

# AWAM E-LINK



**AUG/SEP  
2014**  
EDITION

## What's Coming Up?

**2 & 23 SEPT**

PER Committee Meeting

**5-7 SEPT**

PER Training of Trainers Retreat

**6-13 SEPT**

Freedom Film Fest

**14 SEPT**

Talk on sexual harassment

**16 SEPT**

Malaysia Day

**22 SEPT**

LAC-NGO Training (Batch 81)

**24 SEPT**

Visit by students from Nanyang Polytechnic  
Singapore

**26 SEPT**

Feminist Friday

**27 SEPT**

Orientation for new/potential members

**29 SEPT-10 OCT**

WLP Trans-Partnership Meeting

**29 SEPT**

4th NGO Awareness Campaign

**3 OCT**

GBM Art Exhibition

**11-12 OCT**

KTP Workshop for Youth

**14 OCT**

White Ribbon Campaign  
Press Conference #1



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We said goodbye to quite a few of our dedicated volunteers and interns this month.

We are so grateful to our fantastic interns Cathryn Frances Panganiban and Molly Moh Rui Yun who were at AWAM between the months of June & August to support various programs.

Thank you also to our wonderful volunteers Jerissa Cabuhat and Natalie Ong, who were in AWAM in the months of July & August to assist with the reorganization of our library.

**THANK YOU!!**

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## IN THIS ISSUE...



*A karaoke goodbye for Cathryn and Molly.*

# Gender- Based Violence (GBV)

## Regional Sexual Harassment Workshop: Dimension Data

KL (16th-17th July), Indonesia (27th-28th Aug), Thailand (4th-5th Aug),

AWAM was invited to conduct a series of sexual harassment and discrimination workshops at the regional level for a company called Dimension Data. We have since conducted three workshops in KL, Indonesia, and Thailand. AWAM has also been invited to conduct these workshops at its other global branches, and is tentatively scheduled to conduct another workshop in the Philippines. Our Project Director **Betty Yeoh** conducted these workshops.

Discrimination can come in many different forms based on a person's identity. Factors such as ethnicity, religion, level of education, nationality, and physical characteristics are all some examples of attributes that can be discriminated against. The discussion focused on non-discriminatory women's rights. The participants were taught how to identify discrimination and sexual harassment via an interactive session, as well as made clear on the fact that women's rights are human rights.



*Participants with Betty after the session in Indonesia*

The Joint LAC-NGO Training for chambering pupils. WAO, SIS and AWAM held its regular training for pupils attached to their legal aid clinic on July 1st.

**Betty** and **Wei San** were at a meeting with the Attorney General Chambers (AGC) to discuss amendments to laws pertaining to violence against women on Aug 7th. This forms part of a series of regular meetings hosted by the AGC, govt ministries and NGOs.

**Betty** attended a meeting with Jabatan Pembangunan Wanita on new initiatives to empower women on Aug 12th.

**Betty** was on a panel to talk about the issue of violence against women at a Mrs Universe forum on Aug 24th. This forum was organised by SOGO KL, AWAM's partner in the nationwide domestic violence nationwide campaign.

# Gender- Based Violence (GBV)



## SPECIAL REPORT: HENTIKAN ROGOL

Our Hentikan Rogol: Aku Kisah! call to action against rape and other forms of sexual violence was a great success! Over 300 people joined the candlelight walk and vigil from KL SOGO to Dataran Merdeka on **23rd August!**

Thank you so much to the public who participated and walked with us, the police for their help with traffic, KL SOGO for providing water and the pledge board, and the Mrs Universe delegates for their support of the issue.

The event was a huge success because of everyone who turned up and supported the cause! Change begins with those who show up and make a stand!

AWAM members and volunteers got together on **5th July** for a placard-making session as a follow-up from the last Feminist Friday meeting. These placards were created to be used in the Hentikan Rogol call to action. 18 placards were created with messages such as, "No Means No" and "Most rapists are not strangers".

# #HENTIKANROGOL

For more photos check our Facebook page



# Gender- Based Violence (GBV)

**Betty** was part of a panel discussion on the topic of sexual harassment at an intergenerational dialogue with young women organized by IRAW Asia Pacific and KRYSS on **August 17th**.



We held our regular mid-term review for legal aid students from AWAM, WAO and SIS on **August 25th**. **Emily** and **Yin Heng** attended.



**Ruby** conducted a talk on gender sensitization at the Institut Sosial Malaysia (ISM) on **August 27th**. Approximately 30 social workers attended the talk.



Ruby, Cathryn, and Aisyah represented AWAM at the Ribbon's ACE Program organised by the students' committee from Nilai College. The objective of the programme was to raise the healthcare awareness among public, especially students, through the Pink (breast cancer), Red (AIDS and HIV), White (motherhood), and Green (organ donation) ribbons. Aisyah carried out a one hour talk on gender sensitization which was attended by about 50 students and staff from Nilai College. Ruby and Cathryn were with her to set up and run an exhibition booth. (**July 17th**)



# Politicisation of Ethnicity & Religion (PER)

## Wanita IKRAM Meeting

**Beng Hui** and **Tashia** were at the IKRAM Hari Raya Aidilfitri open house on **August 23rd**. AWAM hopes to develop a working relationship with Wanita IKRAM so that we may support each other's work towards improving women's lives.



