by her partner, although 0.3% was unsure about what they would do if confronted with such a situation.

When it came to a question on unfaithful partners, 14% of women and 22% of men said that partners did not deserve to be hit if they were unfaithful. An interesting point to note is that more men (22%) than women (14%) said that an unfaithful partner deserves to be hit. On the issue of psychological violence, 74% of the total respondents said that calling a partner degrading names is wrong. This percentage was made up of 77% women and 70% men. Again, more men (30%) than women (23%) said calling a partner degrading names is not wrong.

The most provoking question was the last question which stated “If my friend came out as a lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender, I would support them 100%.” 62% of the sampled students said they would give their 100% support while a small percentage of 0.3% said they are unsure how they would handle this situation. Surprisingly, more women than men said they would not give their support to their friend. During the various public education booths where we handed out these surveys, there were students who explained why they would not give their support as they would instead try to “persuade” their friend to “turn away” from “this way of living” and that life is better as a heterosexual.

8.2 TALKS, TRAININGS, SEMINARS & WORKSHOPS

NO	DATE	TITLE/TOPIC	ORGANISED BY	PRESENT ER
1	Jan 4	LAC-NGO Training as SIS	Sisters in Islam	Su Zane
2	Jan 12	ICMC Training	International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC)	Su Zane and Jing Yee
3	Feb 2	Talk on Women & Gender Issues at Asrama Semai Bakti, Kelana Jaya	FELDA	Nazlina
4	Feb 14	International Conference on Principled Policing: Rule of Law, Public Order and Sustainable Development “ The Many Shades of Crime: Women, Rape, Abuse, Violence and the Police Reporting System” at Sunway Resort Hotel & Spa, PJ	ASLI and PDRM	Ivy
5	Feb 21	Workshop on Public Diplomacy and Media Skills 1/2012 : “The Role of NGO in Public Diplomacy” at Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDRF), Wisma Putra KL	Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDRF)	Ivy
6	Feb 22	Talk on Violence Against Women at Jabatan Pendaftaran Negara, Putrajaya	Jabatan Pendaftaran Negara, Putrajaya	Nazlina
7	Feb 22, 23, 24, 25	Training on Social Work Competency Framework Training of Trainers Workshop by UNICEF at Park Royal KL	UNICEF	Nazlina and Yogasri
8	Mar 7	Talk on Gender at Cybernatics College, Cheras	Cybernatics College	Nazlina
9	Mar 21	Talk on WAO Services in Leaders in Forum by CnetG Asia Sdn Bhd at Hilton KL	CnetG Asia Sdn Bhd	Ivy
10	Mar 24	Talk on Rights and sexual harassment for Tourist	Malaysian Women	Ivy

		Guides at DoppelKafe, Central Market Annexe by Malaysian Women Tourist Guide Association (MWTGA)	Tourist Guide Association	
11	Apr 10	Talk at the 2 nd Annual HR Senate : Breaking the taboo on harassment & Taking harassment seriously at The Ritz Carlton KL	Trueventus	Ivy
12	Apr 13	Talk on Sexual Harrassment at Segi University	Segi University	Ivy
13	Apr 16	International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) Training	ICMC	Nazlina and Su Zane
14	Apr 27	International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) Training	ICMC	Nazlina and Su Zane
15	May 2	Talk on Unwanted Pregnancy at University Malaya	Masters Students from University Malaya	Uma
16	May 9	Talk: NGO Panel for Regional Conference on Higher Education Community Industry Engagement : Forging Meaningful Partnerships across ASEAN & Asia. “ NGOs and Higher Education: Collaborating through Research, Education and Volunteerism” at UKM, Bangi	Asia Engage	Ivy
17	May 11	Talk at Seminar : Pengurusan Kes Keganasan Rumahtangga: Perkhidmatan NGO dalam membantu kes – kes keganasan rumahtangga at Pusat Perubatan UKM by Jabatan Kerja Sosial Perubatan UKM	Jabatan Kerja Sosial Perubatan UKM	Nazlina
18	May 31	The Competency Training for WAO Social Workers at Refuge	UNICEF and Malaysian Association of Social Workers	Yoga and Nazlina
19	May 31	Talk on Child Abuse at Fairview International School	Fairview International School	Uma
20	Jun 13	Talk on Kursus Pengendalian Kes Seksual at Keganasan Rumahtangga 2012 : “Pengalaman & Peranan NGO Mengendalikan Mangsa Kes Seksual & KRT” at Maktab PDRM KL (30)	PDRM	Nazlina
21	Jun 27 & 28	Talk on Gejala Social (Social Ills) at SMK Batu 8, Puchong	SMK Batu 8, Puchong	Uma
22	July 5	Seminar Pencegahan Pembuangan Bayi: “ WAO’s experience” at Sunway Pyramid Convention Centre by Lembaga Penduduk dan Pembangunan Keluarga Negara (LPPKN)	LPPKN	Nazlina
23	July 10	Talk on Domestic Violence at Hotel Citrus, KL	KLMU	Nazlina
24	July 14	Talk on Violence Against Women & Domestic Violence at PPR Batu Muda	PPR Batu Muda	Uma
25	July 14, 15	Workshop: JAG Islamic Behemoth Workshop at SIS office	JAG	Ivy, Meera and Ren Chung
26	July 18	Seminar Kesedaran Terhadap Jenayah Seksual Kanak – kanak at Maktab PDRM Cheras by Jabatan Siasatan Jenayah D11	PDRM	Nazlina and Interns

27	July 30	Talk on 'Remaja and Gender" at Uni KL, Gombak	UniKL	Nazlina
28	Aug 12	Workshop : "Raising children towards success" by Murshidah Said	Uma	Uma and Shazwani
29	Sept 11	ICMC Community Training on Awareness of GBV's issue	ICMC	Su Zane and Nazlina
30	Sept 12	Supervision for ICMC Peer Counsellor	ICMC	Su Zane and Nazlina
31	Sept 24	Talk on Rape Survivor at Hospital Tengku Ampuan Klang	Obstetrics and Gynaecology Department of Hospital Tengku Ampuan Klang	Ivy and Yoga
32	Sept 24-25	Talk : "Peranan NGO dalam Pencegahan Kursus Pencegahan Kecederaan dan Keganasan at Bilik Seminar Makmal Kawalan Penyakit, Bandar Botanik, Klang	Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Selangor	Nazlina
33	Sept 27	Forum : Lecture on Family Violence at Cyberjaya Medical Sciences College	Cyberjaya Medical Sciences College	Ren Chung
34	Oct 10	Latina Women Talk at Uruguay Embassy	Uruguay Embassy	Ivy
35	Oct 13, 14	Workshop: The Safe Abortion Project Nepal: Capacity Building: Abortion Advocacy and Human Rights Mechanism by Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR) at Kuala Lumpur	Reproductive Rights Association of Malaysia	Ivy and Su Zane
36	Oct 22	Workshop on Migrant Worker and Refuge	Tenaganita	Yoga and Uma
37	Nov 12, 13, 14	UNHCR/SGBV Regional Workshop in Bangkok	UNHCR	Su Zane
38	Dec 1	Talk on Domestic Violence and IPO at KL Legal Aid Centre	LAC, KL	Uma
39	Dec 3	Workshop for the Children : Knowing who you are by Chris Ng	Uma	Uma
40	Dec 3,4, 5	Round Talk Table Discussion: Regional Migration Consultation	IWRAW	Ivy
41	Dec 6	UN Human Rights Day at Park Royal. Ren Chung conducted the presentation	United Nations	Ren Chung and Shanti
42	Dec 13	Consultative Meeting on Advocacy and Strengthen Capacity for NGO's on Domestic Violence at Grand Paragon Hotel, JB	REKHA and KANITA, Kelantan	Su Zane
43	Dec 27	Talk on Domestic Violence at Menara Maybank	Maybank	Nazlina
44	Dec 28	Talk on WAO's Services at University Tun Hussein Onn, Batu Pahat	University Tun Hussein Onn	Nazlina

