

AWAM E-LINK

#DEFINE YOURSELF

FEB/MAR 2015 EDITION

What's Coming Up?

7 MAR

#DefineYourself: AWAM's International Women's Day Event

8 MAR

International Women's Day

11 MAR

USIM Talk on Domestic Violence

13 MAR

LAC NGO Training (Batch 83 & 45)

15 MAR

Sexual Harrassment Panel by UM and 3R

16 MAR

AWAM Briefing for Batch 83 & 45

20 MAR

Feminist Friday

20 - 22 MAR

KTP Training for Peer Trainers

28 MAR

DV Campaign (Kuantan)
AWAM AGM

11 APR

PER BGM on Vernacular Education

17 APR

Feminist Friday

17 - 19 APR

PERpaduan Youth Workshop at UM's Gender Studies Department



All Women's Action Society (AWAM)

85, Jalan 21/1, Sea Park, 46300 Petaling Jaya,
Selangor, Malaysia

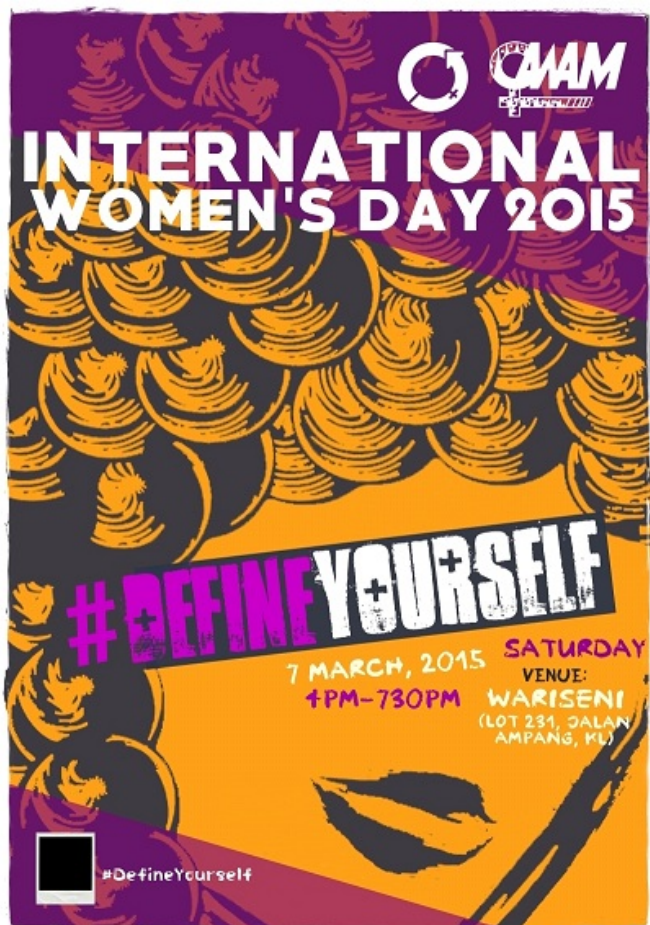
Telenita Helpline (counselling/legal info):

03-78770224

Office Phone (programmes/admin):

03-78774221

awam@awam.org.my | www.awam.org.my



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This e-link reports on activities in January and February, and highlights upcoming activities from March - April 2015.

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Gender-Based Violence (GBV)



Aisyah, Evie, and Li-Wun spent the morning in Federal Court on Jan 27th to show support and solidarity for the LGBT community in the transgender case in Negri Sembilan, as well as to monitor and record the decision of the court and rationale for the decision, and report back to AWAM. The judicial review was an application petitioned by four Muslim male to female transsexuals to seek review against the Islamic law that prohibits Muslim men to dress or behave as women in public.