*Beng Hui and Tashia seen here with representatives from Wanita IKRAM.*

*Aisyah urged the young generation to be more proactive in reclaiming our nation and restoring hope in our future.*



## Negara-Ku Movement

**Aisyah** and **Yong Yi** attended the Press Conference to launch the new Negaraku movement on 10th July respectively. By being part of Negara-Ku, we hope to take up the momentum and build a movement which can be reached to all Malaysians. **Yong Yi** also attended a follow up Civil Society discussion on this matter on **July 17th**.

## Post-TGMW Dinner

The PER Committee organised an appreciation dinner at Ganga Café in Bangsar for artists, volunteers and members who were part of The Good Malaysian Woman Art Exhibition in May this year.



*Tashia giving a speech thanking the all those affiliated with The Good Malaysian*

“22 talented women artists, 14 dedicated volunteers, 2 awesome curators, 1 memorable exhibition. Truly, truly priceless!”  
- Tashia

# Politicisation of Ethnicity & Religion (PER)

## PER Youth Workshop

16-17th, 23-24th August

We recently concluded a four-day workshop in which we explored a range of fun and thought-provoking activities to guide participants in examining their own perceptions and values, and to critically analyse issues on ethnicity, religion, and gender in Malaysia today. Huge thanks to all the participants for their active participation, and for sharing their thoughts, ideas, and weekends to join us in this journey to collectively re-imagine a different kind of Malaysia. One that is based on respect, non-violence, and non-discrimination. A Malaysia which embraces diversity. Sessions were facilitated by **Prema**, **Wei San**, **Aisyah**, and **Pui Yan**.



*Aisyah and Prema conducting a session during the workshop.*



*Participants and facilitators pose at the end of the workshop.*

## Other News & Events

Wei San attended the COMANGO Consultation on Monitoring the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Recommendations from **August 4th-5th** 2014.

### COMANGO UPR

AWAM welcomed 7 university students and a professor visiting from South Korea. **Wei San** gave a short presentation about AWAM and its work. The students, majoring in law and public policy, were especially interested in AWAM's outreach and fundraising methods as well as the collaboration between the various NGOs through the JAG coalition. They were able to share a bit about the women's rights movement in South Korea as well as the news that AWAM's work has been mentioned in their classes. It was truly a cross-cultural experience and it is humbling to learn that AWAM's work is well known outside Malaysia.

### Sookmyung's Women's Uni

### Feminist Friday(s)

**July 25th:** In rape culture we are constantly surrounded by language, images and other phenomena that reinforce rape. Participants were invited to reflect on their own values and judgements as they discussed this issue.

**August 29th:** Participants came together to have a discussion about what they think AWAM represents. Each participant created a collage while referring to questions related to identities such as who we are, what do we want to be and who we are perceived to be. The common themes that emerged from the session were change, empowerment, strength, branching out, and growth.

Contact Yong Yi at  
training.programs.awam@gmail.com if  
you would like to be involved.

### Monash Uni Talk

Wei San was on a panel discussion at Monash Uni on the topic "What is Success for Women" on **August 7th** for about 60 students and lecturers. She talked about the barriers to women's success in today's world, by exploring the impact of gender stereotypes and the definition of equality and non-discrimination.



## Other News & Events

### 9th Annual Treasure Hunt

On **August 10th**, AWAM organised its 9th Charity Treasure Walk-a-Hunt. The event, which was held at Tropicana City Mall, brought together 200 supporters, including members, participants, sponsors and staff for an exciting charity event! This event featured 41 teams comprising 147 participants. Participants were tested on their knowledge about gender-based violence and the politicisation of ethnicity and religion. This year's event was made possible by our main sponsor, Star Cruises and venue sponsor, Tropicana City Mall, and many others who have generously contributed monetary and in-kind donations. A big thank you to everyone involved in making this event a success!



Arts For Grabs took place from the **23rd to the 24th of August**. **Emily, Shirley,** and **Yong Yi** attended the exhibition event to manage AWAM's booth.

Pictured above: Shirley managing the AWAM booth at the Arts For Grabs exhibition.

### Arts For Grabs

### Turkey WLP G-TOT

Assistant Programme Officer, **Aisyah** attended and represented AWAM in the Global Training of Trainers Initiative (G-TOT) organised by the Women's Learning Partnership (WLP). It was held from the **26th to 31st of August** in Istanbul, Turkey. The purpose of the training was to build a multi-lingual batch of trainers in each country who will implement leadership and political participation training for women in WLP partner countries and beyond, strengthening civil society, expanding the WLP program and building stronger national and regional networks. The trainers came from a wide number of countries: Iran, Afghanistan, Egypt, India, Lebanon, Pakistan, Turkey and Malaysia.



“We say to girls, 'You can have ambition, but not too much. You should aim to be successful, but not too successful, otherwise, you will threaten the man.’”



# MUST WATCH VIDEOS



Make sure you catch **Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's** Ted Talk on why we should ALL be feminists.

[Click Here](#)

Are Malaysians truly racist? Are you ready to find out what Malaysians really think about each other?

Watch this amazing video and see for yourself! This video was sent to us by one of our wonderful members, Suzaini!



[Click Here](#)

## Like what you see?

We welcome any comments and feedback to Evie at: [infocom.awam@gmail.com](mailto:infocom.awam@gmail.com)

AWAM's monthly e-link highlights the previous months activities. All staff members contributed to their respected areas. Evie coordinated the production of the e-link, with editing support from Wei San.