8.3 PUBLIC EDUCATION BOOTHS

No	Date	Title/Topic	Organised by	Attended by
1	Mar 28	Sek Men Keb Kepong, KL	SMK Kepong	Volunteers
2	Mar 31	Zouk Flea Market at Zouk Club, KL	Zouk	
3	Apr 3	Monash Humanity Fair at Monash University	Leo Club, Monash	Ann and Volunteers
4	May 5	Booth at PERKAMA University for Counselling Fair	PERKAMA University	Vivian, Ann and Volunteer
5	June 5 th & 6 th	Booth at UTAR for their clubs and society day	UTAR	Ley Voon and Intern
6	Jul 24	Booth at Taylor's Charity Fair (Jul 24 & 25)	CSI Charity Bazaar	Ann and Volunteers
7	Aug 14	Monash NGO Fair	Monash	Ann and Interns
8	Oct 2	IIUM Booth at IIUM	IIUM	Volunteers
9	Oct 24	MAHSA College NGO Awareness	MAHSA	Volunteers and Interns

8.4 INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED BY STUDENTS

No	Date	Title/Topic	Organised by	Attended by
1	Jan 31	On Tan Sri Napsiah by a Master's student from UUM (Kedah) via email	Student from UUM	Ivy
2	Apr 3	Impact of Domestic Violence on Women and Health with UKM Students at WAO Centre	UKM Student – Community Health Department	Uma
3	Apr 4	Interview by Chian Wen Sin (UM Masters Student) on CEDAW at WAO Centre	Chian Wen Sin UM Masters Student	Sarah
4	June 1	On Domestic Violence with UiTM Students at WAO Centre	UiTM Students	Nazlina
5	June 8	Women's Right by students from Sunway College	Foundation Arts Students from Sunway College	Uma
6	June 13	Crisis Intervention by New Era College Students at WAO Centre	New Era College Students from Department of Guidance and Counselling Psychology	Uma
7	July 17	On Rape with student from Multimedia University at WAO Centre	Multimedia Students	Jessie
8	Aug 30	Student Interview at WAO Centre		Nazlina
9	Nov 8	Student from UTAR, Mass Communication	Student UTAR, Mass Communication	Nazlina
10	Dec 5	On Rape with Students from UIA	UIA Students	Nazlina

8.5 WAO PUBLICATIONS

8.5.1 INROADS -NEWSLETTER

Inroads, WAO's newsletter began as early as 1992. The newsletter helps us to inform our members, volunteers and donors on women's issues and WAO activities. Producing *Inroads* was a volunteer activity and these Xeroxed copies were immensely important during those times before social media took the world by storm.

Each issue contains press statements and latest articles on advocacy work, interviews with staff, volunteers and interns, past and upcoming events and WAO's wishlist. The articles are simple and newsworthy. Aside from being informative, *Inroads* is also about relationship building. We constantly highlighted the help that we received from WAO's supporters.

In 2012, we only developed two issues of *Inroads* compared to three issues in 2011 due to the preparation of WAO's 30th Anniversary celebration which took place in September. This resulted in a larger spread of the final issue of *Inroads* with a special focus on staff, volunteer and intern in conjunction with WAO's 30 years of existence.

Inroads is distributed electronically via email to WAO staff, donors, members and volunteers. We also print and mail the newsletters to our supporters who prefer to receive a physical copy of the newsletter.

Issue (2012)	Pages	Link
January – April	11	http://wao.org.my/file/file/Inroads%20Jan-Apr%202012.pdf
May - December	16	http://wao.org.my/file/file/WAO%20Inroads%20May%20-%20Dec%202012(1).pdf



In total we recorded 177 WAO media appearances in 2012, the highest we have ever recorded, up from 105 in 2011 and 47 in 2010.

This includes 70 mentions of WAO, 52 comments by WAO, 26 letters to the editors (including JAG statements), 18 feature stories, and 11 interviews. The coverage includes print and online news, radio, and television, in English, Bahasa Malaysia and Chinese. The majority of the coverage was in English print and online news.

LIST OF PRESS COVERAGE IN 2012

NO	DATE	TYPE	TITLE	WHO	MEDIA
1	1 Jan	Comment in an article	WAO: Youths gain false sense of control with smoking and drugs	Meera	The Star
2	12 Jan	Interview (video)	Amended Domestic Violence Act	Ivy	BFM
3	27 Jan	Interview (video)	BFM Uncensored: Ivy Josiah, Women's Aid Organisation	Ivy	BFM
4	6 Feb	Comment in an article	Concern over jail term for teen mum who killed baby	JAG	The Star
5	7 Feb	Letter to the editor	AG's appeal retrogressive	JAG	The Sun
6	7 Feb	Letter to the editor	Respect the right of pregnant women to work	JAG	Malay Mail
7	21 Feb	Comment in an article	Watch Erykah and help the needy	Ivy	The Daily Chilli
8	22 Feb	Mention (television)	Queen of Neo-Soul : Catch Erykah Badu "Live" in KL on Feb 29	WAO	NTV7
9	24 Feb	Comment in an article	JAG condemns anti-Ambiga smear poster campaign	JAG	The Malaysian

					<i>Insider</i>
10	24 Feb	Letter to the editor	Anti Ambiga posters act of the desperate	JAG	<i>Malaysiakini</i>
11	3 Mar	Mention in an article	So, there's no life without maids?	WAO	<i>The Star</i>
12	5 Mar	Comment in an article	WAO gets RM50,000 boost	Ivy	<i>The Star</i>
13	6 Mar	Interview	MSN chats with Ivy in conjunction with International Women's Day	Ivy	<i>MSN</i>
14	6 Mar	Mention in an article	Women to help YBs keep their hands clean	WAO	<i>Free Malaysia Today</i>
15	6 Mar	Mention in an article	'Superwomen' berhimpun tuntutan tadbir urus baik	WAO	<i>Malaysiakini</i>
16	6 Mar	Mention in an article	'Super' women to rally for clean governance	WAO	<i>Malaysiakini</i>
17	8 Mar	Mention in an article	Connecting girls, inspiring futures	Ivy	<i>Malay Mail</i>
18	8 Mar	Mention in an article	Women's group mails white gloves to YBs	WAO	<i>Free Malaysia Today</i>
19	8 Mar	Mention in an article	'Super' women's 576 gloves demand clean governance	WAO	<i>Malaysiakini</i>
20	8 Mar	Mention in an article	Lebih 576 sarung tangan dihantar kepada ADUN	WAO	<i>Malaysiakini</i>
21	9 Mar	Mention in an article	Women's voice need for change	WAO	<i>Malay Mail</i>
22	9 Mar	Mention in an article	Women want clean governments	Ivy and Meera	<i>Selangor Times</i>
23	10 Mar	Mention in an article	Bersih leader barred from Sarawak	Ivy	<i>The Malaysian Insider</i>
24	13 Mar	Comment in an article	Defence minister's 'sexist joke' shocks activists	Ivy and Meera	<i>Malaysiakini</i>

25	13 Mar	Comment in an article	Kenyataan berbau seks menteri kejutkan aktivis	Ivy	Malaysiakini
26	13 Mar	Letter to the editor	Lynas - a ticking time bomb?	JAG	Malaysiakini
27	16 Mar	Mention in an article	Idola wanita Malaysia	Ivy	Utusan Melayu
28	16 Mar	Mention in an article	Smooth run seen for 'Super' women marches	WAO	Malaysiakini
29	16 Mar	Comment in an article	WanitaSuper to rally on Sunday	Ivy	Selangor Times
30	16 Mar	Interview (video)	'Super' women white gloves rally on Sunday	Ren Chung	Malaysiakini
31	17 Mar	Letter to the editor	Why women are marching on March 18	Ivy	The Malaysian Insider
32	20 Mar	Comment in an article	System failure for NUR Alert	Ivy	Malay Mail
33	23 Mar	Letter to the editor	Women must be able to retire at the same age as men — JAG	JAG	The Malaysian Insider
34	23 Mar	Feature story	Super Women to the fore	Ivy	Selangor Times
35	27 Mar	Letter to the editor	Why must women retire earlier than men?	JAG	Malay Mail
36	28 Mar	Mention in an article	Shoppers show their caring side	WAO	New Straits Times
37	30 Mar	Mention in an article	NGOs: Registration of social workers a laudable effort	WAO	New Straits Times
38	31 Mar	Mention in an article	Company donates more than RM170,000 for training of Down Syndrome children	WAO	The Star
39	10 Apr	Letter to the editor	Dismay over premier heading Women's Ministry	JAG	Malaysiakini
40	10 Apr	Mention in an article	Helping where they can	WAO	The Star
41	11 Apr	Comment in an	SHOWBIZ: Modern-day slavery	Su Zane	New Straits

