

AWAM E-LINK



**APR/MAY
2015
EDITION**

What's Coming Up?

10 MAY

Aiyoh Wat Lah?! Awards

15 MAY

Feminist Friday

15 -17 MAY

GBM Aku Bangsa Malaysia TOT

18 MAY

LAC Midterm Review

20 MAY

UNDI Malaysia: Law Reform Lobbying Campaign Meeting

22 MAY

Hentikan Rogol Press Conference (TBC)

24 MAY

Hentikan Rogol Action (TBC)

30 MAY

KTP Communication and Helping Skills Workshop (TBC)

31 MAY

10th Annual Treasure Walk-A-Hunt

5 - 7 JUNE

KTP Peer Workshop (TBC)

8 - 10 JUNE

Training of Trainers for Service Providers (TBC)

11 JUNE

Meeting with Wanita IKRAM

13 - 14 JUNE

JAG Evaluation and Planning

16 - 17 JUNE

UNIMAS Sexual Harassment Training (TBC)

19 JUNE

Feminist Friday

20 JUNE

AWAM Orientation



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REGISTER HERE

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



Deepa
Staff



Baanu
Intern



Kelvin
Intern

- 2** Gender-Based Violence (GBV)
- 4** Politicisation of Ethnicity & Religion (PER)
- 5** Special Report: International Women's Day
- 6** Other News & Events
- 9** AWAM In The Media
- 11** Must See Videos

IN THIS ISSUE...

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

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Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

Talks @ Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia

Over the course of March and April, AWAM gave four talks at Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia In Nilai. We are grateful that we were given the opportunity to talk to the students and lecturers at USIM on a broad range of topics.



On March 11th, **Betty** spoke on the issues of family, the law on domestic violence, and its application. Around 20 students attended the talk and participated greatly in the informative session.



On March 25th, **Wei San** gave a lecture on the topic "A Woman's Journey through the lens of CEDAW". She highlighted statistics regarding women's position in politics, and the economy. She also explained the CEDAW version of equality. The attendees consisted of about 70 people including students and lecturers from the Faculty of Syariah & Law.



On April 8th, **Thency** conducted an interactive session on the topic "Understanding the Essence of Child Rights". There were about 20 to 25 participants. The session created a space to think about and to discuss why child rights is an important and relevant topic in their lives. One of the main points that was emphasized was that in everything we do, especially our actions and decisions related to children, a crucial question to ask ourselves is, "Is this in the best interest of the child?"



On April 22nd, **Betty** gave a lecture on Marriage and Divorce. She looked at the criteria for marriage, specifically focusing on girls below 21. She also covered the issues of what are the criteria for divorce and how the law works in the event that a marriage doesn't work out. Around 30 students in total attended the talk.

KTP: Young Person Leading to Action

From March 22nd-24th AWAM conducted the KTP workshop for 22 teenagers from a community in Selangor. This was the third of a series of workshops that were organized for the teenagers. At the end of this workshop, the participants went to a voting process to form their own youth club in their community. This club will serve as a platform for them to engage their peers in constructive activities and initiatives within their community. The participants shared that they had gained a lot from this workshop and were happy to have had the space to learn and explore various issues.

SMK Petaling Jaya

On April 3rd, **Thency** and **Aisyah** gave a talk to around 80 girl guides, aged 13-17. The theme of the girl guide's camp was globalisation and stopping the violence.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV)



SH Panel by UM and 3R

Wei San was on a panel on March 15th about sexual harassment that was hosted by Universiti Malaya and 3R in conjunction with UM's "Oh My Gender" festival. The festival aimed to engage young people on issues concerning feminism in Malaysia.



VAW Photoshoot

AWAM staff members Aisyah, Evie, and Yong Yi took part in domestic abuse awareness photoshoot on March 19th. Thanks to our counsellor Ellen for sponsoring the six professional photos for us! Keep an eye out for the posters that will be used in our upcoming events!

SH Talk for Bemis



On March 20th, Wei San conducted a 2 hour sexual harassment session at Bemis Healthcare Packaging Asia Pacific in Subang Jaya, Selangor for 44 of its management and office staff. This was followed by a 1 hour session by Betty for over 30 production staff on March 27th. While most seemed to find the session informative, it was clear that more time for discussion was needed.

DV Campaign: Kuantan



On March 29th, the AWAM team successfully carried out the DV campaign seminar in Kuantan, Pahang. This time around, the collaboration was with a survivor of domestic violence from Women's Voice, Pahang.

