

EMBARGOED TILL 7 JULY 2018, 11.30AM

Date: Saturday, 7 July 2018

Event Name: PPIS' Women's Forum – Hari Raya Celebration 2018

Singapore, Saturday, 7 July 2018. Today, the PPIS Research and Engagement Department (R.E.D) hosted a Hari Raya celebration cum inter-community panel discussion on how different communities in Singapore could leverage on commonalities to drive action to unite society.

Some 70 women leaders from various secular, faith and nationality-based groups of different races and religions, attended the 'PPIS Women's Forum cum Hari Raya Celebration 2018' held at the Royal Palm Clarke Quay. One of the highlights of the event was a keynote reflection by Ustaz Dr Mohammad Hannan Hassan; Deputy Director, Capacity Building & Interfaith Engagement and Vice Dean, Muis Academy.

Through this celebration, PPIS R.E.D hopes to share the joys of Hari Raya Aidilfitri with different communities and at the same time, provide an opportunity for them to learn more about one another and understand the types of challenges each community faces so as to explore unified approaches. The hope of encouraging such collaborations is that they will result in solidarity and harmony despite Singapore's delicate diversity.

"In our survey handed out from January to May 2018, 143 out of 199 Muslim women or 72% of our respondents from different backgrounds, expressed that having a good religious life was the top aspiration to them. They want to learn and practice Islam better, and chose religion as their most important life goal ten years from now," said Mdm Rahayu Mohamad, President of PPIS.

"As Muslims, we learn that living harmoniously with others is a key teaching in Islam. Therefore, while it is essential that we maintain solidarity within our own communities and preserve our unique identities, we also do not want to be a fragmented Singapore. Thus, the need to strike a balance between seeking commonalities and recognising and appreciating differences."



Also part of the celebration was a panel discussion titled '*Ideas for Action in Connecting Communities*' with four women representatives from different faiths in Singapore: Ms Jennifer Goh Yi Mei; Co-Founder and Vice President of Blossom World Society (Buddhist), Ms Mary-Rose Guat Kwee See; Caregiver, Interfaith Collaborator and Activist (Catholic), Ms Yashodhara Dhoraingam; Vice President of Hindu Centre and Hindu Religious Prison Volunteer Counsellor (Hindu), Ms Hanna Taufiq Siraj; Assistant Director, Muis Academy and Muis Scholar (Muslim) and Ms Shariffa Kadirbee Bte Syed Hoosan; Senior Clinic Manager of The Cheery Child Company Pte Ltd as Moderator.

Distinguished keynote speaker, Ustaz Dr Mohammad Hannan, who reflected on the current scope of local and international religious communities, as well as what could be done to bring unity and peace to the broader society, said "Interfaith is not about ideological and theological dialogue. It is about multilayers of conversations and relationship building. It is about celebrating the Divine Wisdom in diversity and plurality."

Invited guests were also treated to a scrumptious Hari Raya lunch and enjoyed an interactive quiz on the different communities to heighten their understanding and cultivate familiarity with one another.

This marked the second Hari Raya Celebration by PPIS R.E.D. In collaboration with Muis Harmony Centre, the first inter-community event was inaugurated on 29 July 2017 by Guest-of-Honour Mdm Halimah Yacob, who was Speaker of Parliament at the time, with some 20 women leaders of various races and religions.

This year's event was supported by Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY)'s Harmony Fund and the Muslim Converts Association of Singapore (Darul Arqam Singapore).

Event Details:

Date: Saturday, 7 July 2018

Venue: Orchid Ballroom at Royal Palm Clarke Quay (6 Eu Tong Sen Street #04-85, The Central, Singapore 059817)

Time: 10.30am – 1.30pm

The forum will be held in English.



For any media inquiries, please contact:

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About PPIS

Founded in 1952, PPIS (Persatuan Pemudi Islam Singapura or Singapore Muslim Women's Association) is a non-profit organisation focused on community services. We are dedicated to working with women of all ages in carrying out their multiple roles in society. PPIS runs three core community services namely; Family Services, Student Care and Early Childhood Education (ECE). With 16 centres island wide, the services work together to provide quality and holistic support as well as developmental programmes for women and their families.

About PPIS R.E.D

As a pioneer Muslim women's (MW) organisation, PPIS recognises the need to be a source of support to MW in an ever-changing social landscape. R.E.D aims to represent MW's voice and advance aspirations. The focus areas of the department are research and engagement.

Our objective is to undertake research efforts on MW's matters. The research is to help PPIS understand MW better and provide evidential data to represent MW to other communities as well as offer recommendations on topics that affect MW.

R.E.D's goal is to engage different parties on emerging and challenging subjects confronting MW. Through evidence-informed education programmes and public awareness, we endeavour to develop the community's knowledge base. R.E.D aspires to involve PPIS members in building internal and external social capital through their wealth of experience, knowledge and skills.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.ppis.sg>.

(Profiles as a separate file/document)