		article			Times
42	12 Apr	Letter to the editor	One ministry just for women's issues	JAG	Malay Mail
43	20 Apr	Letter to the editor	Kedah's new fatwa ruling equates man's word to God — Joint Action Group for Gender Equality	JAG	The Malaysian Insider
44	21 Apr	Letter to the editor	I am joining Bersih 3.0 because I want my vote to count	Chuang Lian	The Malaysian Insider
45	23 Apr	Letter to the editor	New fatwa can't be challenged	JAG	Malay Mail
46	24 Apr	Letter to the editor	Hasmy's stance inconsistent with Suhakam's role	JAG	Malay Mail
47	24 Apr	Mention in an article	Why Malaysians overseas are joining Global Bersih 3.0 – Yolanda Augustin	WAO	The Malaysian Insider
48	26 Apr	Mention in an article	Why M'sians overseas joining global Bersih 3.0	WAO	Malaysiakini
49	30 Apr	Mention in an article	Labour Day rally not in Dataran Merdeka	WAO	Free Malaysia Today
50	9 May	Comment in an article	Bersih endorsees: Don't be distracted by government spin	Ivy	Malaysiakini
51	9 May	Comment in an article	Bersih mulls new strategies for electoral reforms push	Ivy and Meera	The Malaysian Insider
52	10 May	Mention in an article	Bersih chief: It's an invasion of my privacy	Ivy	Malaysiakini
53	13 May	Mention in an article (Dear Thelma)	Committed to a miserable union	WAO	The Star
54	15 May	Letter to the editor	Malaysia's questionable process of law reform	JAG	Free Malaysia Today
55	15 May	Letter to the editor	Malaysia's questionable process of law reform	JAG	Malaysiakini
56	24 May	Comment in an article	Family court system flawed, says WAO	Ivy	Malay Mail

57	24 May	Mention in an article	Perang MasterChef Selebriti bermula	WAO	Harian Metro
58	25 May	Comment in an article	Court stops mother, child reunion	Ivy	Selangor Times
59	25 May	Mention in an article	Sistem perundangan gagal beri keadilan kepada pekerja	Ivy	Free Malaysia Today
60	27 May	Mention in an article (Dear Thelma)	Seeking a home for son	WAO	The Star
61	29 May	Letter to the editor	Dignity is under-rated	Vivienne Lee	The Malaysian Insider
62	30 May	Comment in an article	Family support vital for rape survivors	Ivy	The Star
63	8 Jun	Mention in an article	Book banning frenzy must end	WAO	Selangor Times
64	10 Jun	Comment in an article	Women want peace of mind at car parks	Ivy	The Star
65	14 Jun	Mention in an article	Rugby glamour boys touch down	WAO	The Star
66	14 Jun	Mention in an article	Politics, civil societies should not mix	WAO	New Straits Times
67	19 Jun	Mention in an article	Latin Americans' support system helps newcomers settle in fast	WAO	The Star
68	22 Jun	Mention in an article	NGOs to 'celebrate' year's most sexist statements	WAO and JAG	Malaysiakini
69	23 Jun	Mention in an article	Ibrahim Ali and OWC bag inaugural 'sexist' awards	Ivy and JAG	Malaysiakini
70	23 Jun	Mention in an article	Ibrahim Ali, Kelab Isteri Taat 'menang' anugerah seksis	Ivy and JAG	Malaysiakini
71	24 Jun	Mention in an article	Aiyoh Wat Lah 頒獎禮	WAO and JAG	Guang Ming

72	25 Jun	Mention in an article	Ibrahim mocks JAG award for sexism	JAG	Malaysiakini
73	25 Jun	Mention in an article	Ibrahim Ali 'berbesar hati' dengan anugerah seksis	JAG	Malaysiakini
74	26 Jun	Mention in an article	Fashion retailer celebrates success by helping women	WAO	The Star
75	26 Jun	Interview (radio)	Aiyo, What Lah Awards	Meera and JAG	BFM
76	26 Jun	Feature story	Awards for homophobia and misogyny in Malaysia	JAG	Gay Star News
77	28 Jun	Mention in an article	Putrajaya night marathon returns	WAO	New Straits Times
78	28 Jun	Comment in an article	Fangs out for Phang	Chuang Lian	Malay Mail
79	29 Jun	Feature story	Ridiculed for trivialising women issues	JAG	Malay Mail
80	29 Jun	Comment in an article	JAG questions Najib's silence on 'hang Ambiga' issue	JAG	Malaysiakini
81	29 Jun	Comment in an article	'Najib's remark at odds with post of women's minister'	JAG	Malaysiakini
82	30 Jun	Mention in an article	School gives RM152,000 to sick kids	WAO	New Straits Times
83	2 Jul	Mention in an article	Lempeng Tomok Gagal Pikat Juri	WAO	Astro
84	5 Jul	Mention in an article	Obedient Wives Club shrugs off sexist award	JAG	Malaysiakini
85	5 Jul	Mention in an article	Anugerah seksis tak ganggu fokus Kelab Taat Suami	JAG	Malaysiakini
86	14 Jul	Comment in an article	Malaysia women groups hope new security initiative to boost car park safety	Ivy	Bikyamasr
87	14 Jul	Comment in an article	Women's groups welcome plan	Ivy	The Star
88	14 Jul	Comment in an article	Women's groups welcome plan	Ivy	Asiaone
89	1 Aug	Comment in an article	Sweet-talked into running away	Ivy	New Straits Times
90	1 Aug	Comment in an	WAO: Stop taking media on anti-vice	Ivy	Malaysiakini

		article	raids		
91	1 Aug	Comment in an article	WAO: Jangan bawa media ke operasi anti-maksiat	Ivy	Malaysiakini
92	2 Aug	Comment in an article	<u>Malaysian women frustrated that drug penalties harsher than sexual violence</u>	Ivy	Bikyamasr
93	4 Aug	Mention in an article	CIJ: Media necessary during anti-vice raids	WAO	Malaysiakini
94	8 Aug	Mention in an article	Love passed on	WAO	New Straits Times
95	8 Aug	Mention in an article	CIJ to launch Internet blackout day next Tuesday	WAO	Malaysiakini
96	10 Aug	Letter to the editor	Judiciary should clarify judgment — Joint Action Group for Gender Equality (JAG)	JAG	The Malaysian Insider
97	12 Aug	Comment in an article	Clarify judgment on bowler	JAG	The Star
98	12 Aug	Mention in an article	Public outrage as national bowler escapes jail for sex with minor	JAG	The Malaysian Insider
99	13 Aug	Mention in an article	Internet heavyweights rally against Evidence Act change	WAO	Malaysiakini
100	13 Aug	Mention in an article	Malaysian women's groups question court over leniency in bowler's rape case	JAG	China Post
101	13 Aug	Mention in an article	DAP, Bar Council to go dark on Internet Blackout Day	WAO	Malaysiakini
102	14 Aug	Mention in an article	So what's with the black pop-up?	WAO	Malaysiakini
103	14 Aug	Mention in an article	Jadi, apa dia pop-up hitam ini?	WAO	Malaysiakini
104	15 Aug	Comment in an article	Apply for review of bowler's rape case decision, A-G urged	JAG	The Star
105	22 Aug	Comment in an article	Robes for those held in vice raids	WAO	New Straits Times
106	26 Aug	Mention in an article	Swap, don't junk	WAO	The Star
107	30 Aug	Comment in an	Women's groups: Sentence trivialises	Ivy	Malay Mail

