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### **Why is men's involvement important to the movement in ending violence against women?**

**KUALA LUMPUR, [5<sup>th</sup> September, 2015]** – According to a 2013 global review, 35% of women worldwide have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence. Looking at Malaysian statistics specifically, 4,807 cases of domestic violence were reported in 2014 alone, a 16.6% increase since 2013; 2045 cases of rape, a 26% drop since 2013; and 1590 cases of outrage of modesty, an 8% decline since 2013.

The White Ribbon Campaign is an international campaign, started in 1991, which works towards getting men involved in the movement to end violence against women. AWAM launched the White Ribbon Campaign in Malaysia in 2003. At the same time, AWAM initiated the formation of the Men's Action Network Against Violence (MAN.V) as the first men's group to work towards elimination of violence against women in Malaysia after a series of workshops with Dr. Michael Kaufman, the noted Canadian advocate who engaged men and boys in promoting gender equality.

As part of our ongoing campaign, prior to this year's run and walk, AWAM kicked off the campaign with the White Ribbon Public Forum themed "Power, Privilege, and Permission", intended as a space for discussion and dialogue between men and boys. The forum featured three speakers from various fields of expertise, who shared their experiences and insights as men who represent different aspects of society.

This year, AWAM aims to bring the White Ribbon Campaign to greater heights by introducing the AWAM's White Ribbon Ambassadors 2015 - a group of passionate and dynamic men to speak out against violence against women.

AWAM seeks to create a platform for men to actively engage and fight violence against women and simultaneously encourage families, communities and societies to create awareness about these issues and the social structures that limit women and men in the reproduction of fixed gendered roles and identities.

## **Notes to the Editor:**

### **Event details**

**Name of event:** White Ribbon Public Forum: Power, Privilege, and Permission

**Date:** 5 September 2015

**Time:** 9:15am – 11:30am

**Venue:** MIEA Training Room (Unit C-26-97), Level 7, Blk C, 3 Two Square, No.2, Jln 19/1, 46300 Petaling Jaya

### **Speakers:**

**Mr. Mueen Saheed:** Jolted into awareness of violence against women by the gang-rape of a female student in Jaffna, Sri Lanka; Mueen gave birth to his poem “by being human... be a man”. Mueen’s metaphor of the sexual hunter in his poem emphasises that man cannot protect only the women dear to them, but must extend their respect and care to all women as a whole.

**Kong Eu:** Never one to be left behind, Kong Eu is also a talented emcee, actor as well as a voice actor, and a rhythm tap dancer. He is also ever ready to flaunt his grooves if it means inspiring people to greater self-discovery and realisation, but most of all, happiness. Kong Eu currently hosts the Traxx Momentum show on Traxx FM with Greenman

**Jason Liang:** Jason Liang is a man dedicated to uphold the spirit of the law not only through his employment at Wong & Partners, but also through their community outreach committee. Jason assists the Suka Society in the release of unaccompanied minors from immigrant detention.

**Alexius Cheang:** Alexius is passionate about social issues. He joined the Protect and Save the Children Association (NGO) in his capacity as a Psychology and Behavioural Science Academician as he believes in the importance of protecting children from sexual abuse and exploitation. A consultant who later became Head of the Sport Psychology Centre at the National Sports Institute, Alexius continues to inspire hope and action for change.

### **Programme:**

**8:30 – 9:30:** Registration of guests

**9:30 – 9:35:** Welcome note from AWAM’s President, Ho Yock Lin

**9:35 – 9:50:** Moderator, Vernon Emaung, introduces the theme and speakers

**9:50 – 10:30:** Respondents speak

**10:30 – 10:50:** Moderator opens up the forum to the floor

**10:50 – 11:30:** Debate between floor and panel

**11:30 – 11:50:** Press Conference

## **About All Women’s Action Society (AWAM)**

The All Women’s Action Society (AWAM) is an independent feminist organisation based in Petaling Jaya. AWAM envisions a just, democratic, and equitable society where all persons, in

particular women, are treated with respect and are free from all forms of violence and discrimination. To meet this vision, AWAM conducts lobbying and networking activities to bring about positive changes in the law for women, public education and training activities to raise awareness about women's rights, provide services such as counseling and legal information clinic for women in crisis, and issues publications and press statements in relation to issues surrounding gender based violence and the politicisation of ethnicity and religion and its impact on women.

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