

AWAM E-LINK

WHITE
RIBBON
RUN 2015

JUNE-AUG
2015
EDITION

What's Coming Up?

11 AUG

Gender, Awareness, & VAW Training

15 AUG

KTP Dialogue With Youth (Tentative)

18 -18 AUG

SH Talk for Dimension Data (KL)

21 AUG

Feminist Friday

22 AUG

AWAM Orientation

23 AUG

KTP Counselling Session

24 AUG

D11 Frontline Training For Service Providers

29-30 AUG

Bersih 4 Rally

5 SEPT

Smart Girls Retreat @ SMK Sungai Tiang

5 SEPT

White Ribbon Campaign Panelist Session

12 SEPT

Katak Berudu Social

12 SEPT

AWAM Orientation (Tentative)

18 SEPT

Feminist Friday

18-20 SEPT

PER Updating of Concepts Meeting



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The past three months had a number of new faces joining us at AWAM! Meet them here!



Lochna
Staff

Ain
Staff

Adrienne
Intern

Kavitha
Intern

IN THIS ISSUE...

This e-link reports on activities in May to July, and highlights upcoming activities from August-September 2015.

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Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

Emily and **Wei San** attended a meeting with the Ministry of Women on May 26th to give their input on the Plan of Action on Violence Against Women.



On May 30th, **Betty** conducted a training for service providers on how to create a “teen friendly” environment in health clinics. This training was done for staff from Klinik Kesihatan Taman Medan, a partner of the UM-KTP project. The workshop focused on gender sensitisation, values clarification and communication, with the objective of being more receptive to the problems of teenagers.

On June 9th, **Wei San**, **Yong Yi**, and **Evie** attended a policy dialogue on universal access to sexual and reproductive health. The aim of the meeting was to gather sexual and reproductive health experts, policy makers, government agencies, civil society organizations, advocates, and other key stakeholders in Malaysia to assess key sexual and reproductive health trends and issues in Malaysia and formulate recommendations towards the Post-2015 development agenda.



On June 24-25th, AWAM held a Victory Over Violence training workshop for service providers in the AWAM Centre, using a manual produced by the Women's Learning Partnership (WLP). Led by **Betty**, the session focused on sensitizing participants on violence against women, legislative challenges as well as advancements. Following that, participants were given the opportunity to formulate and conceptualise their own programmes for public education.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV)



PKR Training

On June 27th, **Betty** and **Thency** ran a gender sensitisation training session for a group of PKR town counsellors. They covered the issues of “what makes a man & what makes a woman”, intersectionality, and values clarification.



RRAAM Workshop

From July 24-26th, **Wei San**, **Deepa**, **Yong Yi**, **Thency**, **Siew**, **Adrienne**, and **Kavitha** attended the RRAAM Young Advocates Workshop. The workshop aimed to clarify issues and challenges of abortion and contraceptive services for young women, and to help participants acquire advocacy tools on the issue of reproductive rights.

SH Training for UNIMAS

Betty and **Thency** ran a two-day sexual harassment training for UNIMAS students from July 26-28th. The training covered what constitutes sexual harassment, the causes and impacts of sexual harassment, structural solutions to sexual harassment, the different mechanisms through which sexual harassment can be addressed, how to intervene when sexual harassment occurs, basic helping skills on what to do for a survivor, and how to get participants to advocate for change. The participants were very keen to increase the awareness of sexual harassment using the different forms of multimedia.



Politicisation of Ethnicity & Religion (PER)

Upcoming PERpaduan Workshops

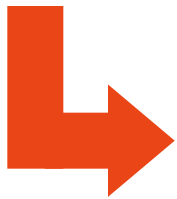


The PER Committee has been hard at work organising more PERpaduan workshops! Have a look at where we'll be conducting trainings next:

October 21st - 23rd: FHRAM

October 31st - November 1st: ALIRAN, Penang

November 6th - 8th: Universiti Malaya



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

In July, reports popped up about maternity pants that would cover a woman's aurat during childbirth. AWAM issued a statement on the topic. Check out an excerpt below!