		article	exploitation of minors		
108	30 Aug	Comment in an article	Groups disappointed over light sentences	Ivy	The Star
109	30 Aug	Letter to the editor	We need to protect our children from rape	JAG	Malaysiakini
110	30 Aug	Comment in an article	Statutory rape: 'Can a child consent to sex?'	Ivy	Malaysiakini
111	30 Aug	Comment in an article	'Munasabahkah kanak-kanak izin lakukan seks?'	Ivy	Malaysiakini
112	31 Aug	Letter to the editor	Consider the needs and perspectives of our young	JAG	Free Malaysia Today
113	31 Aug	Letter to the editor	Consider the needs and perspectives of our young — Joint Action Group for Gender Equality	JAG	The Malaysian Insider
114	3 Sept	Mention in an article	Getting cardholders to spend and contribute to the community	WAO	The Star
115	5 Sept	Comment in an article	'Keep people's interest in mind'	Ivy	New Straits Times
116	5 Sept	Comment in an article	Not wrong to seek help	Ivy	Malay Mail
117	7 Sept	Feature story	Government owes UN at least three reports	WAO	Malay Mail
118	7 Sept	Feature story	Alternative report examines government's commitment to Cedaw	WAO	The Sun
119	8 Sept	Comment in an article (video)	M'sian and regional NGOs 'stand up for Suaram	Ivy	Malaysiakini
120	9 Sept	Letter to the editor	JAG took action	JAG	The Star
121	10 Sept	Interview (radio)	The Meaning of Consent	Ivy	BFM
122	11 Sept	Mention in an article	'Government also funded foreign NGOs'	WAO	Free Malaysia Today
123	12 Sept	Comment in an article	NGOs gather in support of Suaram	Ivy	The Star
124	12 Sept	Feature story	Plea for victims of domestic violence	Ivy	The Sun Daily
125	12 Sept	Feature story	WAO: Interim Protection Orders	Ivy	The Edge

			should include more details		
126	12 Sept	Feature story	More funds needed to fight domestic violence	Ivy and Vivienne	Free Malaysia Today
127	12 Sept	Feature story (video)	Legal protection for abused victims	Ivy and Ann Nunis	SwitchUp.tv
128	13 Sept	Feature story	30 years on, WAO continues to face hurdles	Ivy and Chuang Lian	Malay Mail
129	13 Sept	Feature story	WAO's 30th birthday wish	Ivy	The Star
130	14 Sept	Feature story	WAO marks 30 years of empowering women	Ivy and Chuang Lian	Selangor Times
131	18 Sept	Comment in an article	M'sian and regional NGOs 'stand up for Suaram'	Ivy	Malaysiakini
132	18 Sept	Comment in an article	Young mother needs rehabilitation, say NGOs	Ivy	Malay Mail
133	21 Sept	Feature story	Domestic violence no longer a silent problem	Ivy	Selangor Times
134	21 Sept	Comment in an article	Public Morality Outrage	Ren Chung	SEA Globe
135	24 Sept	Comment in an article	Stop Bullying Suaram	JAG	Malaysiakini
136	24 Sept	Letter to the editor	Not a routine investigation	JAG	Free Malaysia Today
137	25 Sept	Interview (radio)	Women's Aid Organisation Celebrates 30th Anniversary	Ivy and Yogasri	BFM
138	26 Sept	Mention in an article	Guardian reopens after makeover	WAO	New Straits Times
139	27 Sept	Mention in an article	Guardian unveils new look with charity giveaway	Ivy	The Star
140	27 Sept	Interview (radio)	WAO's 30 th Year Anniversary	Ivy	Capital FM
141	1 Oct	Comment in an article	'Have more long-term policies to empower women'	Ivy	The Star
142	2 Oct	Letter to the editor	PM must take women's ministry	JAG	The Malaysian

			portfolio seriously		Insider
143	2 Oct	Comment in an article	Women angry with Najib	Ivy	Free Malaysia Today
144	3 Oct	Mention in an article	Women go on Twitter blitz against Najib	WAO	Free Malaysia Today
145	3 Oct	Comment in an article	Women's rights: Azalina defends Najib	Ivy	Free Malaysia Today
146	3 Oct	Mention in an article	Wanita Pakatan: Najib clueless about women's plight	Ivy	Malaysiakini
147	4 Oct	Comment in an article	Laws still biased against us, women's NGOs tell PM	JAG	Malaysiakini
148	5 Oct	Feature story	A case for sex education	Ivy	Selangor Times
149	5 Oct	Feature story	30 years of empowering women	WAO	New Straits Times
150	5 Oct	Feature story	Day of fun for WAO	WAO	Selangor Times
151	7 Oct	Feature story (television)	Wheel2Wheel	WAO	Nat Geo Adventure
152	7 Oct	Mention in an article	The women's room in Malaysia	Sarah Thwaites	Malaysiakini
153	9 Oct	Comment in an article	Women's issues trifling to Najib	Ivy	Free Malaysia Today
154	11 Oct	Mention in an article	Mahkamah tolak permohonan semakan 4 mak andam	WAO	Sinar Harian
155	16 Oct	Interview (Twitter)	The Star Editor's Choice #AskWAO	Ivy	The Star
156	19 Oct	Comment in an article	Kerajaan teliti pinda hukuman rogol gadis bawah umur	JAG	Berita Harian
157	21 Oct	Mention in an article	FAMILY: Help stop the abuse	WAO	New Straits Times
158	25 Oct	Mention in an article	Alfred Eisenstaedt's The Kissing Sailor	Su Zane	The Star
159	1 Nov	Letter to the editor	Consultation Required on Rape Laws	JAG	Ipoh Echo

160	8 Nov	Interview (radio)	Volunteerism	Ley Yoon and Tim	BFM
161	10 Nov	Feature story	Taboo topic child marriage gets an airing	WAO	Malaysiakini
162	18 Nov	Mention in an article	Bite-size delights	WAO	New Straits Times
163	23 Nov	Comment in an article	Rosmah Mansor defends controversial 'public morality' clause	Ivy	Phnom Penh Post
164	26 Nov	Letter to the editor	Opaque selection of rights commissioner	Women's Caucus	Malaysiakini
165	26 Nov	Letter to the editor	Initiate open, transparent and inclusive method	Women's Caucus	Malay Mail
166	30 Nov	Mention in an article	Now cops after Suaram for illegal assembly	Ivy	Malaysiakini
167	December issue	Interview	Are We Taking Rape Seriously?	Ivy	<i>Marie Claire</i>
168	2 Dec	Mention in an article	Sime Darby widens charitable works	WAO	New Straits Times
169	4 Dec	Mention in an article	Ipoh afoot to end violence against women	WAO	New Straits Times
170	7 Dec	Mention in an article	BSN kumpul RM104,500	WAO	Berita Harian
171	11 Dec	Mention in an article	Inspirasi capai kejayaan hidup	Ivy	Harian Metro
172	11 Dec	Mention in an article	Beyond the Baby Hatch	WAO	Poskod.my
173	20 Dec	Comment in an article	Women's groups unimpressed by Mafor	Ivy	The Star
174	21 Dec	Comment in an article	First woman mayor will fulfil her duties the best she can	WAO	The Star
175	21 Dec	Comment in an article	Women's groups hail choice of female mayor	Ivy	Malay Mail
176	23 Dec	Mention in an article	The sport of 'sharing & caring'	WAO	The Star
177	31 Dec	Comment in an article	Call to reveal rape statistics	Ivy	The Sun Daily

JAG condemns anti-Ambiga smear poster campaign

By Lisa J. Ariffin

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 24 — The Joint Action Group for Gender Equality (JAG) today condemned lurid posters depicting Datuk Ambiga Sreenevasan as an advocate for “free sex”.

"JAG is appalled by the campaign to tarnish the character of Ambiga. We are shocked that fellow Malaysians can treat human rights defenders so poorly," JAG said today in a press statement.

"The posters insult the intelligence of Malaysians, who can see that they are a crude attempt to discredit Bersih 2.0," they added.

The group said the intent of the posters was to link Ambiga with the Seksualiti Merdeka festival, "itself the focus of a smear campaign and wrongly accused of promoting free sex".

"Seksualiti Merdeka is an annual festival that provides a safe space for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities to come together to share knowledge about human rights," they explained.

"Ambiga was never involved in the organising of Seksualiti Merdeka, but was invited by the organisers to launch the festival," they added.

JAG further condemned the continued vilification of Malaysians who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.

"To employ terms that identify diverse sexual orientations and gender identities as an insult perpetuates a culture of stigmatisation, persecution and hatred," they said.

"Such actions should not be tolerated."

JAG is a coalition comprising seven women's rights groups, including Women's Aid Organisation (WAO), Sisters in Islam (SIS) and All Women's Action Society (AWAM).

Earlier this month, ten people were arrested in connection with derogatory posters of Ambiga claiming, "A vote for Ambiga is a vote for free sex", that were put up at several bus stops in Taman Tun Dr Ismail near here.

Penang Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng and national laureate Datuk A. Samad Said, who is Bersih 2.0 co-chairman, were also not spared.