Politicisation of Ethnicity & Religion (PER)

PERpaduan Youth Workshop

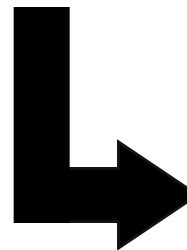


AWAM organised a PERpaduan Youth Workshop at Shah's Village Hotel, PJ on April 17-19th. The programme was attended by 23 students from the Gender Studies Programme from University Malaya. The students were engaging, participative, and reported that the workshop opened their minds to the idea of PER and its impact on women. The students also said they are now more open to questioning existing patriarchal beliefs that are cloaked in religiosity. Huge thanks to our trainers, **Wei San** and **Thency** for carrying out the sessions over the two and half days!

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

PER Big Group Meeting

On April 11th, the PER Committee hosted a Big Group Meeting on the topic of the pros and cons of Vernacular Education. An expert speaker on the topic, **Wong Chin Huat**, was on hand to present on the topic, answer any pressing questions, and facilitate the discussion. 16 AWAM members and friends attended the BGM. Huge thanks to our speaker, and everyone who participated in the event!



Special Report:

INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S DAY 2015

This year in conjunction with International Women's Day, AWAM held an event themed #DefineYourself on May 10th to encourage women to reclaim their own personal narratives and create new definitions of womanhood for themselves.

Over eighty people attended the celebration, taking part in a whole range of interactive games and activities, including a carnival like game where guests were able to "Smash the Patriarchy" in the form of knock-them-down pins. The pins each represented a form of discrimination and oppression women faced. There were also booths which offered a reflective space for guests to define who they wanted to be, and what they would do to make it happen for themselves.



Following the interactive segment, participants were treated to a wide range of performances. From artists, poets, thespians to dancers, women were given the space to express their creativity — celebrating their art with an engaged audience.

Huge thanks to our organising team - **Thency, Aisyah, Sazlin, Nikkola, Evie, Baanu, Wei San, Wei Hoong, Ying Hui, Adrienne, Khaili, and Hui Chin** - for putting this all together!



Other News and Events

Conflict Management



On April 16th, AWAM held a conflict management workshop to provide participants with communications skills which can be used to address situations of conflict. The workshop was led by **Mr. Hakam Tiwana** and provided the 10 participants with an overview of the different styles and approaches of communication, as well as skills to recognise and manage situations of interpersonal conflict.

ASEAN People's Forum



The ASEAN's People's Forum is an annual event bringing civil societies from around the region together to discuss pressing socio-political issues. This year's APF was hosted by Malaysia from April 22nd-24th and a team from AWAM attended the talks, forums, and workshops over the three days in order to learn more about human rights around the world.

AWAM AGM



AWAM held its Annual General Meeting on March 28th. The AGM is for AWAM members, exco, and staff to come together and go over the events of 2014, the financial report of 2014, and the proposed programme and budget for 2015.

On April 29th, AWAM hosted a fundraising brainstorming session in order to think up new, fresh ideas for how AWAM can raise funds to continue our important work. 17 people attended the session and we planned out a whole new array of fundraising ideas! Watch this space!



**REGISTER
HERE**

Other News and Events

Feminist Friday || March

On March 20th, AWAM hosted its second Feminist Friday of the year on the topic of "LGBTQIPA". 16 people attended and participated and the sessions were facilitated by AWAM members **Baanu** and **Ying Hui**. Participants were asked to anonymously write down any questions they had about LGBTQIPA issues to clear any lingering doubts, and then were asked to get into pairs and discuss events and experiences in their lives regarding sexual orientation. The session ended with a discussion on an article about advancing LGBT rights in Malaysia.



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

Feminist Friday || April

On April 17th, AWAM hosted its third Feminist Friday of the year with the topic "Sex Education". Our members, **Wei Hoong** and **Hui Chin** facilitated the session which was attended by 8 participants. We played "Taboo" and it was a a-ha moment of the participants to notice the words we associate with the terms used in sex education. The participants then shared about their first encounter of sex education in our lives. The current state of sex education in Malaysia and its implication on the society was also discussed.



AWAM Orientation

On March 28th, the Membership Development Committee hosted the first orientation of the year. The main objective of the programme was to provide the participants an overview of the organisation and sharing insights on gender issues. The main focus of the orientation was centered on deconstructing gender. Gender can be viewed from different perspectives rather than be presented as something that is innate and immutable. Participants were continuously invited to interact with the facilitator and among themselves. This was also a space for the participants to exchange ideas and process the information. The participants could then explore where they might possibly come to fit in the organisation via the programme-sharing session. Our members, **beng hui** and **Wei Hoong** shared their personal experiences volunteering for AWAM. AWAM staff, **Wei San**, was also present to share her areas of work and what motivated her to continue to stay with us.

