

# PSWS NEWSLETTER

## Message from Irene Xavier

Dear members,  
In 2026, Sahabat Wanita will be issuing a monthly newsletter to all members. It will briefly highlight the ongoing work and other information that will be useful to all of you. If you have any suggestions for the newsletter, please get in touch with Jagathesan Muthusamy at [sahabatwanita@gmail.com](mailto:sahabatwanita@gmail.com). We will be happy for any constructive suggestions. Wishing everyone a very Happy Chinese New Year and Blessed Ramadan.

## Executive Committee (Exco)

- Pushpa Doraisamy
- Muthammah Maddacanno
- Devaki Arumugam
- Mageswary Adikalamb
- Stella Pereira
- Vanaja Sangalayan
- Jayanthi Anthonisamy

## Team

- Patricia Lourdes Irene
- Kerry Gogelawanan
- Annie Gerra Gunalan
- Jagathesan Muthusamy
- Dorathy Benjamin(Consultant)



## DID YOU KNOW ?

Domestic workers in Malaysia are excluded from certain rights under the Employment Act 1955. As part of our advocacy work PSWS submitted a report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 2024 that highlights the following:

- Domestic workers are still excluded from the minimum wage
- The various abuses and exploitation faced by domestic workers who are also migrant workers
- Women migrant workers do not have similar access to social protection,

The CEDAW Committee acknowledged and included these concerns in Malaysia's 2024 Concluding Observations. This means the Malaysian government is now obligated to ensure equality and removal of discriminatory laws and practices. Both the report and the Committee's recommendations are available on our website. Further explanation on the CEDAW Committee and Concluding Observations will be included in the March Newsletter

## NO COMPROMISE on Women Workers' Rights

We demand equality in law and practice



## Work activities in January 2026:

### Engaging with youth/ students

Sharing of information and knowledge on women's rights with students preparing for their final year projects/ dissertations on the following topics:

- Surveys and Interviews: Interagency Response to Forced Labour and Labour Trafficking in Malaysia | University Malaya | 19 January 2026
- Global Hashtag, Malaysian Impact: Social Media and the Cross-Border Spread of the #MeToo Movement in Malaysia | Asia Pacific University of Innovation and Technology school of Business, International Relation | 21 January 2026
- Research on Women Migrant Workers in Malaysia | University of Nottingham | 27 January 2026

### Capacity Building of Staff

- Youth leaders on advocacy for human rights | Penang Youth Development Corporation | 11 - 13 January 2026

Our staff participated in the training, which focused on strengthening advocacy skills and equipping participants with practical tools to address human rights issues

### Engagement with External Stakeholders

- Stakeholder Discussion on Issues Relating to Domestic Workers | SUHAKAM | 29 January 2026

During the discussion, we reiterated PSWS's CEDAW submission on women workers' rights and how it can be used as an advocacy tool.



- Validation Workshop for the Study on Cross-Border Forced Labour and Labour Trafficking in Malaysia | International Justice Mission | 06 February 2026

PSWS contributed feedback to ensure that the findings accurately reflected the experiences of workers and the realities on the ground.

## Ongoing Work:

- Production of knowledge materials on Business and Human Rights (BHR) and Women Workers' Rights
- Finalisation of data collection on the research with Malaysian domestic workers and preparation of the final document
- Discussions with Labour Law Reform Committee (LLRC) and North South Initiative (NSI) on collaborative work.