Last year, tens of thousands took to the streets to support Bersih's July 9 rally for clean and fair elections in defiance of warnings of police action, which finally resulted in nearly 1,700 arrests, scores injured and one ex-soldier dead.

The government crackdown had led to international criticism. It also led to a group of Malaysians protesting when Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak visited London, a rare experience for any Malaysian prime minister abroad.



10.0 ADVOCACY

10.1 CEDAW NGO ALTERNATIVE REPORT REPORT ASSESSING THE GOVERNMENT'S PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

Malaysia acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1995, and is obliged to report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW Committee) every four years.

In the Government's previous appearance before the CEDAW Committee in 2006, the CEDAW Committee invited the Government to submit its 3rd periodic report, due in 2004, and its 4th periodic report, due in 2008, in a combined report by August 2008. Unfortunately, the government has yet to submit this combined report to the Committee.

In lieu of the Government's report, Malaysian NGOs published an "Alternative Report", a version of which will eventually be submitted to the CEDAW Committee. Twenty-one NGOs, led by Women's Aid Organisation, contributed to the report.

The report, which is in effect a report card on the government's progress in implementing the CEDAW Convention, provides details of the continuing gender discrimination in our country. Disappointingly, the Malaysian government has not incorporated the CEDAW Convention into national law. There is no gender equality legislation in place providing for the comprehensive realisation of substantive equality of women with men in both public and private spheres of life.

The Alternative Report details the status of the implementation of the recommendations given to the Malaysian Government after the Committee review in 2006. The Report further gives examples of the impact of gender discrimination, including: the continued under-representation of women in politics and decision-making positions; the consistently low rate of women's participation in the labour force; the lack of labour rights afforded to migrant domestic workers and their continued vulnerability to abuse; the non-recognition of refugees' identity; the legal permissibility of child marriage; the policing of morality; the lack of comprehensive, rights-based sex education; and the continued non-recognition of marital rape.

The report is available at the [WAO website](#), and hard copies will be available at bookstores and at libraries. In 2013, WAO will translate the report into Bahasa Malaysia.



10.2 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Advocating for Improved Laws, Policies, and Practices

In 2012, WAO continued a number of domestic violence advocacy initiatives. In late 2011, the Domestic Violence (Amendment) Bill was introduced and passed into law, recognising psychological violence as a form of domestic violence, among other amendments. One of the areas of focus of WAO's domestic violence advocacy in 2012 was how this amendment would be implemented. Additional focus areas included implementation of other aspects of the Domestic Violence Act (DVA), and obtaining periodic data on domestic violence. In our advocacy work, we engaged with the Performance Management & Delivery Unit (PEMANDU), the Ministry of Women, Family, and Community Development (MWFC), and the Criminal Investigation Division (CID) of the Royal Malaysian Police, among others.

WAO also continued to advocate for better public awareness of domestic violence issues; this will be elaborated in the Public Education section.

10.2.1 MONITORING IMPLEMENTATION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT (DVA) AMENDMENTS

PSYCHOLOGICAL VIOLENCE

In the beginning of the year, government agencies were still working out how to enforce the amendments regarding psychological violence. In May 2012, it was clarified that Sections 44, 190, 350 and 503 of the Penal Code can be used in cases of psychological violence.

However, we are not aware of any instances where protection against psychological violence was provided under the DVA. Some of WAO's clients were still told by police officers that they could not be protected against psychological abuse. In one case, a woman who reported to the police in May 2012 that her husband had threatened to kill her and kidnap her child was told by the police officer that he was "still her husband and the police would only be able to take action when something bad happened".

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AS A SEIZABLE OFFENSE

The amendment made domestic violence a seizable offense, which eliminates the need for the investigating officer (IO) to get an order to investigate (OTI) from the Public Prosecutor to begin investigations, a process which generally takes 1-4 days. It also allows police to arrest without a warrant. However, most offenses are charged under Section 323 of the Penal Code, pertaining to non-seizable offenses.

The Royal Malaysian Police indicated that police officers give priority to the use of the Penal Code. The Attorney General's Chambers is looking into this contradiction.

10.2.2 IMPROVEMENTS TO DVA ENFORCEMENT

WAO met with the Police twice, PEMANDU twice, and MWFC on the above agenda, including requesting for IPOs to be more detailed, highlighting the need to sensitise frontline police officers, and calling for inter-agency meetings on domestic violence to be held regularly. This inter-agency meeting was initially organised, but eventually postponed twice.

ADDITIONS TO INTERIM PROTECTION ORDERS (IPO)

Currently, IPOs issued just say that the perpetrator is "stopped from using domestic violence" against the survivor and other named individuals (*"dihalang daripada menggunakan keganasan rumahtangga terhadap"*). Other jurisdictions, for example in Australia, have more detailed instructions.

WAO requested for more details to be included in the IPO. We raised this at the NGO meeting with PDRM in April 2012, and subsequently wrote to D11 in May 2012.

SHORT STUDY ON POLICE RESPONSE IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

One of WAO's interns, Andie Tucker, put together a short study on police responses to DV, highlighting some good practices from other jurisdictions.

10.2.3 MONITORING THE FAMILY COURT SYSTEM

WAO began monitoring the family court through two cases. WAO worked with the Association of Women Lawyers (AWL) to assist a hearing-impaired woman who is a domestic violence survivor. AWL held a watching brief during the custody hearings.

WAO wrote two letters to the Chief Judge of the High Court in Malaya and held a press conference to highlight the unusual delay in family court cases, rights of a child who is being breastfed and lack of family-friendly court facilities.



10.3 BERSIH 2.0

The Coalition for Clean and Fair Elections

Amidst wide spread distrust of the electoral system, BERSIH 2.0, the Coalition for Clean and Fair Elections, organised a third rally, known as BERSIH 3.0. On 28 April 2012, WAO and the 83 other endorsing NGOs that make up BERSIH 2.0 joined tens of thousands of individuals to take to the street, in what was perhaps the biggest public assembly in Malaysia's history. According to BERSIH 2.0, there were 250,000 participants, while news organisations estimated a total of between 80,000 to 100,000 people.

10.3.1 REPORTING TO UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS

WAO led the effort to compile, document, and report threats and attacks on BERSIH2.0 Co-Chairperson Dato' Ambiga Sreenevasan, to United Nations Special Rapporteurs.

WAO wrote three letters to the Special Rapporteurs, including the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences.

Largely as a result of this advocacy, three UN Special Rapporteurs sent private inquiries to the Malaysian Government, and issued a public statement calling for the protection of NGOs working for free and fair elections (see press statement below). The statement was carried by major news outlets, including international outlets like the New York Times, Agence France-Presse (AFP), and Channel News Asia.

10.3.2 MEDIA

WAO, on behalf of the BERSIH 2.0 Steering Committee, engaged a media monitoring firm to compile daily BERSIH-related news reports, including print, online, television, and radio news. WAO also helped coordinate social media campaigns, including Twitter and Pinterest.

10.3.3 GET OUT THE VOTE – JOM 100

WAO helped formulate BERSIH 2.0's "get out the vote" strategy.

Malaysia: UN rights experts call for the protection of NGOs working for free and fair elections (Statement by UN Special Rapporteurs)

GENEVA (7 June 2012) – A group of United Nations human rights experts called on the Government of Malaysia and other parties involved to respect and protect the legitimate work of an umbrella group of NGOs campaigning for reform of the electoral process in the lead-up to the general election, scheduled to take place by April 2013.

The UN independent experts on human rights defenders, freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of expression urged the authorities to protect effectively one of the directors of the Coalition for Clean and Fair Elections (Bersih), Ambiga Sreenevasan, and other Bersih members, against acts of harassment and intimidation by various groups of individuals.

Ms. Sreenevasan has been the subject of credible threats against her life in the past months. She has been labelled by various groups as an enemy of the State and a traitor, who should be expelled from the country, because of her advocacy work with Bersih calling for reform of the electoral process. Effigies of Ms. Sreenevasan were also burned. Recently she had to cancel her participation in a public event because of fears for her safety.

"I am seriously concerned by these disturbing acts of harassment against a prominent woman human rights defender who is being targeted because of her legitimate human rights activities in Malaysia," said the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders, Margaret Sekaggya. "I urge the authorities to investigate thoroughly these allegations, hold the perpetrators accountable, and effectively protect Ms. Sreenevasan, and more generally, Bersih members."

