



ALL WOMEN'S ACTION SOCIETY  
TELENITA

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SEXUAL  
HARASSMENT

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2020



Figure 1: Number of Physical Sexual Harassment cases each month

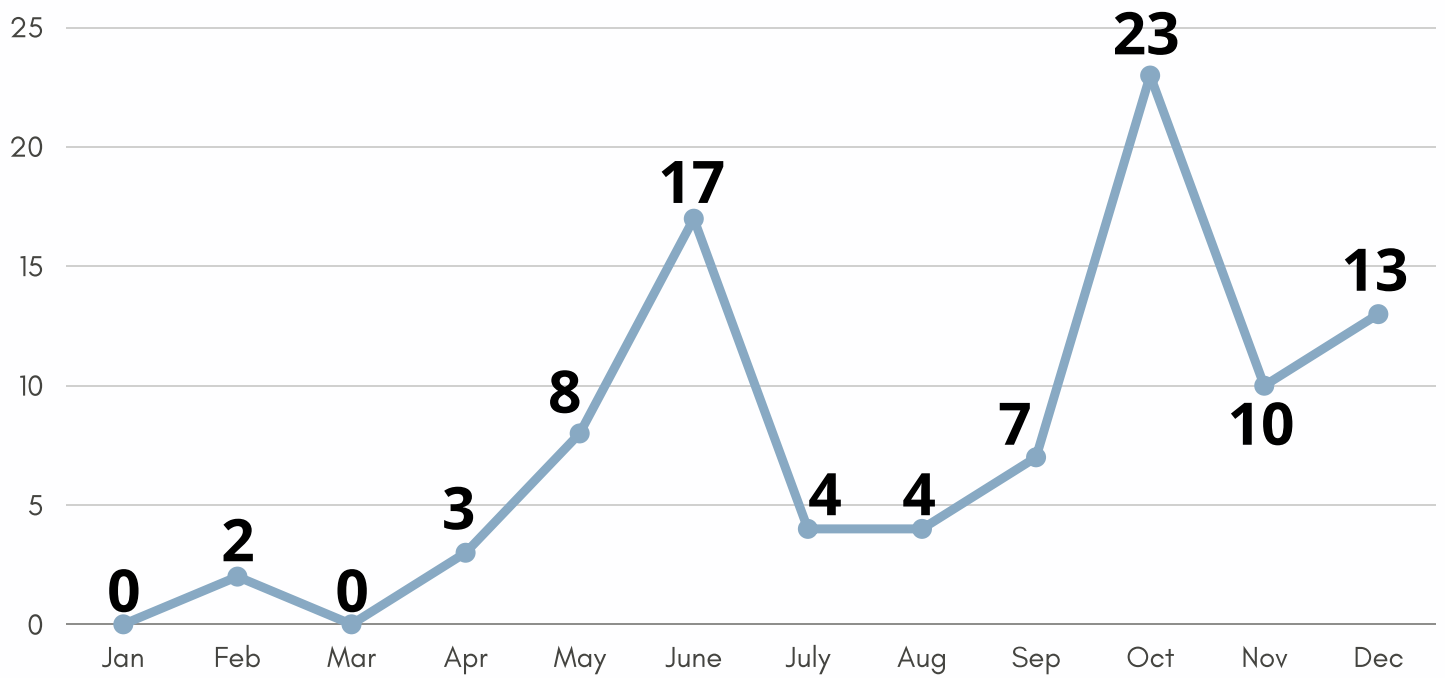


Figure 2: Number of Online Sexual Harassment Cases Each Month

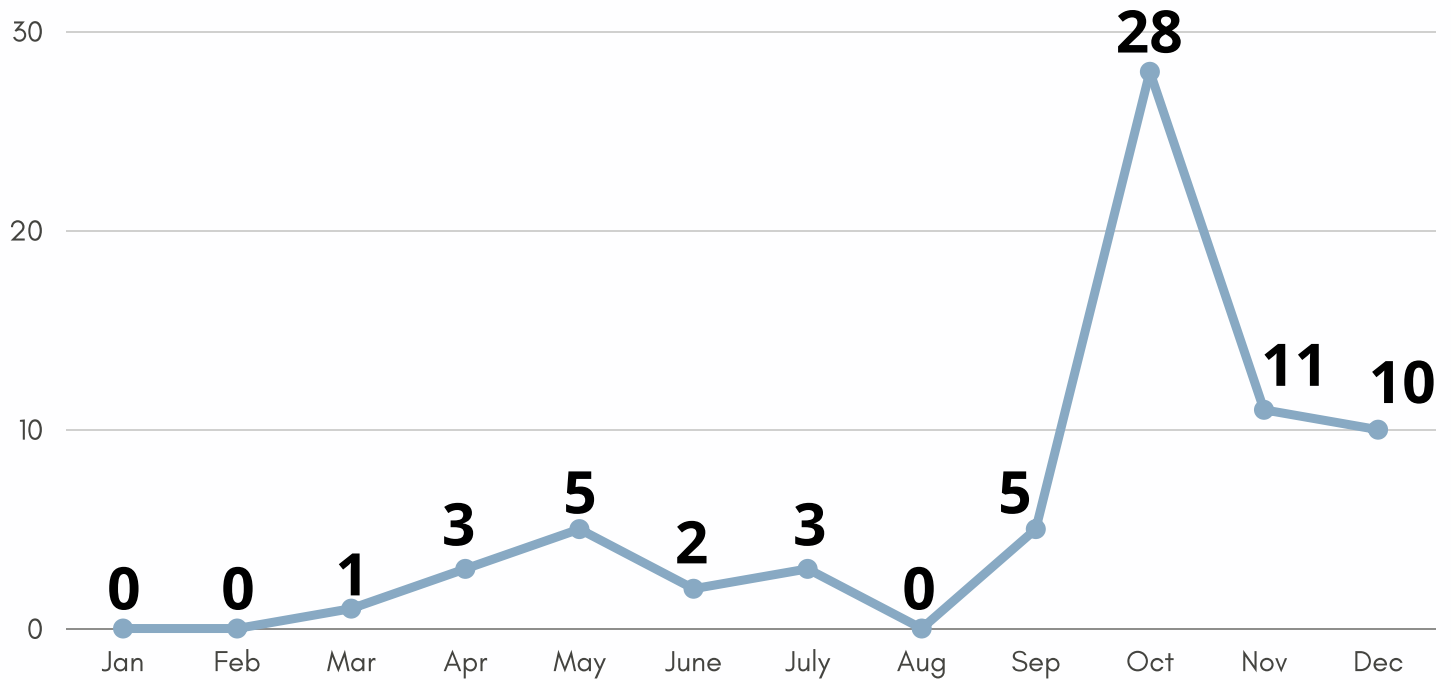