"The sale of the aurat pants calls into question its necessity and role. Is this really a choice for women in labour, or are the manufacturers simply exploiting and cashing in on politicised Islam in Malaysia?

We find it unthinkable that a business should attempt to profit off the trend of body-shaming and women's insecurities while further perpetuating arbitrary notions of what it means to be "modest". Any attempt to prey off women's insecurities and pander to misappropriated religious ideals needs to be critically examined if we wish to liberate women from this cycle of body-policing."

[Click here to read the full press statement.](#)

Special Report: AWAM's 10th Annual Treasure Hunt

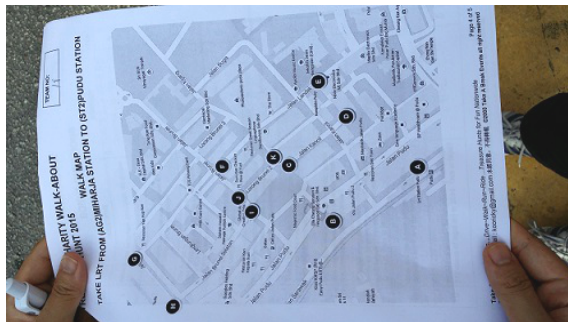
On May 31st, AWAM held its 10th Treasure Walk-a-Hunt at Viva Shopping Mall, Cheras. With over a hundred participants, it was a fun-filled day to "Pace for Change".

This year, the winning teams - 4Ekor and Team Bolster took home the grand prize, a 4 Day 3 Night Phuket and Krabi cruise sponsored by Star Cruise.

The Lucky Draw event that was held after the Walk-a-Hunt allowed other participants to try their luck in winning some very exciting prizes, also including a 4 Day 3Night Phuket and Krabi cruise by Star Cruise. Undoubtedly, many participants went home satisfied thanks to our sponsors from Nestle, Pestle & Mortar, Coffee Bean, The Body Shop, Metrojaya, and etc.

For the past 10 years, AWAM's Treasure Walk-a-Hunt has been a huge success and could not have been achieved if it were not for our generous sponsors and participants. Despite our achievements, we know that there is still a long way to go before all women are afforded the equal opportunity and access they deserve.

Following this, AWAM's annual Treasure Walk-a-Hunt was organised as part of our efforts to create a just, democratic and equitable society where all persons, including women, are free from all forms of discrimination and violence.



Special Report: **Hentikan Rogol**: Stop The Rape Of Our Children!



On July 7th, the Citizens Against Rape (CAR) organised a walk themed #HentikanRogol: Stop The Rape Of Our Children, to protest against sexual violence against minors. The walk was held in response to the clear demonstration of injustice in the Sibu rape acquittal which saw a 60-year-old man walk away scott free after impregnating a 15-year-old victim with a semen-smear finger.

AWAM was part of the Citizens Against Rape coalition formed in response to this, alongside other women's rights and children's rights NGOs such as SIS, WAO, SUARAM, KLSCAH, Childline Malaysia, Wanita IKRAM, MCRI and VoC. The protest drew a crowd of 400-strong, turning the west entrance of KL Sogo into a sea of orange. Armed with placards protesting rape such as "My Dress is not a Yes" and "My Body is not your Property", and dressed in orange to symbolise a bright future, the crowd remained energetic throughout the march to KLCC.

The beginning of the walk also saw a poignant speech made by a survivor of sexual assault highlighting the onerous process of navigating the legal process post-assault, as well as a poetry recital by national poet laureate A. Samad Said, speeches by President of Childline Malaysia, Datin P.H. Wong; the Executive Director of Sisters in Islam, Ratna Osman; and a member of Men Against Violence, Vernon Emuang.

A petition demanding for legislative changes and educational policies to better address rape, including the expansion of the current legal definition of rape, enhancing the weight of child's testimonies as well as introducing gender equality curriculums in schools, has garnered a total of 2,244 signatures.