In addition, Ms. Sreenevasan, together with other organizers from the Bersih Steering Committee, has been sued by the federal Government in relation to property which was allegedly damaged during a rally organized by the coalition last April.

"Holding assembly organizers liable for the alleged unlawful conduct of others is not compatible with standards governing the right to freedom of peaceful assembly, and has a detrimental effect on the exercise of this right," stressed the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of opinion, Maina Kiai. "I urge the Government of Malaysia to withdraw the complaint against her."

"The Government of Malaysia should fully guarantee the right to freedom of opinion and expression of those advocating for electoral reform, and should ensure a safe and conducive environment for journalists and those monitoring and reporting on demonstrations", emphasized the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, Frank La Rue. "The rights to freedom of opinion, expression and peaceful assembly are fundamental pillars of democracy."

"In view of the urgency and recurrence of the situation," Mr. Kiai and Ms. Sekaggya added, "we would like to remind the Government of our requests to visit the country, which we believe will contribute to the realization of the rights in question in accordance with international human rights standards."

Source: Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights,
www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=12226



The Southeast Asia Women’s Caucus on ASEAN (“the Women’s Caucus”) is a network of more than 60 organizations across the ten ASEAN countries and East Timor, which engages the ASEAN to advance women’s human rights. WAO acts as “focal point” for the Women’s Caucus in Malaysia. The Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD) together with International Rights Action Watch, Asia Pacific (IWRAP AP) formed the Women’s Caucus in 2008.

10.4.1 ASEAN HUMAN RIGHTS DECLARATION (AHRD)

WAO, through the Women’s Caucus, and other civil society groups participated in national and regional consultations on the AHRD with the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR), the drafters of the declaration. The Women’s Caucus handed in three submissions to AICHR. A few civil society recommendations were included in the final declaration, including the inclusion of reproductive health and gender responsive development programmes.

10.4.2 NATIONAL CONSULTATION ON THE UPR AND ASEAN HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

In July 2012, WAO co-organised, along the Coalition of Malaysian NGOs in the UPR Process (COMANGO), a national consultation on civil society engagement in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process and ASEAN human rights mechanisms. At this consultation COMANGO began planning for the next UPR NGO report due in March 2013. Thirty-seven organisations were represented.

10.4.3 OPEN LETTER TO THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

WAO and the Women’s Caucus Malaysia sent an open letter to Dato' Sri Anifah bin Haji Aman requesting a better selection process for Malaysia’s AICHR representative. The letter was also sent to the AICHR representative, Director General of Malaysia’s Secretariat of ASEAN, and SUHAKAM. The Minister sent a non-committal response, though acknowledging that there was room for improvement. The letter was Women Caucus Malaysia’s first joint statement.

(Women's Caucus Malaysia open letter to the Minister of Foreign Affairs Dato' Sri Anifah bin Haji Aman)

30 November 2012

Selecting Malaysia's Next ASEAN Human Rights Commissioner: Towards an Open, Transparent, and Inclusive Process

We, members of the Southeast Asia Women's Caucus on ASEAN in Malaysia (Women's Caucus Malaysia), urge the Malaysian government to adopt an open, transparent, and inclusive process in selecting the next commissioner to the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR), who will serve from 2015 to 2018.

ASEAN continues to extend its engagement in human rights, reaching a significant milestone last week by adopting the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration. Correspondingly AICHR, which drafted the Declaration, will grow in significance, making it increasingly important that the government institutionalises a process to best select Malaysia's commissioner.

Not open, not transparent, not inclusive

Malaysia's AICHR commissioner selection process is not open, transparent, or inclusive. The current commissioner, Datuk Sri Dr Muhammad Shafee Abdullah, was nominated for the position by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and approved by the Prime Minister in 2009 for his first three year term.

The process through which the government nominated and approved Datuk Sri Shafee is unclear. The government did not open nominations to civil society or the public, or disclose details about the selection process.

YB said of Datuk Sri Shafee's appointment, as reported by Bernama, that he was nominated as "Malaysia needed a man of integrity and who had the knowledge and passion for human rights" and that he "should be able to represent Malaysia well and defend allegations unfairly labelled against us."

Datuk Sri Shafee has been appointed to a second term through a similarly opaque process. He will serve until the end of 2015. Commissioners can serve a maximum of two terms.

Adopting good practices

Instituting an open, transparent, and inclusive process in selecting Malaysia's AICHR commissioner would be in line with good practices in other human rights commissions.

Members in other regional human rights commissions are generally nominated by their countries through a much more credible process. Additionally, members of commissions like the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) face competitive elections at the regional level through a secret ballot. AICHR commissioners are automatically accepted at the regional level, making the national nomination process even more crucial.

The government need not look further than at the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM), the closest equivalent to AICHR at the national level. In 2009, under threat of having

SUHAKAM's "A" status downgraded by the International Coordinating Committee of NHRIs (ICC), the government reformed its selection process of SUHAKAM commissioners.

The Prime Minister consults a five-member selection committee and advises the King on whom to select as SUHAKAM commissioners. Invitations to nominate candidates to be commissioners were sent to several non-governmental organisations, though not shared publicly. Adopting this process, which is far from perfect, is an acknowledgment that we should strive to fulfil international best practices. The government should be consistent and build on this positive step by introducing similar reforms in the AICHR commissioner selection process.

AICHR is set up and operates differently from other regional human rights commissions and SUHAKAM. But instituting an open, transparent, and inclusive selection process in selecting commissioners is still achievable. Both Thailand and Indonesia extend calls for nominations to the public, and are transparent about the interview and selection process.

A more credible commission

The purpose of AICHR, as laid out in the commission's terms of reference, is first and foremost to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms of the peoples of ASEAN. Commissioners are mandated to act impartially in carrying out their duties.

Yet AICHR has been largely criticised by civil society and scholars for lacking independence and credibility. The United Nations has been critical of AICHR's handling of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration, which falls behind universal human rights standards and had largely been drafted in secrecy.

Introducing an open, transparent, and inclusive selection process for Malaysia's AICHR representative is a step the Malaysian government can unilaterally implement to improve AICHR's credibility and build civil society's confidence in the commissioner. The Malaysian government should not waste this opportunity to demonstrate its commitment to human rights to the regional and global community.

Most importantly, an open, transparent, and inclusive process will give a greater number of candidates a chance to apply, ensure a fair selection process, and increase public accountability. This process will help ensure that Malaysia is represented by the most suitable person in AICHR, taking into account impartiality, gender equality, integrity, and competence in the field of human rights.

Thank you for YB's consideration, and we look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Ivy Josiah
Executive Director, Women's Aid Organisation
Focal Point for Southeast Asia Women's Caucus on ASEAN in Malaysia

*The SEA Women's Caucus on ASEAN consists of:
Women's Aid Organisation, Perak Women for Women, Persatuan Kesedaran Komuniti Selangor (EMPOWER), P.S. The Children, Sisters in Islam, Tenaganita*



10.5 WANITA SUARA PERUBAHAN

Demanding a Clean Government

On Sunday 18 March, 4,000 women and men, as part of a coalition of Malaysian organisations called “Wanita Suara Perubahan” gathered at Padang Astaka, Petaling Jaya, to demand a clean government. WAO, a member of the coalition, marched proudly with the group.

Participants wore white gloves, which represented clean hands and marched to demand a clean government for Malaysia. We called for: a government free from corruption, the introduction of a decent living wage, a better quality of life, an end to gender-based violence, the repeal of laws that restrict public assemblies and the establishment of free and fair elections.

Prior to the rally, Wanita Suara Perubahan had delivered a package, including a list of the demands, to Members of Parliament and mailed the package to all 576 Dewan Negeri representatives.

Wanita Suara Perubahan’s demand for a corruption-free and accountable government is critical, as women are particularly vulnerable to the consequences of corruption, racism, exploitation, divisive politics and the curtailment of civil liberties. Millions of ringgit have been misspent that should have been used to ensure adequate housing, health, transportation, education, living wages and environmental protection. Women suffer the consequences of unjust laws as well as poor enforcement of laws relating to personal safety and gender-based violence.



This year, the Joint Action Group for Gender Equality (JAG) organised the first inaugural Aiyoh... WatLah?! Awards. The mock awards ceremony aims to raise awareness on what constitutes sexism, misogyny, homophobia, and/or transphobia and to encourage higher standards of behaviour from public figures and institutions in relation to gender and sexuality.