Figure 3: Age of Survivors

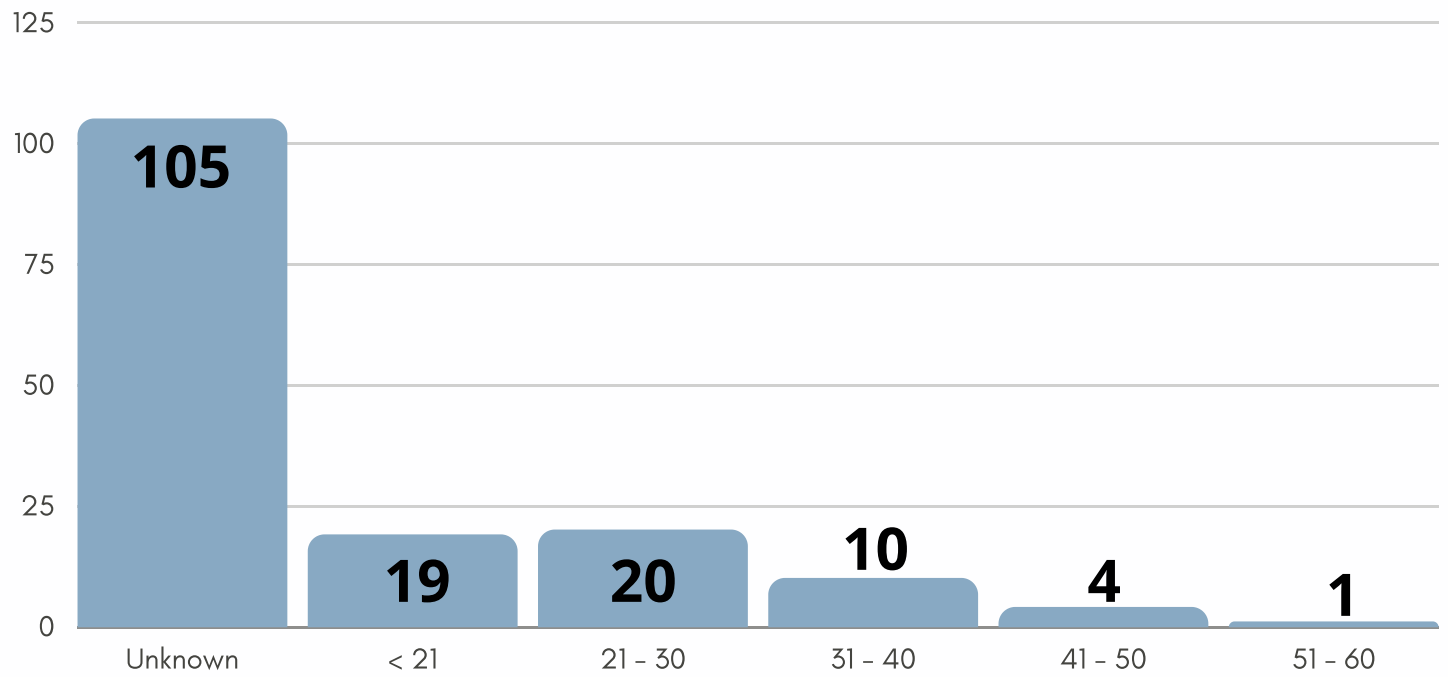


Figure 4: Gender of Survivors

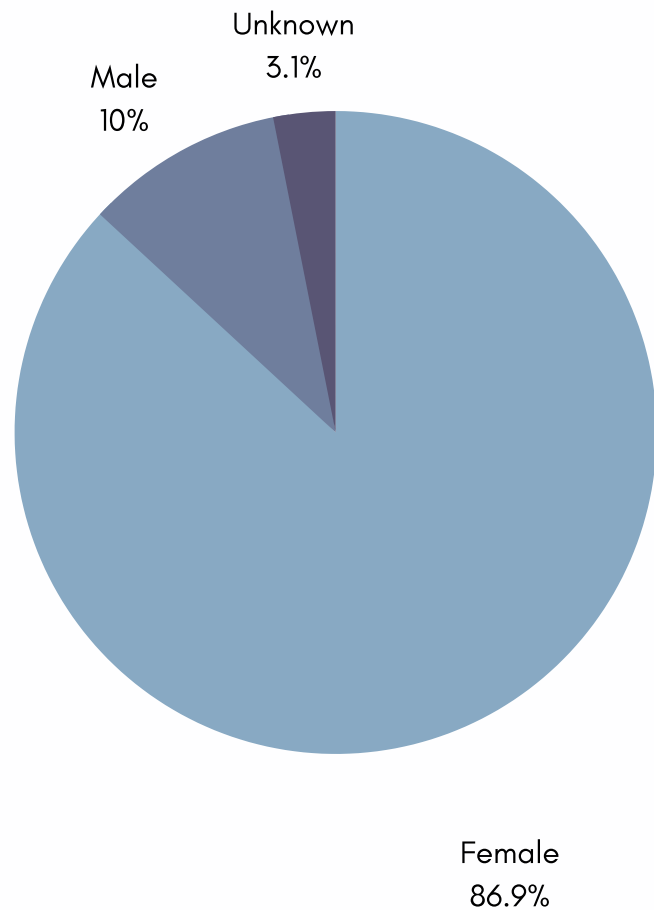
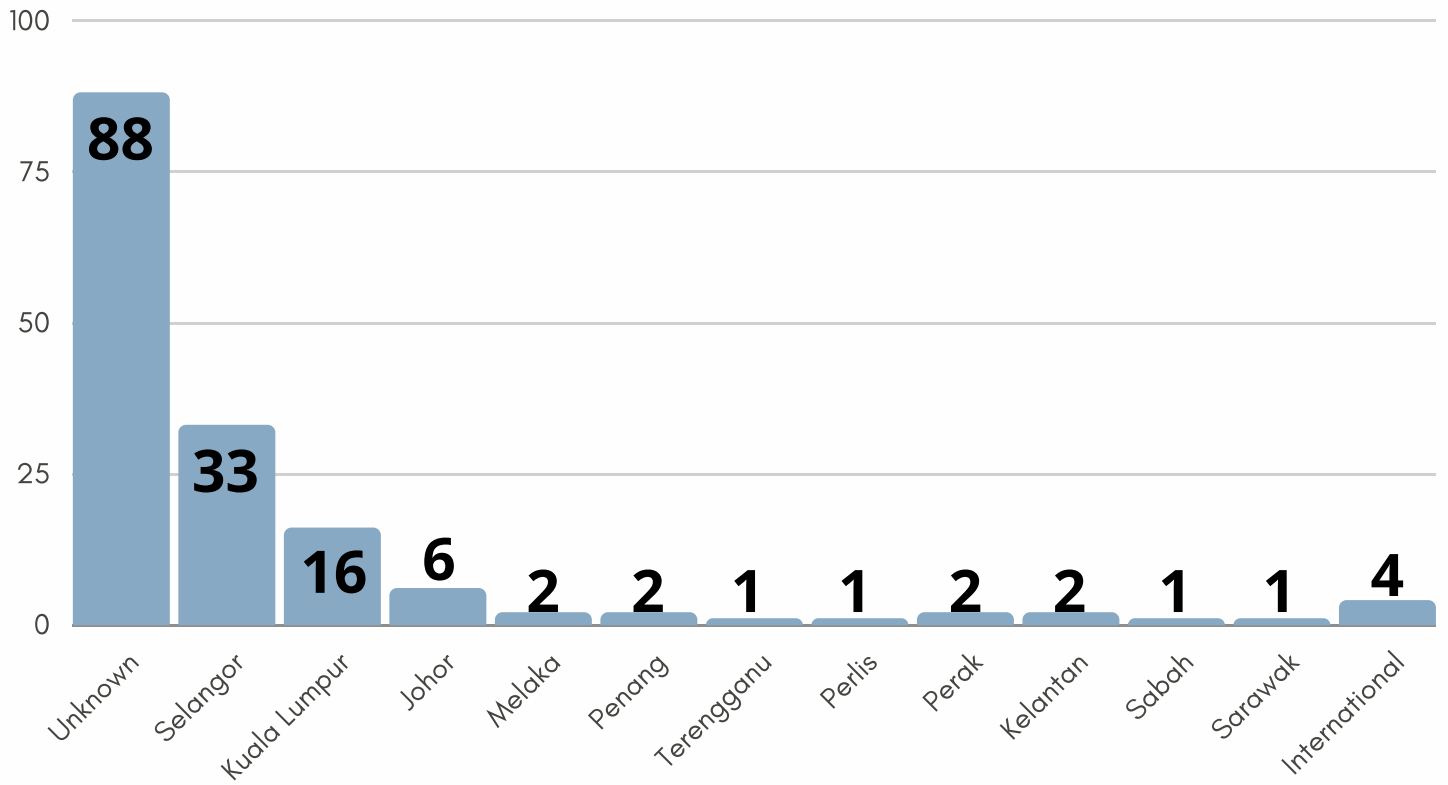


