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# Spreading awareness to stop violence against women

BY JAROD LIM



AWAM president Ho Yock Lin (front, third from left) posing with other supporters who have pledged to end violence against women

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DONNING a white ribbon on his shirt, 49-year old Michael Xavier Voon will be joining the White Ribbon Run and Walk to articulate his pledge of saying no to violence against women.

Aimed to spread the awareness to stop violence against women, Voon said the run will bring the public together to support the cause.

"I cannot just sit down ; Enter the Kisahku ALMERA Contest now!!! e against women happening in the country.

"We shall explore all other aspects of putting a stop to this issue," he said during the event's soft launch.

Having been involved in All Women's Action Society (AWAM) activities since 1993,

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Voon, who is also known as the performance coach for Malaysian Idol and One in a Million, will be joining 2,500 participants who are expected to take part in the event.

The White Ribbon Run is held in conjunction with the White Ribbon Campaign (WRC), an international campaign happening every Nov 25 supporting 16 days of activism, where men speak out to end violence against women.

The event, consisting of a 7km run and 3km walk will be held at Padang Merbok on Dec 8.

The 3km walk is open to the public while the 7km run is opened to runners above 12 years old.

AWAM president Ho Yock Lin who was also present, said the event encourage the public to join especially, male runners who can be an agent of change towards violence against women.

"According to statistics from Royal Malaysia Police and the Women, Family and Community Ministry, a total of 8591 cases of domestic violence, incest, rape and outrage of modesty involving women happened last year, which means there is around 23 cases happening everyday, almost one case every hour.

"This is definitely a pressing issue and the public especially men should speak up and join the cause to stop violence.

Registration fees is RM38 (both categories) per participants for 12 years and above and participants can register online at [www.themarathonshop.com.my](http://www.themarathonshop.com.my) or walk-in to Awam Office at 85, Jalan 21/1 Sea Park, Petaling Jaya from 10am to 4pm daily except Sunday.

Closing date of the registration is Nov 24.

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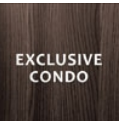
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