Other News and Events

GBM Summit



On May 9th, GBM organised the GBM Summit on Civil Society: Post NEP - Towards a National Consensus. **Yong Yi** attended. It brought together individuals and CSOs to address the common interest for the whole nation of Malaysia. There are concerns about the deepening bridge between various groups in society, despite the continuous reiteration of the need to maintain harmony by the governmental officials and the NGOs supporting the cause.

Aiyoh Wat Lah! Awards



The 'Aiyoh Wat Lah!' Awards is an annual event by JAG intended 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. This year we received 1391 votes from the public. We also took our show on the road and held the event on May 10th at the Sarong Paloh Event Hall in Ipoh! In an amazing show of support, we had the largest number of people attending our Aiyoh event to date, and our #AiyohWatLah hashtag even became the #1 trending hashtag in Malaysia on Twitter during event day! Huge thanks to the organising committee!

JAG EnP



From June 12-14th, AWAM staff members **Wei San, Deepa, Evie, and Yong Yi** attended the annual JAG Evaluation and Planning in Ipoh. The EnP had a few main goals: to review 2014 planning, to situate where we are as a coalition, and where we need to go, to identify possible areas of collaboration for 2015 – 2016, and to identify key issues that we want to address in 2015 - 2016.

SOGIE

On June 2nd, **Thency, Evie, Siew, Kelvin, Aisyah, Adrienne, and Deepa** attended a workshop themed "Understanding SOGIE and ASEAN". The workshop highlighted the numerous forms of discrimination and marginalisation faced by the LGBTQ community in Malaysia and Southeast Asia and the ways in which gender, sex, orientation, and identity intersect.

Other News and Events

Feminist Friday || May

On May 15th, AWAM hosted its fourth Feminist Friday of the year with the topic "Femininity in Feminism". Facilitated by AWAM members **Sazlin** and **Jiun**, this edition drew a crowd of 17 participants. There was a very fruitful discussion on the public images of Susan B. Anthony, Michelle Obama and Melissa Mayer, all of whom were successful women with conventionally feminine gender presentations. The session also included a discussion on the fine line between objectification and sexual empowerment, as well as the politics behind makeup and high heels.



Feminist Friday || June

On June 19th, AWAM hosted its fifth Feminist Friday themed "Pornography: Exploitation or Empowerment". Facilitated by AWAM intern **Kelvin** and WAO intern **Weiling**, this edition drew a crowd of 13 participants. The lively discussion revolved around numerous feminist and ethical issues surrounding pornography, including the treatment of performers, the perpetuation of gendered dynamics and the cognitive effects of viewing pornography. The participants also delved into a debate on racialised portrayals of people of color in pornography, highlighting the intersection between gender and race.



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

Feminist Friday || July

AWAM hosted its sixth Feminist Friday of the year on July 21st, on the topic "What Makes A Woman?" for 16 participants. The discussion, facilitated by AWAM members **Ashley** and **Kelvin**, revolved around delineating the concepts of "sex", "gender identity", "gender expression" and "sexual orientation", as well as establishing the premise that gender identity is contingent on self-identification rather than biology. The session prompted the participants to reevaluate their vocabulary describing trans people and to divorce the synonymy between womanhood and vaginas/breasts. This edition of Feminist Friday also ended with a privilege walk, which provoked thought on our own position in society based on the numerous intersections of our identities (such as ethnicity, gender, class, etc).



Other News and Events



GBM Training of Trainers

From May 15-17th, **Deepa**, **Baanu**, and **Ruby** attended the GBM Training of Trainers which aimed to produce trainers with expertise as facilitators and in using creative media materials that will be used in local training and workshops. The training was based on issues of anti-racism and human rights.

Psychology Dialogue Session



On July 14th, **Emily** and **Siew** attended a meeting with faculty from HELP University to offer their input, from an NGO's perspective, in reviewing the student curriculum, enhancing networking and partnership (internships) opportunities, as well as employability initiatives for students.



