

PSWS NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM IRENE XAVIER

Dear members,

The message is from Irene Xavier, announcing her decision to step down as the Executive Director of Persatuan Sahabat Wanita Selangor (PSWS), effective 1 June 2026. She shares her reflections and gratitude as she concludes this chapter of her leadership with the organisation.

Executive Committee (Exco)

- Pushpa Doraisamy – President
- Muthammah Maddacanno – Vice-President
- Devaki Arumugam – Secretary
- Mageswary Adikalani – Assistant Secretary
- Stella Pereira – Treasurer
- Vanaja Sangalayan – Committee Member
- Jayanthi Anthonisamy – Committee Member

Team

- Yuenmei Wong – Technical Consultant
- Kerry Gogelawanan – Programme & Communications Officer
- Annie Gerra Gunalan – Community Engagement & Outreach
- Jagathesan Muthusamy – Administrative and Finance Officer

NO COMPROMISE on Women Workers' Rights

We demand equality in law and practice



Mid May 2026– Mid June 2026 Highlights

PSWS ACTIVITIES:

The National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights (NAPBHR): A Tool for Trade Unions in Malaysia | 22–23 May 2026 | Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia

- With support from the Porticus Grant, PSWS collaborated with the Sabah Medical Services Union (SMSU) to organise a workshop that explored the realities faced by Malaysian women domestic workers within the framework of the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights (NAPBHR) 2025–2030, while encouraging broader discussions on workers' rights, equality, and inclusion.
- Participants demonstrated their solidarity by signing postcards addressed to the Minister of Human Resources, calling for the removal of the discriminatory provisions affecting domestic workers under the Employment Act 1955 (Amendment) 2022.
- The overwhelming support shown by the participants was truly encouraging. All 30 campaign T-shirts were purchased by members of the Sabah Medical Services Union,



International Domestic Workers' Day 2026 | 16 June 2026

To mark International Domestic Workers' Day on 16 June 2026, PSWS released an opinion piece, drawing on findings from the research project, "Exploring the Lived Experiences of Ageing Domestic Workers," supported by the Mama Cash Grant. The opinion piece was featured in The Sun. The article highlights the realities and challenges faced by Malaysian ageing women domestic workers and the importance of recognising their rights and contributions. PSWS extends its sincere appreciation to the Malaysian women domestic workers who generously entrusted us with their stories. We also express our heartfelt gratitude to the researcher, Dr Mary Varghese and the research assistants whose dedication and commitment made this project possible. Their collective efforts have contributed to advancing public awareness and advocacy for the rights of Malaysian women domestic workers.

PSWS Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2026 | 20 June 2026 | Kajang, Selangor, Malaysia

- On 20 June 2026, a total of 63 members renewed their PSWS memberships in conjunction with the Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- Supported by the Mama Cash grant, the AGM commenced with an opening address by PSWS President, Ms Pushpa Doraisamy. This was followed by a presentation from PSWS Secretary, Ms Devaki Arumugam, who highlighted the organisation's key achievements, advocacy initiatives, and programme activities undertaken between April 2025 and May 2026. The presentation was based on materials compiled by Community Engagement & Outreach, Annie Gerra.
- Following the AGM, EXCO members, members, and project staff enjoyed the team-building outing to Port Dickson. It was an afternoon filled with meaningful conversations.



COALITION BUILDING :

Standing in Solidarity at the Migrant Workers Festival 2026 | 10–12 June 2026 | Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

- Invited by Porticus Asia, Yuenmei Wong, Technical Consultant, and Kerrty Gogelawanan, Programme and Communications Officer of PSWS, participated in the Global Migrant Workers Festival 2026, organised by the Global Migrant Network at the Intermark Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, from 10–12 June 2026.
- The festival brought together more than 100 migrant worker leaders, organisers, and advocates from across Asia and Africa. Over three days, participants engaged in field visits and discussions that showcased the leadership of migrant workers organising across borders.
- The festival also provided valuable opportunities for PSWS to connect with migrant worker organisations and advocates exchanging experiences and strategies from migrant-led initiatives that continue to inspire collective action and strengthen solidarity in advancing migrant workers' right.



Family Frontiers's Citizenship Pillar Consultation for Manifesto Rakyat 2.0 | 13 June 2026 | Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

- Yuenmei Wong, Technical Consultant of PSWS, participated in the Citizenship Pillar Consultation for Manifesto Rakyat 2.0, organised by Family Frontiers on 13 June 2026 in Kuala Lumpur.
- The consultation brought together civil society organisations, advocates, and subject matter experts to identify key citizenship issues affecting communities in Malaysia and to develop recommendations for inclusion in Manifesto Rakyat 2.0.
- The drafting of the Manifesto Rakyat 2.0 submission is currently underway. The coalition aims to complete the first draft by the first week of July, incorporating the key issues, priorities, and recommendations raised during the consultation.
- PSWS appreciates the opportunity to contribute to this collaborative process and looks forward to continuing to work alongside Family Frontiers to strengthen the citizenship recommendations in Manifesto Rakyat 2.0 and advance meaningful policy and legislative reform in Malaysia

ARTICLE 19 and Centre for Independent Journalism (CIJ) Roundtable on Countering Online Hate Speech in Malaysia: Implementing the Rabat Plan of Action | 18 June 2026 | Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

- Yuenmei Wong, Technical Consultant of PSWS, participated in the Roundtable on Countering Online Hate Speech in Malaysia: Implementing the Rabat Plan of Action, jointly organised by ARTICLE 19 and the Centre for Independent Journalism (CIJ) in conjunction with the International Day for Countering Hate Speech.
- The roundtable provided a valuable platform for stakeholders to exchange perspectives on countering online hate speech while upholding freedom of expression. Discussions also explored the implementation of the Rabat Plan of Action, with a particular focus on promoting equality, inclusion, non-discrimination, and social cohesion in Malaysia.
- PSWS remains committed to advancing human rights, gender equality, and social justice. We look forward to continuing our engagement with ARTICLE 19, CIJ, and other civil society partners, and welcome future opportunities for collaboration in areas our priorities intersect.



Let's Learn :International Domestic Workers' Day

International Domestic Workers Day (IDWD) is celebrated annually on June 16, marking the adoption of the International Labour Organization's (ILO) historic Convention No. 189 (C189) in 2011. It recognizes the rights of millions of domestic workers globally to fair terms of employment, decent working conditions, and social protection. The ILO and IDWD are deeply connected through several key areas:



Convention 189 (C189): This legally binding treaty establishes that domestic workers have the same fundamental labor rights as other workers. It covers critical areas like maximum limits on hours of work, minimum wage protections, freedom of association, and protection against abuse.



The Global Union: The International Domestic Workers Federation (IDWF) represents the primary global network of domestic workers, functioning closely with the ILO to ensure domestic workers have a voice in shaping international labor policies.



Advocacy & Support: The ILO actively partners with organizations (like the IDWF) and national governments to push for the ratification of C189 and to reform local labor laws to include domestic workers.