A selection of public statements and actions from 2011 displaying sexism, misogyny, homophobia, or transphobia were voted on for categories such as “Foot in Mouth”, “Least Helpful to the Sisterhood”, and “Cannot Ignore”. A final category “Right on Track” awards public statements or actions deemed particularly helpful in fighting discrimination on the basis of sex, gender, and sexuality.

Seven awards were given out at the event hosted by Ribena Berry, a character played by actor and writer Jo Kukathas, at the Annexe Gallery.

Winners of the Aiyoh... WatLah?! Awards 2012

Foot in Mouth

Unwanted buildings are like an “old woman”. (22 February 2011)

Teng Hock Nam (Penang Gerakan Chief) likened the soon-to-be constructed Penang International Convention Centre to an “old woman” when developers hand it back to the state government at the end of its lease in 30 years – he later said that he was merely trying to use the analogy of how a woman would be disregarded after she had lived the best part of her life.

Insulting Intelligence

Extramarital affairs are caused by “wives who neglect their responsibilities to their husbands.” (7 April 2011)

Member of Parliament Ibrahim Ali was reported to have attributed the high rate of extramarital affairs to “wives who neglect their responsibilities” to their husbands.

Cannot Ignore

Forcing two women to perform nude squats for ‘illegally’ entering the country. (June 2011)

Immigration officers were reported to have detained two women and made them perform nude squats because they had not followed immigration procedures upon entering the country. The Home

Ministry, in a written reply to a question in Parliament, said the checks were done in a “good and orderly” fashion.

Least Helpful to the Sisterhood

Wives who don't satisfy their husbands are the cause of illicit sex. (28 November 2011)

The Obedient Wives Club (OWC) reportedly blamed wives whose husbands cheat for failing to ‘satisfy’ them. OWC has offered sex lessons to help wives “serve their husbands better than a first-class prostitute” to promote harmonious marriages.

Ad Nauseam

Repeated references to prostitutes in a negative way. (November 2011)

(1) Nga Kor Ming (DAP Perak State Assemblyperson) was reported to have called the Perak Deputy Speaker a “political prostitute”. (2) Hee Yit Foong (Perak State Assembly Deputy Speaker) responded, “Does the opposition representative like prostitutes? Is [sic] so, I can bring.” (3) Chew Lee Giok (Wanita MCA Secretary-General) was reported stating that “describing someone as a prostitute is very insulting indeed.”

Policy Fail

State-run boot camp targeting teenage boys who display effeminate behaviour. (21 April 2011)

The Terengganu State Government was reported as having introduced a state-run boot camp to ‘cure’ teenage boys of effeminate behaviour.

Right on Track

Decision that CEDAW is binding on the Malaysian government and that using pregnancy as a reason not to employ a person is a form of gender discrimination. (12 July 2011)

In the case of *Noorfadilla binti Ahmad Saikin v Chayed bin Basirun and Others*, High Court Judge Zaleha Yusof held that “there is no impediment for the Court to refer to CEDAW in interpreting Article 8(2) of the Federal Constitution. Hence, applying Article 1 and 11 of CEDAW I hold that pregnancy in this case was a form of gender discrimination. The plaintiff should have been entitled to be employed as a GSTT even if she was pregnant.”



WAO supported a number of workers’ rights efforts in 2012.

May Day

Coordinated social media for the May Day rally, which had 1,000-2,000 participants. The May Day declaration included women workers’ issues.

Jaringan Rakyat Tertindas (JERIT)

Helped draft a memorandum to De Facto Law Minister Dato’ Seri Nazri Aziz on discriminatory retirement age practices, writing a section on obligations under international law, including CEDAW.

Jaringan Pekerja Malaysia

Coordinated social media for Jaringan Pekerja Malaysia’s Workers’ Manifesto launch, which included points on women workers’ issues



11.0 FUNDRAISING

Overall, 2012 was a fruitful year for WAO in terms of fundraising. It was also a year that we forged friendships with new supporters.

In June, WAO was introduced to the Garden International School and received proceeds worth RM7,000 from its “Mufti Day”. It was an amazing effort by all the school’s prefects.

Club21 Malaysia, hailed as the most fashion-forward of style emporiums in Asia, was keen to provide learning solutions for the women in the Refuge. Club21 appointed an English trainer who conducted a 5-day workshop for the women with the proceeds from its Purchase with Purpose program (a partnership with MasterCard).

What a pleasant surprise it was when Bank Simpanan Nasional chose WAO as one of the beneficiaries of its prestigious run, the Putrajaya Night Run. Besides the press conference, we were also invited to the flag off of the run in September. We had a great time cheering the participants on.

In November, the Latin Ladies Association organised its annual ball at the Hilton Kuala Lumpur - themed RUMBA, they were determined to raise funds for WAO. Vivacious and full of life, the women from the association were fun to work with. The ball was a successful fundraiser as it we managed to collect sizeable donations from the Latin community and their friends who came and supported the event.

Special mention also goes to The British Women’s Association, the American Association of Malaysia, the Austrian German Swiss Bazaar, St Patrick’s Society, Another Chance Charity Shop, Budimas Charity Foundation, Ashmore Foundation, Kuok Foundation and Malakoff, for their continuous support. Unilever repeated its success with the Pink Heart Campaign for WAO, raising funds with the sale of charm bracelets at all Guardian outlets.

We would like to express our gratitude to Yayasan Sime Darby for extending its pledge until 2014.

Aside from corporations, individuals are also making a difference. Our very own staff member Ley Yoon, and intern Tim, raised funds by running 10km each for the Penang Bridge Marathon. Local celebrity Serena C celebrated her birthday with her famous friends and donated the proceeds from an auction at the party; local artiste, Tomok picked WAO as the beneficiary of his cooking challenge during the Masterchef Selebriti Malaysia.

A visit from Morgan Parker who travelled 250,000km on his motorbike to highlight social and environmental issues across Australasia in 2011 also led WAO to some generous individuals from a corporation in Hong Kong, who then made donations via the company's Matching Gift Program and Annual Giving Fund.

In total, there were 18 events organised by various individuals and corporations. Although we were not directly involved in organising most of these fundraising events, for some, we set up booths, helped arranged for publicity and had a hand in the logistics.

Unilever – March 2012

Unilever's Pink Heart Campaign began in 2011 with the aim to raise awareness on the issues of violence against women and at the same time raise much needed funds for WAO. In 2012, Unilever continued its relationship with WAO with another installation of the campaign which coincided with the International Women's Day in March, for a duration of 2 months. Teaming up with Guardian, Unilever donated RM57,578 from the sale of the exclusive Pink Heart Foundation charm bracelets (which could be bought with or without the purchase of Unilever products) at all Guardian outlets.



American Express – May 2012

WAO was happy to be invited yet again to the American Express 5th Membership Rewards Redemption Night. This exclusive event was held on 10 May at the Shangri-La Hotel Ballroom for affluent Amex card members. AMEX raised RM7,250 for WAO via the sale of raffle tickets. WAO also participated in the event by setting up a booth to provide more information about the organisation to the card members.

Garden International School – June 2012

The secondary prefects along with the Garden International School community held their annual charity event 'Mufti Day' in November to raise funds for children's homes and children in need of medical treatment or life saving operations. WAO's Child Care Centre was fortunate to be chosen as one of the many beneficiaries and individuals to benefit from the funds. As the result of an introduction to the school by a kind WAO member, the Child Care Centre received RM7,000 on the cheque presentation day.

Club21 – September 2012

HELP A CAUSE: GRANT A HOPE.
MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO ABUSED WOMEN.
1 AUGUST 2012 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2012.
PAY WITH MASTERCARD AND US\$1 WILL BE
DONATED FOR EVERY TRANSACTION.



Club 21, a leading purveyor of luxury fashion and lifestyle in Asia with over 40 high end brands under its roof, collaborated with MasterCard to raise funds for 7 charity partners worldwide - WAO was one of them. Both companies teamed up to support programmes for abused women in Malaysia through MasterCard's Purchase with Purpose Program in conjunction with Club 21's 40th Anniversary. Between 1 August and 30 September 2012, the Program raised US\$2,530 to support the Basic Survival English Workshop, Creative English Workshop, Effective Business English and Communication Skills 1 under the Power English Program (PEP) which was attended by 5 women in WAO's Refuge over the course of 5 days. The women were awarded with certificates at the end of the course. Club21 also donated US\$1,470 directly to WAO.

