



Sarawak Women for Women Society

(Pertubuhan Wanita Untuk Wanita Sarawak)
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1
2006

President's Address

Greetings to all SWWS members,

A Happy and Blessed International Women's Day (8th of March) to all.

It has been quite a while since we had our in-house newsletter. The new committee felt the need to get at least two issues out for this year. Actually, we are trying to find ways to channel news and keep you informed of SWWS going ons.

We are glad to have Grace Ong and Serina William to help co-ordinate and put the newsletter together. If anyone of you have any contributions, please send them to the center via Nancy or anyone of them. We always encourage those attending talks, seminars, etc organized by other agencies to give a simple written report – just to share with the other members and should there be any handouts or working papers, don't forget to get a copy for our center.

Our AGM is on the 19th March 2005. Time really flies. But this year is not an election year, but do get prepared for next year. We would like to see more new members, new faces to be more involved. Do let us know if you are interested to serve in the committee.

This year we will be celebrating our 20th anniversary in May/July. Wow...we have been around for 20 years! I guess it's an opportune moment to reflect on our achievements and how much impact we have made on the lives of others, particularly women, through all the services we have provided and are providing, and from our talks, seminars, workshops, exhibitions, etc.

I strongly feel that we should do a programme to celebrate our 20th anniversary. It can be a dinner (invitations to past and present members) or any other programmes.

Does anyone have any suggestions? Well, let us know.

There are several important things/issues that we would like to bring up, and I believe the best place for us to discuss them is during our AGM. So, see you all at the AGM.

Till then, take care and God Bless.

Margaret Bedus

Sarawak Women For Women Society (SWWS) Office Bearers 2004 – 2006

President : *Margaret Bedus*
Vice President : *Angie Garet*
Secretary : *Grace Ong*
Vice Secretary : *Serina William*
Treasurer : *Anna Liew*
Vice Treasurer : *Alice Sim*

Committee Members

One Stop Crisis Centre :

Lilian Teo

Crisis Phonenumber :

Diana Carol

Drop-In Centre Coordinator :

Nancy Serimathi

Committee Members :

Ann Teo

Habibahliza Kamaruddin

Legal Advisors

Ann Teo

Maria Jimmy

Wendy Jorai

Voon Shiek Ni

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

On 30th March 2004, Suhakam, Kuala Lumpur organized a forum on CEDAW in Hilton Hotel, Kuching. It was officiated by YB Datuk Sharifah Mordiah. Among the topics discussed during the forum were:

- (i) Introduction to CEDAW
- (ii) Implementation of CEDAW from a government's perspective
- (iii) Presentation by a women's rights NGO
- (iv) Towards Gender Equality in Sarawak

The forum was attended by Margaret, Angie and Nancy. Margaret also did a presentation during the forum.

The final draft of the report on CEDAW by the Ministry of Women and Family Development is in the CEDAW file, kept in the DIC. Please liase with Nancy if you are interested to read the report.

Submitted by Margaret Bedus

Seminar on Together We Fight Violence against Women and Children

A seminar for women entitled '*Together We Fight Violence against Women and Children*', was held on 25th April 2004 at Dewan Seminar Pustaka Negeri Sarawak. It was jointly organized by Biro Wanita Kementerian Pembangunan Sosial dan Urbanisasi Negeri Sarawak, Majlis HEWI Persatuan Kebangsaan Pelajar Islam Malaysia (PKPIM) and Persatuan kebajikan Pelajar Islam Sarawak (PERKEPIS).

There were 4 sessions in the seminar:

- (i) '*Case and Analysis*' by Inspector Aminah Bt Ismail of Polis Diraja Malaysia
- (ii) '*Cause and Result*' by Puan Zabidah by Putit of Pensyarah

Fakulti Perubatan & Sains Kesihatan (UNIMAS)

(iii) '*What are our roles*' by panel members

- Ybhg Tan Sri Datin Paduka Seri Hajjah Zaleha Ismail of Majlis Kebajikan Kanak-kanak Malaysia (MKKM)
- Encik Kamal Affandi Hashim of Yayasan Pencegahan Jenayah Malaysia

(iv) '*Women and Children to Love Not to Abuse*' by Ustazah Nafisah bt Hj Ummi of Angkatan Belia Islam Malaysia (ABIM) Sarawak

Submitted by: Lilian Teo

Forum: Family, Gender and Security: Understanding Issues and Challenges

The '*Family, Gender and Security: Understanding Issues and Challenges*' Forum was held on 14th-15th May 2004 in Merdeka Palace, Kuching. It was jointly organized by the Ministry of Social Development & Urbanisation, Sarawak and the Southeast Asian Association for Gender Studies (SAMA).

