

PSWS NEWSLETTER

Message from Irene Xavier

Dear Members,

I hope you enjoyed our previous newsletter and gained a better understanding of the important issue regarding forced labour. I trust the information shared provides new knowledge and awareness to all readers. Your involvement and support for the May Day march is greatly valued. Next month, on 16 June 2026, we commemorate International Domestic Workers Day. In line with PSWS's current activities and advocacy efforts, let us stand together in solidarity with domestic workers and continue calling for amendments to the First Schedule of the Employment Act 1955. There can be no compromise on women workers' rights, and we continue to demand equality both in law and in practice. We also hope you enjoyed the short video that we produced to celebrate workers day on the importance of social protection for all. If you have not viewed it, please go to <https://www.youtube.com/@sahabatwanita2907>

And if you would like certain topics to be discussed in upcoming newsletters, please contact Jega.

Executive Committee (Exco)

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

NO COMPROMISE on Women Workers' Rights

We demand equality in law and practice



Work Activities (Mid April 2026 – Mid May 2026):

Engagement with External Stakeholders

- **Briefing Session: Pilot Project for the Economic Empowerment of Women at Kapar | PSWS x Parti Sosialis Malaysia (PSM) | 23 April 2026**

PSWS, in collaboration with Parti Sosialis Malaysia (PSM), is undertaking an economic empowerment project for poor and marginalised women in Kapar. As the first phase of the project, a survey will be conducted to identify potential participants. In preparation for the upcoming survey, a training session for coordinators was conducted involving PSWS staff and the Kapar team.

- **Empowering Voices: Legal Identity and Digital Inclusion for Vulnerable Communities | Development of Human Resources for Rural Areas (DHRRA) | 28 April 2026**

PSWS attended a session on Legal Identity and Digital Inclusion for Vulnerable Communities organized by the Development of Human Resources for Rural Areas (DHRRA). The session highlights how digitalisation takes place it should empower and not exclude anyone, especially the vulnerable community.

- **May Day 2026 Rally | PSWS x Parti Sosialis Malaysia (PSM) | 01 May 2026**



PSWS joined Parti Sosialis Malaysia (PSM), along with organisations such as MUDA and SUARAM, at the May Day 2026 rally to advocate for labour reforms, oppose corruption, and stop war. The PSWS President also shared that domestic workers' and women workers' rights should not be exploited by employers.

- **Sharing Sessions with Taylor's University (Labour Rights) | PSWS x North South Initiative | 06 & 13 May 2026**

PSWS along with North South Initiative conducted sharing sessions with Taylor's University students on understanding work/labour from a human rights perspective which include women workers' rights and labour migration. Throughout the sessions, topics such as domestic workers and gig workers were discussed. It is hoped that this sharing session will empower future decision-makers with a human rights understanding from their student days. Part of the students assignments will include incorporating what they learned into project work and possibly organising a booth on campus to explain these issues to other students (July 2026).



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Team

- Irene Xavier
- Kerrty Gogelawanan
- Annie Gerra Gunalan
- Jagathesan Muthusamy

Engagement with Internal

- **Learning Session for PSWS Members (Gender Equality) | PSWS | 17 April 2026**

PSWS organized a learning session for members to highlight the importance of gender equality and how to identify workplace discrimination, especially affecting women workers in precarious or low-paying jobs. The session also aimed to empower women workers to stand up for their rights.



Ongoing Work:

- Publication of Research on Malaysian Domestic Workers – June 2026

Upcoming Activities:

Workshop (NAPBHR) with Sabah Medical Services Union | PSWS | 22 – 23 May 2026

- PSWS will organize a workshop with the Sabah Medical Services Union on workers' rights. The workshop will use the Business and Human Rights approach to complement the usual ILO standards. It is hoped that this workshop will help shift thinking and strengthen action on trade union workers' rights to support the work on domestic workers' rights. Healthcare workers share many of the same work challenges as domestic workers. The intended outcome is for the strengthening of allies within unions to support the unionisation of domestic workers in the future.

Let's Learn: May Day celebration

May Day, or International Workers' Day, is celebrated on 1 May to honour workers and recognise the global labour movement. It originated from workers' struggles in the 19th century, particularly in the United States, where long working hours and poor conditions led to demands for fair wages and an eight-hour workday. Following major strikes such as the 1886 Haymarket protest in Chicago, 1 May was declared International Workers' Day in 1889.

Today, May Day is observed in many countries to recognise workers' contributions and promote fair labour rights, including safe working conditions, fair wages, and reasonable working hours. It also highlights the importance of equality for women workers, who continue to face discrimination and limited legal protection in sectors such as domestic work. International Workers' Day reminds us that protecting workers' rights and dignity remains an ongoing responsibility.

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. We sincerely appreciate your support and look forward to sharing more updates with you in the future.