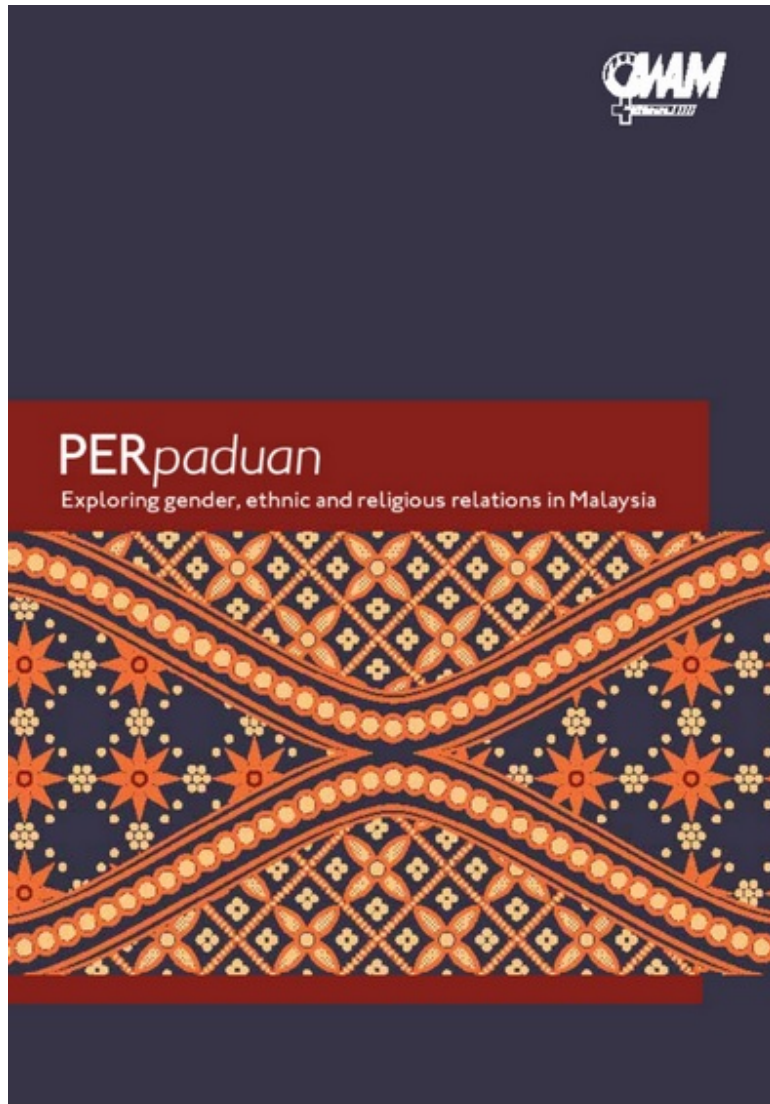
Wei San attended a meeting of the Working Committee on violence against women. The Working Committee is part of an ongoing initiative that was set up to provide feedback to the AGC on VAW laws. The meeting on Jan 29th was to specifically look at the latest Domestic Violence and Criminal Procedure Code bills.

Every three months, AWAM welcomes chambering pupils who provide legal information to our Telenita clients as part of their chambering. In accordance with this process, on Feb 5th, there was a LAC (Legal Aid Clinic) Midterm Review to touch base with and to get feedback from the students. **Yin Heng** was there to represent AWAM.

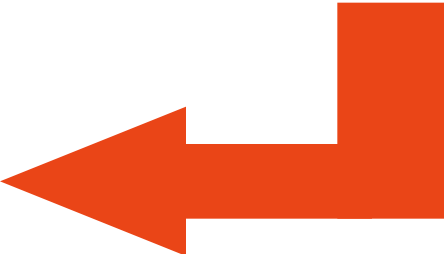
From Feb 7th-8th, **Thency, Betty, and Wei Hoong** led the KTP “Yes I Can” workshop. The main objectives of this workshop were to build youth’s self-esteem and face challenges from their community as well as to also identify a minimum of 20 potential leaders among the youth to lead their community in Taman Medan and Taman Dato Harun area.

Politicisation of Ethnicity & Religion (PER)

PERPaduan Manual Sneak Peek



Thanks to our wonderful designer, **Ezrena**, our PERpaduan Manual now has an official cover! Watch this space, we'll be starting our PER trainings for youth in the upcoming months!



Contact Aisyah at 03-7877-4221
if you would like to know more
about our PER program.

PER Big Group Meeting

Mark your calendars! The PER Committee is having a Big Group Meeting on April 11th, 3pm-5pm (tentatively). The topic will be on the pros and cons of Vernacular Education, and we will be bringing in an expert speaker to facilitate the discussion. All members are free to attend, and bring along anyone who is interested in participating. For more information, call Aisyah at 03-7877-4221.

Special Report: Feminist Camp

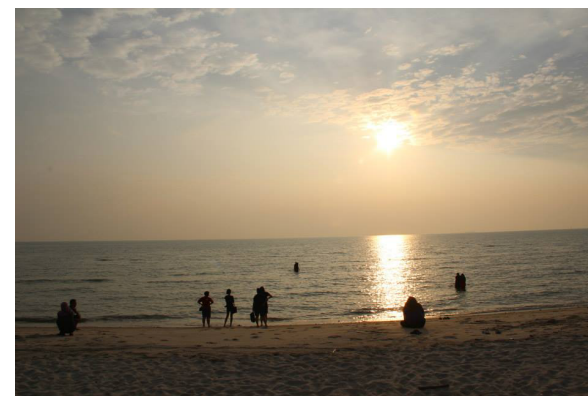


AWAM hosted its first ever Feminist Camp from Jan 23rd to 25th at Port Dickson. We had 38 participants who took part in the conversation of exploring feminism in Malaysia.

As American feminist Gloria Steinem said, "Feminism has never been about getting a job for one woman. It's about making life more fair for women everywhere. It's not about a piece of the existing pie; there are too many of us for that. It's about baking a new pie." This Feminist Camp was created for women and men of all ages, sizes and shapes to converge and talk about feminist issues that we don't always have the space to talk about.

