

Joint Action Group for Gender Equality (JAG) turns 25

Women's Status Report: The Good, Bad and Ugly



THE GOOD

✓	Amendment to the Penal Code to include wider definition of rape (1989)
✓	Enactment of Domestic Violence Act (1994)
✓	Amendment to Guardianship of Infants Act 1961 allowing mothers equal guardianship rights (1988)
✓	Ratification of the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) (1995)
✓	Amendment to the Federal Constitution to prohibiting gender discrimination (2001)
✓	Establishment of One Stop Crisis Centres (OSCC) nationwide (1996)
✓	Ratification Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) (1995)
✓	Establishment of the Talian Nur hotline for women in crisis (2007)
✓	Amendment to the Distribution Act 1958 (1997)



THE BAD: PROMISED BUT NOT DELIVERED

Amendments to:

—	Art. 15 of the Federal Constitution to allow women the same rights as men with regards to citizenship status of foreign spouses.
—	Schedule II of the Federal constitution to allow women to confer citizenship status on their children even when the child is born outside of Malaysia.
—	Islamic Family Law Act according to JAG's proposal: to standardise the Syariah Laws in all States and the Federal Territories

—	Law Reform (Marriage and Divorce) Act 1976 and related laws to conversion
—	Reform of the Domestic Violence Act 1994
—	the Parliamentary Standing Orders so that sexism is disallowed
—	Amendments to all labour laws to incorporate sexual harassment at work

Lack of effective implementation of:

—	Government gender machinery such as Cabinet Committee of Gender Equality, Parliamentary Gender Caucus, Gender Focal Points, National Advisory Council on Women
—	Action plan to ensure a minimum of 30 % of women in decision making positions

THE UGLY: PERPETUATING THE SUBORDINATION OF WOMEN



X	Persistent sexist and degrading comments in Parliament, state legislatures, and in the civil service
X	Marital rape is still not a crime
X	Approximately 14 women are raped each day in Malaysia.
X	Malaysian women can be easily "enticed" and are still property of their husbands, according to Sec. 498 of the Penal Code.
X	Impunity of the 2008 Penan rape crimes
X	Discrimination against Orang Asal and Orang Asli rights
X	Women are being sentenced to whipping for the first time under Syariah Law
X	Non-recognition of refugees and asylum-seekers
X	Poor maternity protection for women workers

X	Labour and sex trafficking of migrant workers, refugees and stateless persons
X	Increase in women contracting HIV/AIDS
X	Low women's political empowerment : Malaysia is ranked 113 out of 134 countries
X	Rampant crime including escalating rape cases
X	Under age marriages of girls

KOTAKAN KATA!

Enact:

- ✓ The Gender Discrimination Act to incorporate the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) into national law;
- ✓ Sexual Harassment Act;
- ✓ Freedom of Information Act;

Amend/Reform:

- ✓ the Penal Code to criminalise stalking and domestic violence which is psychological in nature
- ✓ the Local Government Act 1976 to enable elections to be held at the local government levels.

Abolish:

- ✓ Internal Security Act
- ✓ Official Secrets Act
- ✓ University and University Colleges Act
- ✓ Printing Presses and Publications Act
- ✓ all existing Emergency Ordinances