Briefing on Appeal of Transgender Ruling

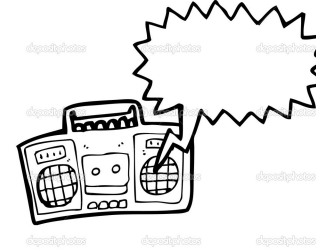
On July 28th, **Evie** and **Kelvin** attended a briefing organised by Justice for Sisters on the Negeri Sembilan transgender ruling. The briefing gave an overview on numerous issues including the contentions in the court case, the dual legal systems in Malaysia, the current legal penalties for Malay-Muslim transgender women, as well as global legal precedents.

Bersih 4 Press Conference



On July 29th, **Wei San**, **Evie**, and **Kelvin** attended the Bersih 4 Press Conference at the EMPOWER office. The Bersih 4 rally will be held from Aug 29-30th, and calls for clean elections and a clean government.

AWAM IN THE MEDIA



On May 8th, **Yong Yi** and **Yock Lin** were in the TraxxFM studio to talk on the topic of "Women In The Workforce: Gender Equality". AWAM highlighted that gender stereotypes are one of the biggest barriers stopping women from pursuing careers in top management. Discrimination due to uncertainty about women's suitability for leadership positions is still largely prevalent.

On June 10th, **Betty** was on BFM to talk about the issue of Domestic Violence. She covered the laws relating to DV, the different forms of DV, and what people can do if they find themselves in violent situations.

On June 22nd, **Wei San** and **Emily** were on Bella NTV7 to talk about the issue of Domestic Violence. They covered statistics on DV cases as well as the holes in DV law in Malaysia such as how it does not cover intimate partner violence between unmarried couples.

On July 7th, **Yong Yi**, **Evie**, and **Kelvin** went into the TraxxFM studio to record five PSAs for AWAM on: rape, sexual harassment, domestic violence, the White Ribbon Run, and a general AWAM PSA. Listen out for us on Traxx, channel 90.3!



AWAM IN THE MEDIA

Press Statements

AWAM responds to statements in the press, either by request, or through our own initiative in order to make clear our stance on certain issues. We have found that it is a great way to showcase how much the work at AWAM is needed by responding to current affairs with a feminist perspective. From June to August, AWAM published five press statements, was part of three JAG statements, and endorsed four statements from various other organisations.

Click the links below to read the statements in full!

AWAM Press Statements

13th May: AWAM Press Statement on Statutory Rape

15th May: Press Release on Treasure Hunt Action

1st June: Post-Event Press Release on AWAM's 10th Annual Treasure Walk-a-Hunt

6th July: AWAM's Press Statement on Maternity Aurat Pants

8th July: AWAM's Press Statement on Sexual Harassment in the Workplace

JAG Press Statements Endorsed By AWAM

18th May: Malaysia Must Act Now To Save Human Lives, Protect Victims of Trafficking

9th June: JAG Expresses Shock Over Arbitrary Dress Code Enforcement In Government Offices

12th June: JAG Statement on Marital Rape

Other Press Statements Endorsed By AWAM

4th June: Citizen's Against Rape: Hentikan Rogol – Stop Raping Our Children

13th July: Citizens Against Rape Press Statement On The Tabling Of The Definition Of Rape

16th July: Kuala Lumpur CPO Responsible For Police's Failure To Prevent Low Yat Riot

27th July: Crackdown On The Edge Demonstrates Dire Desperation Of Government

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



AWAM's White Ribbon Run is back for its third year! Don't forget to register [HERE](#).

Check out our video of last year's run to relive the memories!

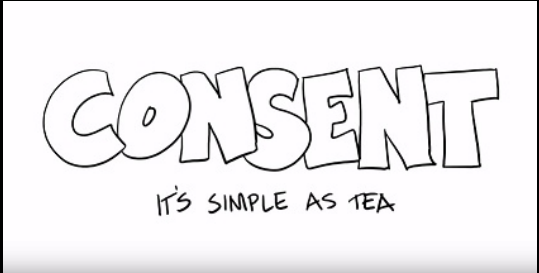
[Click here to watch](#)



MUST WATCH VIDEOS

Like what you see?

So many people misunderstand what consent truly means. Take a minute to watch this awesome video on how consent works.



[Click here to watch](#)

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**.