

PSWS NEWSLETTER

Message from Irene Xavier

Dear Members,

I hope you enjoyed our first newsletter. We are pleased to share our second newsletter with you, now including a Tamil translation as requested. Each year, the 8th of March, we commemorate International Women's Day (IWD), a day to celebrate all women. This year, UN Women selected the theme "Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls". I believe this theme beautifully captures the vision and mission of PSWS' work for the last 40 years. Together, let us join our hearts and hands to ensure the rights and justice for all women workers are fulfilled. Gender based discrimination must be put to an end. As women, we must learn to walk together in solidarity with all women, especially those who are fighting against all forms of violence and discrimination, both at home and in public. Thank you to all the members of PSWS that have supported us throughout the years. Please join us on our social media platforms - instagram or facebook. On behalf of the team, we are grateful to you.

Executive Committee (Exco)

- Pushpa Doraisamy
- Muthammah Maddacanno
- Devaki Arumugam
- Mageswary Adikalani
- Stella Pereira
- Vanaja Sangalrayan
- Jayanthi Anthonisamy

Team

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

NO COMPROMISE on Women Workers' Rights

We demand equality in law and practice



Work activities mid February 2026 – mid March 2026:

Engaging with youth/ students

- **Interview on exploring economic violence as a structural factor sustaining and intersecting with other forms of gender-based violence | Sunway College | 6 March 2026**

PSWS shared insights on economic violence as a form of gender-based violence with students who are preparing their final-year research and documentary projects.

Engagement with External Stakeholders

- **Online Discussion on the Proposed Ban of Social Media for Children Under 16 | SUHAKAM | 04 March 2026**

PSWS participated in an online roundtable discussion on the proposed social media ban for children under 16, sharing insights on children's rights and digital safety.

- **International Women's Day 2026 | Women's Aid Organisation (WAO) | 09 March 2026**

In conjunction with International Women's Day 2026, a knowledge-sharing session was held to share key findings and insights on violence against women and girls, and to discuss emerging trends and challenges.



- **Official Launch and Celebration of International Women's Day 2026 | Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development (KPWKM) | 10 March 2026**

PSWS joined government agencies and civil society partners in recognising women's contributions to families, society, and the nation.

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.
- Engaging in collaborative discussions with university students regarding Business and Human Rights (BHR) and Women Workers' Rights.
- Planning of members' event for International Women's Day 2026, focusing on women workers' rights in Malaysia.

Upcoming Activities:

- Visit from Samsung to Persatuan Sahabat Wanita Selangor Office | 02 April 2026

A knowledge exchange will take place as representatives from Samsung visit the Persatuan Sahabat Wanita Selangor office to learn about current practices in managing women and foreign workers.



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Source: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) – Members. Image captured from the official OHCHR website.

Let us learn: The CEDAW Convention

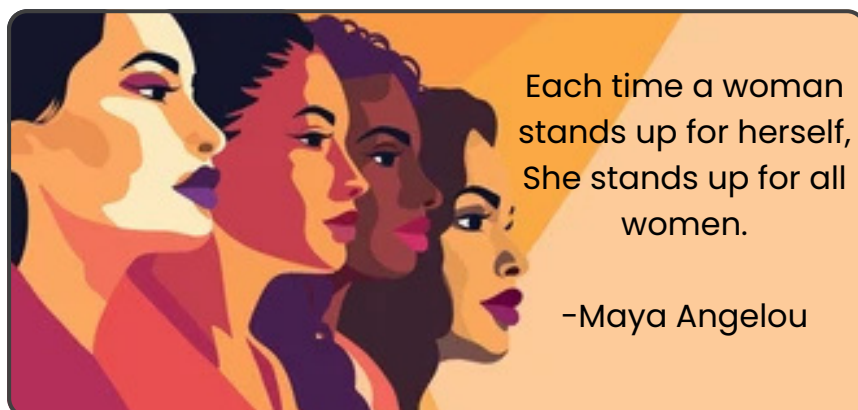
Adopted by the United Nations in 1979, CEDAW is one of the most important international human rights treaties for women. The CEDAW Committee consists of 23 independent experts on women's rights from around the world who are elected by States Parties.

There are three main legal obligations for States that ratify CEDAW:

- Eliminate all forms of discrimination against women in all areas of life;
- Ensure women's full development and advancement so that they can exercise and enjoy their human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with men; and
- Submit regular reports to the CEDAW Committee, allowing it to review and monitor their implementation of the Convention.

Malaysia ratified CEDAW in 1995, which means Malaysia must submit periodic reports to the CEDAW Committee on how the rights under the Convention are being implemented. During the Constructive Dialogue, the Committee reviews each State party's report and addresses its concerns and recommendations in the form of Concluding Observations. The CEDAW Committee last reviewed Malaysia in May 2024 and their recommendations can be found on [PSWS website](#)

CEDAW is an important tool that helps women around the world bring about meaningful change in their daily lives. Do take time to familiarise yourself with this convention. If you would like PSWS to organise workshops on CEDAW, get in touch with Jagathesan.



In the Media: International Women's Day 2026

PSWS is pleased to share that our opinion piece on domestic workers' rights was published in conjunction with International Women's Day 2026.

Please click the link below to read the full article:

New Straits Times:

<https://www.nst.com.my/opinion/letters/2026/03/139314/7/stronger-regulatory-framework-needed-domestic-employment>

Malaysiakini:

<https://m.malaysiakini.com/columns/769752>