

# AWAM E-LINK



# SEPT-DEC 2015 EDITION

## What's Coming Up?

**25 NOV - 10 DEC**

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

**5 DEC**

16 Days of Activism Workshop

**9 DEC**

White Ribbon Campaign Thank You Dinner

**10 DEC**

International Human Rights Day

**19 DEC**

Feminist Reading Group

**9 - 10 JAN**

MMHA Workshop on Mental Health

**16 JAN**

AWAM Member's Orientation

**22-23 JAN**

Group Process Awareness Workshop

**29-31 JAN**

AWAM's 2nd Feminist Camp



**All Women's Action Society (AWAM)**

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The past three months had a number of new people joining us at AWAM!

Effie  
Intern

Zhen Ni  
Intern

Alex  
Member

Liza  
Member

Adila  
Member

Shirley  
Member

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This e-link reports on activities August to November, and highlights upcoming activities from December - January 2016.

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# Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

## SH Talk for Dimension Data

From August 18th to 19th, Betty carried out a training on sexual harassment for Dimension Data employees. The training covered the definition of SH, the types and categories of SH, as well as the laws that cover SH. The participants also received information on the steps to take if they were to ever experience sexual harassment in the

## KTP UM Dah Kenal Apa Lagi Workshop

On September 6th, Betty ran a workshop session on basic helping skills for the healthcare providers at the Taman Medan Health Clinic. Around 25 participants attended the session. The workshop aimed to help create better communication skills between the healthcare providers and patients, in particular, youth, who come into the health clinic.

## Training for D11

From 24 to 26 August 2015 Betty and Thency conducted the Service Providers Training for PDRM-D11 on gender and VAW at the Child Interview Centre. Our interns and member, Adrienne, Kavitha and Yin Heng, also attended the training as part of their capacity building development. This training was organised by AWAM, with the support of Women's Learning Partnership (WLP). The objectives of this training are to raise awareness of the police officers on CEDAW and CRC, and to gender sensitise the front-liners so that they they deliver survivor-centered services



# Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

## WLP Pre-TOT + Advanced TOT on Human Rights

On October 19th-24th, Thency attended the WLP Pre-TOT + Advanced TOT on Human Rights in Beirut Lebanon. The TOT focused on deepening the trainers' facilitation expertise and testing new curriculum, including WLP's new manual on women's human rights.

## Training on Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse

On September 15, Betty ran a workshop in Johor for hearing impaired children on the topic of child sexual abuse. 15 children aged from 6-14 years, who ranged from partially to fully hearing impaired went through activities to highlight child sexual abuse (CSA) covering what CSA is, how it can happen, and how children can take action. A half-hour briefing was also held for the parents of the children to help put both parents and children on same page.

## BGM on Marital Rape

On October 10, AWAM hosted a Big Group Meeting on the topic Marital Rape in light of recent denials of the act and contentions on the term. Panel speakers invited were Dr Ahmad Farouk Musa (IRF), Datin Paduka Che Asmah Ibrahim (Wanita IKRAM), and Jason Liang (Wong & Partners). Speakers presented on reconciling the controversial fatwa claiming that 'women have no right to refuse her husband's sexual demands' with principles of Syariah; using the term 'marital rape' in Islam where marriage is supposed to be founded on mutual partnership; and understanding the complications faced in convicting rape cases due to definitional issues and limitations of the law. Panel speakers and attendees agreed that marital rape must be set against the wider context of VAW, and within marriage specifically, domestic violence.



# Politicisation of Ethnicity & Religion (PER)



## PER Concepts and Trainer's Training

From 18th-20th September, the PER Committee organized a Concepts and Trainer's Training to provide the participants with a platform to share and discuss concerns or questions around understanding and using the manual, to update improvements to the manual, and to sharpen their understanding of concepts so that they can better articulate and convey the messages of the manual.

## PER Workshop for FHRAM



From 21st-23rd October, a PER Workshop was conducted for 15 youths from the Family Planning Association UPM's Health and Sciences Faculty, aged between 18 and 25 years old. Wei San and Sazlin led the training. The participants reported that they were motivated and felt they can now do something with the new information as well as reported that they are more open to questioning existing patriarchal beliefs.



## PER Workshop for Aliran

From October 30th to November 1st, the PER Committee took their training to Penang to run a youth workshop with Aliran. 25 participants attended the workshop, and the training was conducted by Thency and Pui Yan. The workshop was a big success and participants got the message of the workshop with some teachers saying they would even like to use some sessions in their classes.

## PER Workshop for UM



From November 6th to 8th, a youth workshop was held for 16 youth participants from the Gender Studies department at Universiti Malaya. Thency and Syar conducted the training and the participants were very engaged in the topic.



