



The Joint Action Group for Gender Equality (JAG) comprises:

All Women's Action Society (AWAM)
Sisters in Islam (SIS)
Women's Aid Organisation (WAO)
Perak Women for Women Society (PWW)
Persatuan Kesedaran Komuniti Selangor (EMPOWER)
Persatuan Sahabat Wanita Selangor (PSWS)
Sabah Women's Action Resource Group (SAWO)
Tenaganita
Women's Centre for Change, Penang (WCC)

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FOR IMMEDIATE

Aiyoh... Wat Lah?! Last day to cast vote for annual sexist, misogynistic, homophobic, and transphobic awards

PETALING JAYA – It is the last chance for members of the public to cast their votes for the Aiyoh... Wat Lah?! Awards 2013. Votes can be cast at aiyohwatlah.tumblr.com for nominees in seven award categories.

The annual event organised by the Joint Action Group for Gender Equality (JAG) aims to raise awareness on what constitutes sexism, misogyny, homophobia, and transphobia and to encourage higher standards of public discourse from public figures and institutions in relation to gender and sexuality.

"The general elections are some days away, but Malaysians can vote right now for their least favourite sexist, misogynistic, homophobic, or transphobic statements and actions nominated at the Aiyoh... Wat Lah?! Awards," said Yu Ren Chung, an Advocacy Officer with Women's Aid Organisation, a member organisation of JAG.

"But at the general elections, Malaysians should vote against candidates who demonstrate such behaviour."

The Awards focuses on public statements and actions and not on individuals and institutions. Among the awards categories is the "Cannot Ignore" category, which highlights seriously offensive acts that are particularly damaging to the cause of gender equality and which require a severe response.

Damaging court rulings make up the bulk of this category, including a statement reportedly made by High Court Judge Zamani Abdul Rahim in a case involving an alleged rape of a 4 year old girl. He reportedly said, when overturning the conviction of the accused perpetrator, that "We must not forget who is involved in this rape allegation, even if she is an adult, in which women have a tendency to exaggerate about a sexual act."

Prime Minister Najib Razak's reported statement, "We will ensure that any deviant culture, such as the behaviour of the LGBTs and deviant thoughts such as liberalism and pluralism, will not get any place in this country," is also a nominee in the category.

Other award categories are "Foot in Mouth", "Insulting Intelligence", "Policy Fail", "Least Helpful to the Sisterhood", "Enough Already!", and "Right on Track".

[Voting](#) closes at the end of Friday 5 April. More than 1000 votes have been cast so far. Winners for each category will be announced at a public awards ceremony at Publika on Sunday 26 May.

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