Other News and Events

AWAM Gets a Makeover!

From mid-March to early May, the AWAM Centre underwent extensive renovation both outside and inside the building. During this time, the AWAM staff relocated to an office space at Forum 19. We would like to extend a note of thanks to Sue Chong, Inovar, Sarah Sheah, Mr Sheah of G-Lights, and Mr Lee for their assistance and support during our renovation process. Special thanks to our renovation team, **Emily**, **Yock Lin**, and **Jude**, who oversaw the whole process!

Check out the mini-timeline below to see what happened during the past two months!

March 14th: Packing of the AWAM Centre is completed and the staff relocates to Forum 19.

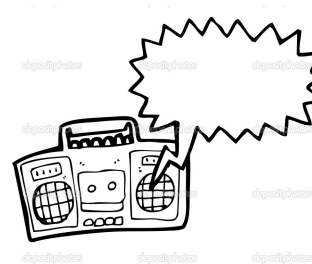


March 15th - May 4th: Renovation takes place at AWAM whilst staff continue their work and activities in the G Lights office space.

May 5th: Renovation is completed and AWAM staff moves back into the brand new office!



AWAM IN THE MEDIA



From left: Sisters in Islam's communications officer, Aliah Ali, All Women's Action Society's information communications officer Evelynne Gomez and Women's Aid Organisation's advocacy officer (communications) Kristine Yap



Evie, Kristine (WAO), and **Aliah** (SIS) were on DurianAsean on March 26th to talk about the AiyohWatLah?! awards and the issue of feminism

As part of the publicity for the AiyohWatLah?! Awards, **Evie, Kristine** (WAO), and **Aliah** (SIS) were interviewed and featured in an article by FocusWeek on the topic of the LGBT community in Malaysia on April 1st.

Yong Yi and **Jude** were on TraxxFM's "Momentum Friday" segment on April 9th to talk about feminism, and AWAM's upcoming 10th Annual Charity Treasure Walk-a-Hunt.

On April 19th, Damansara Utama State Assemblywoman **Yeo Bee Yin** together with AWAM launched an awareness video No Excuse to Rape Campaign with the slogan "Rogol adalah rogol. Tiada Alasan" The video has since gone viral with over 80,000 views, and over 40 articles in the press about it!



The 'Aiyoh Wat Lah?' Awards 2015

BIGOTRY WILL be the theme of the 4th Aiyoh Wat Lah! Awards this year.

The Joint Action Group for Gender Equality (JAG), which is hosting the event in Ipoh on May 10, has compiled a list of biased remarks and actions from 2014 that will be highlighted.

Those remarks have been listed in seven categories, namely Foot in Mouth, Insulting Intelligence, Policy Fail, Cannot Ignore, Least Helpful to the Sisterhood, Enough Already, and Right on Track.

JAG will also focus on discrimination



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. Over March and April, AWAM published three press statements, was part of two JAG statements, and endorsed three statements from various other organisations.

Click the links below to read the statements in full!

AWAM Press Statements

10th March: AWAM's International Women's Day Event

8th April: AWAM's 10th Annual Treasure Walk-a-Hunt

29th April: Women Do Not Owe Their Husbands Sex

JAG Press Statements endorsed by AWAM

29th March: Aiyoh Wat Lah?! 2015 Press Statement

16th April: Equating Women Politicians to "Leaking Pipes" Due To Their Menses

Other Press Statements endorsed by AWAM

12th March: Urge Chinese Government To Release The Feminists Immediately

2nd April: Civil Society Call for the Immediate Release of TMI Chief Editor and Publisher

8th April: Joint Statement by Civil Society Organisations Inclusive, Open and Rational Debates

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



MUST WATCH VIDEOS

Zainah Anwar, explains the importance of cultural debate in the promotion of equality and justice for women in the Muslim world.

CAMPAGNING FOR
WOMEN'S RIGHTS
IN THE MUSLIM WORLD

[Click here to watch](#)

JANGAN TIPU DIRI SENDIRI
ROGOL ADALAH ROGOL

[Click here to watch](#)

A digital campaign – No Excuse to Rape Campaign was launched by DAP Assemblywoman Yeo Bee Yin together with AWAM that aims to break the culture of victim blaming in the country and raise awareness about statutory rape, substance-related rape and marital rape.

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**.