Bank Simpanan Nasional – October 2012

The prestigious BSN Putrajaya Night Run was held again in 2012 - Bank Simpanan Nasional, as the title sponsor, selected 2 charity beneficiaries for the year: WAO and Malaysian Glaucoma Society. Representatives from WAO attended both the launch ceremony on 31 May and the flag-off event on 20 October 2012. On 5 December, it was with great joy that WAO received a cheque worth RM52,250 from BSN at a presentation ceremony held at the BSN office.

MPI Share and Care Charity Golf – November 2012

As part of the MPI Share and Care Charity Golf event, a group of golfers teed off in November to raise funds for 6 beneficiaries which included WAO's Child Care Centre. This event is organised by a Committee comprising the management of Multi-Purpose Insurans, Saujana Golf & Country Club and other members of the golfing fraternity. The event was held at the Saujana Golf & Country Club on 29 November 2012 and WAO received the generous sum of RM20,000 at the Prize Presentation Dinner on the same day.



Latin Ladies Association of Malaysia – November 2012

A non-profit organisation that promotes Latin values and culture in the Malaysian community, the Latin Ladies Association of Malaysia organised its fifth annual Latin American Charity Ball - this time with the aim of raising funds for a charitable organisation. WAO was very fortunate to be the sole beneficiary at this event. The ball

themed RUMBA this year, raised funds from the sale of tickets worth RM300 and RM350 each, a silent auction and sponsors' contributions. The Latin Ladies Association of Malaysia raised RM126,473.45 for WAO in that one night.

Medical-Latex (DUA) – November 2012

This pioneering condom company a division of Beiersdorf based in Johor Baru celebrated its 25th Anniversary by presenting an award to Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir for her outstanding work in social activism Marina, as a member of WAO, attended the function in Johor Baru with the WAO Executive Director, Ivy Josiah. Besides that, Medical Latex donated RM25,000 and donated some condoms.

Yayasan Sime Darby

Our loyal and regular donor, Yayasan Sime Darby (YSD) pledged to fund the Refuge for another few years with a donation that will last till the year 2014. From 2010 to 2012, YSD has donated a total of RM1,080,000 to ensure WAO's doors remain open to women and children in need.



Lai Ley Yoon & Tim Katzek – November 2012

Ley Yoon, a WAO volunteer and Tim, an intern from Cologne, Germany took up the challenge to raise funds for the organisation by running the Penang Bridge Marathon. This formidable pair of runners had originally set a target of RM10,000 for themselves. In the end, they raised RM5,855 – an admirable effort nevertheless by the 2 individuals.

GlobalGiving

GlobalGiving is a non-profit online marketplace that connects donors with grassroots projects around the world to create a high impact. All donations are channeled through the GlobalGiving Foundation which receives a nominal 15% fulfillment fee. This fee covers the cost of operating GlobalGiving such as finding and vetting projects, providing training and support to project leaders, attracting donors, and maintaining an innovative, informative web presence. It also includes the fees incurred by vendors for credit card processing (VeriSign or PayPal), mobile giving, wire transfers, and

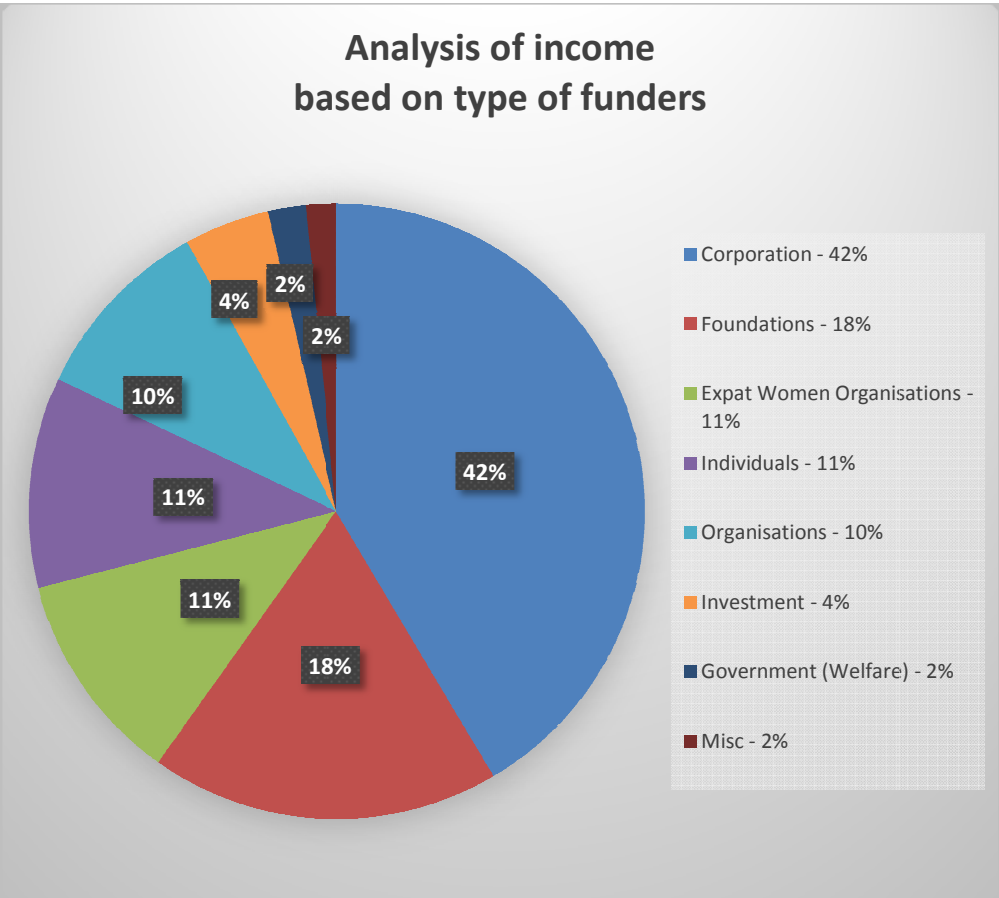
other fees charged by financial institutions. Anyone can donate to the projects listed, and the minimum donation is \$10.

WAO was introduced to GlobalGiving by Andres Varela who wanted to make a large donation to us on behalf of an anonymous donor through this website. GlobalGiving offers organisations an easy-to-use system of tools and training on how to maximize the efficiency of their website. We are required to submit project updates every three months to remain on the site. The report will show donors what was accomplished or the current situation of the organisation.

In 2012, WAO posted four project reports on the GlobalGiving website – one every three months. Donors receive the reports via email. We can also send thank you letters to donors through the website.

In April, we met with Jacqueline Lee, GlobalGiving’s InTheField representative who was visiting GlobalGiving’s partners’ projects throughout Southeast Asia. She also conducted GlobalGiving's Online Fundraising Workshop to participants from WAO and other women’s NGOs.

In addition, GlobalGiving also provides the platform for WAO to engage with local and international donors in order to promote its projects. By 31 December 2012, WAO had raised US\$4,518 (RM14,012.58) through GlobalGiving.



GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS

AWAM	All Women’s Action Society Malaysia
CCC	WAO’s Child Care Centre
CEDAW	United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
DV	domestic violence
DVA	Malaysia’s <i>Domestic Violence Act 1994</i>
EXCO	WAO’s Executive Committee
ICT	information and communication technology
IPO	Interim Protection Order
IWD	International Women’s Day
IWRAW-AP	International Women’s Rights Action Watch – Asia Pacific
JAG	Joint Action Group for Gender Equality
JERIT	Jaringan Rakyat Tertindas
LAC	Legal Aid Centre
LGBT	lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender
MDW	migrant domestic worker
MWFCD	Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development
MWG	Migration Working Group
NCWO	National Council of Women’s Organisations
NGO	non-government organisation
PWW	Perak Women for Women Society
RRAAM	Reproductive Rights Advocacy Alliance of Malaysia
SAWO	Sabah Women’s Action Resource Group
SIS	Sisters In Islam
SUHAKAM	Human Rights Commission of Malaysia
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
VAW	violence against women
WAO	Women's Aid Organisation
WCC	Women's Centre for Change, Penang