The UN's View:

'Human Security is related to all other things that men and women cherish most: enough food for the children, adequate shelter, good health, schooling for the children, protection from violence inflicted by men or by nature, and a state which does not oppress its citizens but rules with their consent.'

(Louise Frechette, UN Deputy SG, 1999)

Aminah Ismail represented SWWS for Paper 6 on Building Support System for Human Security: What NGOs can do'. She touched on

- (i) A support system for the victims of violence and the general public.
- (ii) A support system for the service providers i.e. the NGOs.
- (iii) The need for more funds to reach out to more people and train people to do both preventive and curative work.

Submitted by Anna Liew

Crisis Phonenumber (CPL) Training 2004

The CPL Training Programme for 2004 kicked off on the 26th of June, with 17 women turning up for the first session. The CPL sub-committee was rather disappointed with the turnout for the first session. (From experience, numbers dwindle as the training programme progresses, therefore it is good to start with a big group).

The Programme is divided into three phases:

- (i) Phase 1 (one session) focuses on raising awareness of gender issues and the activities of SWWS, and the sharing of participants' expectations
- (ii) Phase 2 (seven sessions) provides a broad overview and practice of basic counseling skills
- (iii) Phase 3 (fourteen sessions) examines common problem areas in CPL and looks into effective ways of helping

Training sessions were carried out on Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoons. The main facilitators are Angie Garet, Gill Raja and Ling How Kee.

The Programme ended on the 18th of September as scheduled. Out of the 10 participants who completed the training, eight signed up to be CPL volunteers.

Submitted by Diana Carol

Seminar on Sexual Harassment at the Workplace

A seminar on 'Sexual Harassment at the Workplace', jointly organized by Biro Wanita Sarawak, Sarawak Women for Women Society and the Resident's Office, Sibu, was held on 24th July 2004 at Premier Hotel, Sibu.

It was attended by 134 participants from the various government agencies, NGOs and statutory bodies.

The topics covered during the seminar were:

- 1) 'Definitions, Myths and Facts' by Angie Garet;
- 2) 'Case Management and the Effects of Sexual Harassment' by Margaret Bedus;
- 3) 'The Legal Aspect of Sexual Harassment' by Maria Jimmy.

The seminar was funded by the Biro Wanita, Sarawak.

Submitted by: Margaret Bedus

Seminar: 'Training on Good Governance and Gender'

The 'Training on Good Governance and Gender' seminar was held on 19th - 22nd August 2004 in Pearl International Hotel, Kuala Lumpur. It was organized by Women's Development Collective (WDC). Twenty female participants from various private colleges, public universities and NGOs participated in the seminar. Among the topics discussed were:

- (i) The Political History of Malaysia
- (ii) Politics and You
- (iii) Good Islamic Governance
- (iv) Precepts of Good Governance
- (v) The Struggle of Feminism
- (vi) The Future of Feminism

SWWS was represented by Grace Ong.
Submitted by Grace Ong

'Journey through the Shadow of Death'

SWWS invited Anthony Yeo of Singapore to conduct a training programme. The outline of the programme is as follows:

Dates	Topic	Focus Areas	Target Group
23 – 24 September	End of Life Counselling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising awareness of the grieving process for the person dying and for those close to them. • Communicating with people who are dying (including listening to the dying). • Increasing understanding of the issues the bereaved may face in more difficult deaths e.g. sudden deaths, deaths of children. 	CPL volunteers Interested members of the public
25 – 26 September	Refresher Course for CPL Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief overview of basic principles of phonenumber counseling. • Common problem areas on CPL: (a) boy-girl / adult relationships (b) marital issues • The CPL in practice. 	CPL volunteers
26 September	Stress and anger management		SWWS members

PRIORITIES

People are often unreasonable, illogical and self-centred

Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives;

Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies;

Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you;

Be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight;

Build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous;

Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow;

Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough;

Give the world the best you've got anyway.

You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God;

It was never between you and them anyway.

Mother Teresa