# Special Report: AWAM's White Ribbon Run

## White Ribbon Forum

This year, prior to the run and walk, AWAM kicked off the campaign with the White Ribbon Public Forum themed “Power, Privilege, and Permission”, intended as a space for discussion and dialogue between men and boys. Approximately 40 participants took part in the discussion, which featured speakers from various fields of expertise. AWAM seeks to create a platform for men to actively engage and fight violence against women and simultaneously encourage families, communities and societies to create awareness about these issues. Special thanks to our speakers, Mr. Mueen Saheed, Kong Eu, Jason Liang, and Alexius Cheang.



## White Ribbon PC

AWAM's White Ribbon Press Conference was held on November 3rd, and included men of all ages, and from all walks of life holding weights of different sizes to symbolise the varying burdens that women have to deal with on a daily basis. This is AWAM's third public event to call on men and boys to be part of the solution to end violence against women. This year, we highlighted the theme of “The Story of a Generation,” where a generation of men and boys of all ages come together to end violence against women.



## White Ribbon Run Event Day

AWAM held its third White Ribbon Run at Padang Merbok on November 22nd. With approximately 1000 participants in attendance, AWAM successfully emphasised that Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Violence Against Women (VAW) are not solely women's rights issues, they are human rights issues and we should all be involved in addressing it. We would especially like to thank the organising committee, as well as our wonderful volunteers and generous donors and sponsors for helping us make the event a huge success!



# Other News and Events

## Feminist Friday || August

AWAM hosted its seventh Feminist Friday of the year on August 21st and discussed the topic “Representations of Minorities in the Media”. The discussion was facilitated by AWAM members, Adrienne and Alex, and revolved around the questions of what the participants associate with words like “minorities” and “media”. Participants also discussed their ideas on bad representation versus no representation at all.



## Feminist Friday || October

On October 21st, AWAM hosted its eight Feminist Friday of the year on the topic of “Feminism is so over!” The discussion was facilitated by Thency and Evie. 12 participants attended and took part in an informal “debate” to argue why and why not feminism is still relevant in today’s society. This was our last Feminist Friday of the year and we would like to convey our appreciation for all the members of the public who took part in our discussions this year!



## Member's Orientation

On August 22nd, AWAM held its third member’s Orientation of the year. 12 participants attended the half day session. Susanna and beng hui led the Orientation in which they briefed the participants on the structure of WC and process of decision-making in the organisation. We then introduced AWAM’s programmes, as well as had participants reflect on their values and how they interconnect with AWAM’s own values.

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

## Other News and Events



### Seminar on CEDAW Jurisprudence

On August 26th, Deepa, Lochna, Ain, and Siew attended a seminar on CEDAW (Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women) at the KL Bar. The seminar was run by Shanthi Dairiam and looked at the obligations of the State under CEDAW using its jurisprudence.

### Workshop on Defending Human Rights Online



From October 10-11th + 17th-18th, Evie attended a Workshop on Defending Human Rights Online which was led by EMPOWER. The workshop aimed to strengthen understanding of internet and digital security and to be able to help participants express their views and concerns on the internet and improve their lives through access to information on the internet.



### Women of the Future Summit

Wei San attended a series of events between October 26th to 30th 2015 as part of the Week of Women, at the invitation of the British High Commission of Malaysia. The events were co-hosted by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). She was part of a delegation from Malaysia which included Fidaus Husni from MyConsti, Azwan Omar from the Malaysian Youth Parliament.

### AWAM EnP



On November 27th-29th, AWAM staff, working collective, and committee members had a three day long evaluation and planning meeting in Genting to review the work we did over the course of 2015, and to plan our work for 2016. Huge thanks to everyone who participated in this experience and shared their time, thoughts, and ideas.



# AWAM IN THE MEDIA



On August 2nd, AWAM intern, **Kelvin**, and AWAM staff, **Yong Yi**, went for an interview on RTM2 to talk about the issue of dress codes and moral policing of women in Malaysia following a few incidents in which women were barred entry into government buildings due to the clothing they were wearing.

On August 27th, AWAM staff **Lochna** and **Yong Yi** attended an interview session on V'Buzz on Astro Vinmeen. This interview focused on gender-based violence and the role that White Ribbon Campaign plays in addressing this issue.

On October 18th, AWAM Honorary Secretary, **Jude**, and one of AWAM's White Ribbon Ambassadors, **Jason** (from Wong and Partners), were on TraxxFM to talk about AWAM's White Ribbon Run and the role that men can play in helping end violence against women.

On November 15th, **Yong Yi** was interviewed on RTM2's "What Say You" show on the topic of domestic violence and AWAM's White Ribbon Run and how the public can get involved and participate.



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



1 in 3 women worldwide will experience physical or sexual violence in their lifetime, usually from a male partner (WHO). Show that you never tolerate violence against women. Share the movie!

[Click here to watch](#)



## MUST WATCH VIDEOS

Check out this Ted Talk on why gender equality is important for everyone, men included!



[Click here to watch](#)

### 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**.