

PSWS NEWSLETTER

Message from Irene Xavier

Dear Members,

I hope you enjoyed our second newsletter, including the Tamil translation as requested. Each year, on 1st May, we commemorate International Workers' Day (May Day), a day to celebrate all workers. This year, PSWS will facilitate the participation of women workers in an event in which these women will march with other individuals/organisations to raise the issues faced by themselves and other women workers. They will actively participate, be visible, and have their voices heard on a national advocacy platform. They will raise the message that there is no compromise on women workers' rights; demanding equality in law and practice. Sahabat Wanita was founded on the belief that women workers help build this nation; therefore they deserve to be recognised and respected for their labour and sacrifices. We take this opportunity to thank ALL workers, but especially women workers for their contributions.

Executive Committee (Exco)

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

Team

- Irene Xavier
- Kerrty 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 March 2026 - mid April 2026:

Engagement with External Stakeholders

- **Report launch and panel discussion(Government Procurement Bill 2025) | Center to Combat Corruption and Cronyism (C4 Center) | 31 March 2026**

C4 Center launched a report on the Government Procurement Act 2025, highlighting key areas for transparency and accountability. Policymakers, civil society, and experts discussed recommendations to strengthen Malaysia's procurement system.

- **Discussion on Improving Management Practices for Women and Migrant Workers | Samsung | 2 April 2026**

Samsung visited the PSWS office to share its current practices in managing women and migrant workers and to seek advice on further improving these practices. PSWS also shared its journey and ongoing work, and both parties explored the possibility of organizing a workshop together in the future.

- **Discussion on Social Protection Schemes for Women Workers | Social Security Organisation (PERKESO) | 14 April 2026**



The Social Security Organisation (PERKESO) met with Persatuan Sahabat Wanita Selangor (PSWS) to discuss social protection schemes for women, particularly self-employed and unemployed individuals, including housewives. The session

highlighted efforts to improve awareness and access to benefits, with both parties exploring potential future collaboration for PSWS members.

Internal Meeting

- **Staff Meeting (Face-to-Face) | 17 April 2026**

A discussion session was held with the Interim Program Manager along with the staff and EXCO to discuss PSWS activities planned for the second quarter of the year, with a focus on ensuring maximum impact.

Ongoing Work:

- Finalisation of data collection on the research with Malaysian domestic workers and preparation of the final document
- Planning of members' event to commemorate International Women's Day 2026 and May Day, focusing on women workers' rights in Malaysia. **Members interested in joining this activity, please contact Jega by 11th May 2026.**
- Preparation of collaborative work with Parti Sosialis Malaysia (PSM) for the May Day 2026 rally
- Preparation of the PSWS Audit Report 2025
- Kapar Women' Economic Empowerment Project (WEEP) - pilot project
- Preparation for 16th June - International Domestic Workers' Day
- Collaboration between North South Initiative & PSWS (Youth Strategy) - Sharing Sessions with Taylor's University (discussion stage) - May 2026
- Preparation for Workshop with Sabah Medical Services Union - May 2026

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Upcoming Activities:

- May Day 2026 rally | 01 May 2026

PSWS is joining Parti Sosialis Malaysia (PSM) for the May Day March to advocate for labour reforms. **Members interested in joining this activity, please contact Annie by 30th April 2026. Places are limited/ first come first serve.**



Let Us Learn: Forced Labour

Forced labour is a serious human rights issue that affects millions of people worldwide. It occurs when individuals are compelled to work against their will, often under threat or coercion. Many Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) are actively raising awareness about this issue, as it constitutes a fundamental violation of human rights. Forced labour is not limited to any specific country; it exists across the globe, including Malaysia. Women, children, migrants, and impoverished communities are the most vulnerable and affected groups.

What is Forced Labour?

Forced labour is defined as all work or service which is exacted from any person under the threat of a penalty, and for which the person has not offered himself or herself voluntarily.

Key Indicators of Forced Labour

The International Labour Organization (ILO) identifies 11 key indicators to recognize forced labour: abuse of vulnerability, deception, restriction of movement, isolation, violence, intimidation, retention of identity documents, withholding wages, debt bondage, poor working and living conditions, and excessive overtime.

Forced labour manifests in various forms across different sectors. Common sectors where forced labour is prevalent include domestic work, manufacturing, construction, and plantations such as palm oil and tea plantations.

Please take some time to familiarize yourself with this important topic. In our May newsletter, we will provide further explanations on the 11 key indicators of forced labour, reasons why forced labour occurs, and more. Stay tuned and continue following our newsletters for updates.



Source: <https://flbusiness.network/what-works/>