



MEDIA RELEASE

IWWA's First Webinar Series for Women by Women

Singapore, Friday, 14 August 2020. Women in Singapore can now look forward to a new, live webinar series in town. Curated specially for women, the recently-launched International Women for Women's Association (IWWA) held its inaugural session yesterday.

The webinar had Mdm Rahayu Mohamad, President of PPIS (Singapore Muslim Women's Association), and Dr Rosemary Morgan, Assistant Scientist at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School's Department of International Health, in a panel discussion with over 30 women participants from various walks of life.

In light of COVID-19, which has shifted conversations online, IWWA began this webinar series to embrace the new norm of bringing women together through virtual platforms to discuss prevailing gender issues in Singapore. To further support this, PPIS has joined the inauguration in hopes of helping young women and girls reach their dreams and aspirations.

The 1.5-hour session focused on how the COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately affected women by exacerbating prevalent issues on gender inequality, and explored how the nation has responded to the global crisis from a gendered perspective. Both panelists brought valuable inputs to the table - both at the international and national level.

"Pandemics, like COVID-19, are not gender neutral. In order to ensure that emergency response strategies are equitable, we must consider the short- and long-term health, economic, and social impacts of the pandemic and how women, men, and people of other genders are differentially affected, as well as how gender intersects with other social stratifiers such as race, disability, and class, to create differential experiences of marginalization and vulnerability," said Dr Rosemary.

While she provided insights from the global context, Mdm Rahayu added the local perspective and shared her experiences helming a pioneer Muslim women's organisation of more than sixty years.

"While PPIS has evolved over the years to include services for children and families, the organisation has always upheld our mission of inspiring women. Women form the core of our work in our endeavours to support them in carrying out their multiple roles in society.

As such, during this crisis, we have been involved in enhancing our services to help the local community. We started various initiatives such as the PPIS WIN Fund, which aims to help women to tide over these difficult times and ensure that no woman is left behind, and our involvement with the national *SGTeguhBersatu* taskforce to help build community resilience," said Mdm Rahayu. She also shared on how the Singapore Alliance for Women in Ageing (SAWA), which comprises four organisations including PPIS, has released a statement earlier this year that advocates similar sentiments, and pushing for a gender and life-course approach, specifically to ageing.

"Although more can be done, we are pleased to welcome opportunities like today, where we can come together and hear from the ground while discussing actions to be taken in tackling women issues in a post-COVID world."



Today's event was created by IWWA, a women-empowering organisation newly-founded in March 2020. The organisation focuses on three key initiatives, which are women in the workplace, women leadership and gender equality. They have also since produced their own weekly YouTube video podcast series, titled '[Dare to Dream, Live to Fly](#)', which features women from different industries and covers topics such as entrepreneurship and self-confidence.

Ms Rachel Loh said, "Gender bias, be it deliberate or unconscious, is holding women back at work. As an individual woman, the onus isn't on you to close the gender gap by asking for more. It is a collective effort and we want work with women around the globe hand in hand to address the bias head-on."

Those interested in learning more about IWWA can visit IWWA's [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#).

Panellists:

- Mdm Rahayu Mohamad, President of PPIS
- Dr Rosemary Morgan, Assistant Scientist, John Hopkins University

Event Details:

Date: Thursday, 13 August 2020

Time: 7pm - 8.30pm

The event was held in English.

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About IWWA

At IWWA - Women for Women Association, women come together for real talk, personal growth and peer support. We are a women-focused community where every woman will be able to lean on each other together and make a difference to the world.

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

About PPIS

Founded in 1952, PPIS (Persatuan Pemudi Islam Singapura or 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.



PPIS is also part of the national SGTeguhBersatu taskforce led by Minister-in-charge of Muslim Affairs, Mr Masagos Zulkifli, to strengthen families through psycho-social resilience. In April 2020, the organisation, together with MUIS and Pergas, developed the psycho-social resilience framework of 3Cs - Coherence, Connection and Cohesion. This framework will be the guiding principles towards PPIS' efforts of building resilient and forward-looking families.

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