Using a highly participatory methodology known as Open Space Technology, the participants discussed about issues related to achieving equality and changing the lives of the marginalised and delved into how gender intersects with issues of sexuality, class, ethnicity and religion.

We hope that this has been an enjoyable activity for the participants as they uncover things they never knew about the world around them or the world that dwells within themselves. Huge thanks to our organising team - **Susanna, Yong Yi, Wei Hoong, Thency, Beng Hui**, and **Ashley** - for putting this all together!

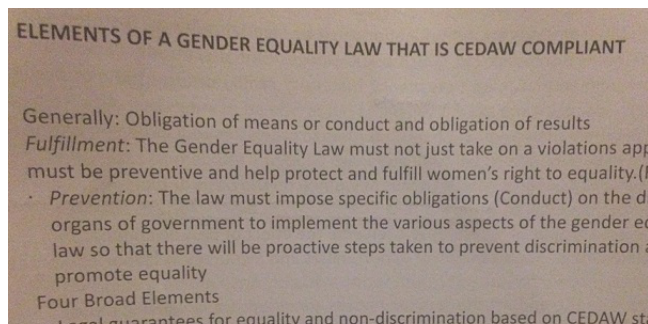


Other News and Events

GE Bill Discussion

SUHAKAM Meeting

Feminist Friday



On Feb 4th, **Betty** and **Evie** attended a briefing by Shanti Dairiam at DAP Selangor. The briefing was focused on the "Elements of a Gender Equality Law that is CEDAW Compliant". Shanti spoke about how the Gender Equality Law must not just take on a violations approach, but must be preventative and help protect and fulfil women's right to equality.



AWAM representatives, **Wei San**, **Evie** & **Yong Yi** attended the Roundtable discussion on the definition of "Torture" and "Right to Acquire Nationality" in connection with the Reserved Articles in the CRPD, CRC & CEDAW at SUHAKAM on Feb 12th.

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

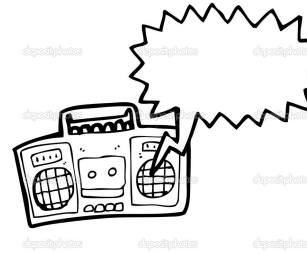


On Feb 27th, 14 AWAM members and friends attended a Feminist Friday to discuss the topic "Is Virginity Important?" As part of the discussion, participants were asked to draw what the concept of virginity means to them, as well as discuss the implications of the #SaveYourDara campaign. The sessions was facilitated by **Evie** and **Yong Yi**.

Ministry of Women Budget Meeting

The meeting was organised by KPWK on Feb 6th in Putrajaya. It was attended by about 50 NGO and stakeholders representing different target groups under Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat (JKM) such as organisations that work on women's rights including AWAM and WAO, people with disabilities, the elderly, and child safety and protection. **Betty** and **Aisyah** represented AWAM and the women's organisations under JAG. AWAM hopes that KPWK will keep their effort in contributing and supporting women in Malaysia and also making sure that the well-being of Malaysians are protected and empowered.

AWAM IN THE MEDIA

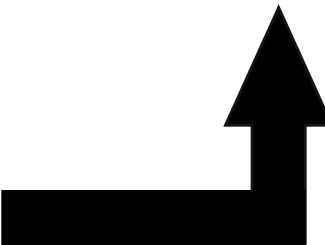


Wei San carried out a phone interview with TraxxFM on Jan 20th on the topic of "Safe Working Spaces" for women.

As part of TraxxFM's "Face To Face" programme, **Wei San** was in the TraxxFM studio on Feb 11th, along with Women's Aid Organisation's **Kristine**, and TV Presenter, **Terrence Dass**, to talk about the topic "Are Women Really Liberated?"

Evie and **Aisyah** were interviewed by a journalist from China Daily on Feb 24th, on the issues of the progress of women's rights in Malaysia, women's empowerment, participation of women in politics, as well as the ways in which religious extremism may be a detriment to women's achievements.

On Feb 27th, **Wei San** and **Evie** were on TraxxFM's "Momentum Friday" segment to talk about feminism, the misconceptions that surround it, as well as our International Women's Day Event on March 7th!



AWAM published a letter to the editor about the "Myths and Realities of Rape" on Feb 17th.

It was picked up and published by:

- Malaysiakini
- Malay Mail Online
- The Sun Daily

Read it right here!

Have an interesting video you want to share? Send it in to Evie at: infocom.awam@gmail.com!



MUST WATCH VIDEOS



[Click here to watch](#)

Watch Susana Pavlouhat's TED Talk on "Challenging normalization of sexual violence against women", which challenges us to look deeper at rape culture and forces us to deconstruct preconceptions and prejudices in relation to sexual violence.

'God cannot be God if God is unjust. It is as simple as that.'

Watch Zainah Anwar of Musawah being interviewed on Islamic Family Law.



[Click here to watch](#)

Like what you see?

We welcome any comments and feedback to Evie at: 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**.