Figure 5: Breakdown of Cases by State



In 2020, in line with the global trend of the increase in GBV cases due to the pandemic, AWAM saw a rise in the number of sexual harassment complaints received. In 2019, we received a total of 16 cases. In 2020, we saw an increase in interest on the issue of sexual harassment and we received a total of 159 enquiries and cases on sexual harassment. In fact, sexual harassment overtook domestic violence as the issue with the highest number of cases. The trend in increase could be attributed to an improvement in awareness raising about GBV by women's rights NGOs and the media. Increased interest also came about as a result of the government announcements on the possibility of Malaysia having stand alone, focused legislation on sexual harassment by 2020 (this eventually did not come to fruition). Regardless, the numbers speak for themselves - sexual harassment was a social ill that needed to be addressed. The cases also revealed another alarming trend which was the increase in online sexual harassment. AWAM received so many cases on this issue in 2020 that it was deemed necessary to create an entirely new category for this new social problem. This trend can be attributed to the result of additional online interactions by the majority of people living in Malaysia (due to the restricted movement order imposed by the government to break the spread of the COVID-19 virus).

By the end of 2020, it was a clear and present danger - the lack of safe spaces were not limited to only physical ones. The numbers for sexual harassment peaked in October for two main reasons:

1. AWAM launched their #AWAMfortheBill campaign, aimed at getting the sexual harassment draft legislation enacted into law. This successfully pushed the messaging about sexual harassment awareness all over the country, resulting in more people reaching out to us to voice out their experiences in sexual harassment
2. There was a brief spurt of interest about a misogynistic group on the online Telegram platform which AWAM paid attention to. It resulted in engagement between AWAM, the police, survivors and netizens to highlight the activities of the group, which involved a huge amount of messaging that sexualized and objectified women amongst the 40,000 odd members.

This case also brought to light the severity of online sexual harassment on secured platforms like Telegram and has caused AWAM to re-direct some of our resources towards working with police and relevant ministries to address online sexual harassment.



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# Thank You

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