



MEDIA RELEASE

An Unprecedented Eid – PPIS' First Virtual Harmony Raya

Singapore, Saturday, 20 June 2020. Hari Raya 2020 was indeed a unique experience for the Muslim community, having to celebrate Eid in the new normal due to COVID-19. PPIS, which has been running its signature inter-community event, Harmony Raya since 2017, for the first time, and in line with the current safe distancing measures, had also went virtual.

Organised by the Research and Engagement Department (RED), the event welcomed more than 40 women leaders and representatives from various organisations like United Women Singapore, as well as some familiar faces from past events. The event theme for this year focused on the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable women in respective communities and sharing of best practices on how to tackle these challenges, separately and collectively.

Taking centre stage to speak this year was Special Guest, Ms Anthea Ong, Nominated Member of Parliament, who is also an entrepreneur and a well-known social activist within the women community. "COVID-19 has illuminated the unseen and unheard in our communities in ways that we can no longer ignore. This includes the many women-in-need in our midst, whether elderly caregivers, single mothers, migrant spouses, foreign domestic workers and those affected by family violence.

We must therefore, seize this great realisation to do a great reset: How will our social support policies and community initiatives look like if we don't see these vulnerable women as 'problems' but as pillars of strengths of their communities? How can we enfold them as the solution? Because their vulnerability need not be a measure of their weakness," said Ms Anthea Ong.

PPIS also took the opportunity to share on the Psycho- Social Resilience Framework that was developed by its very own experts in Family Therapy and Social Work. Aimed at boosting community resilience whilst faced with the current pandemic, the organisation hopes that the framework can be expanded beyond the Malay-Muslim community and helps alleviate the multitude of challenges that women in other communities face so we all could collectively emerge stronger.

"Recently, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong urge Singaporeans to remain united and resilient as the nation tides over COVID-19. In uncertain times, PPIS believes that, what binds the community or nation together is a common understanding and social cohesion.

Hence, the organisation pledges to continue creating opportunities like today's event, for various groups and communities to interact and engage with one another," said Mdm Rahayu Mohamad, President of PPIS.

During the e-celebrations, fellow women leaders and representatives were also encouraged to do a wellness check-in with a female family member or friend (women-in-need), to ensure that no woman is left behind.

**Special Guest:**

Ms Anthea Ong
Nominated Member of Parliament

Event Details:

Date: Saturday, 20 June 2020
Time: 11am – 12:30pm
Venue: Online via Zoom

For media inquiries, please contact:

Nurulhusnina Azhar (Corporate Communications)
O: 6744 0258
M: 8198 0182
E: husnina.azhar@ppis.sg

About PPIS

Founded in 1952, PPIS (Persatuan Pemudi Islam Singapura or the Singapore Muslim Women's Association) is a non-profit organisation focused on services for women, family and children. Our focus is on 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 islandwide, the services work together to provide quality and holistic support as well as developmental programmes for women and their families across the different phases of their lives.

About PPIS Research and Engagement Department

As a pioneering Muslim women's (MW) organisation, PPIS recognises the need to be a source of support to MW in an ever-changing social landscape. RED 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.

RED'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. RED aspires to involve PPIS members in building internal and external social capital through their wealth of experience, knowledge and skills.



About PPIS Harmony Raya

In line with PPIS' vision to be "A Compassionate Organisation Connecting Communities", the Research and Engagement Department (RED) reached out to various faith communities for its inaugural Interfaith Hari Raya celebration in 2017.

Following its success, the celebration was officially renamed to Harmony Raya and inducted as an annual signature event of RED. Besides sharing the joy and festivities of Hari Raya, the event also hopes to be the platform for women of different faiths and social groups to foster stronger friendship and harmony through meaningful discourse.

The event carries a different theme each year, where in 2018, it was focused on uncovering commonalities so that the different communities can work together in building stronger social cohesion in Singapore.

Last year, PPIS RED welcomed President Halimah Yacob, also Patron to PPIS, to the event which also featured an exclusive sharing and panel discussion with Ustazah Liyana Rosli, then Manager of Harmony Centre. Her sharing of interfaith work and responses to questions about the religion has deepened the conversation.

This was PPIS' fourth Harmony Raya.

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