



MEDIA RELEASE

PPIS holds first ‘Online Conversation on Women Development’ for Muslim Community – *Shaping Mindsets Towards Gender Equality*

Singapore, Saturday, 12 December 2020. *Persatuan Pemudi Islam Singapura* or the Singapore Muslim Women’s Association (PPIS) held its inaugural session of its series of ‘Online Conversations on Women Development’ earlier today. It is the only series of conversations targeted at the local Muslim community, with some 40 participants comprising community leaders and members of the public from various walks of life. Together, participants attended the event via Zoom to contribute insights to the Government’s White Paper on Women Development.

The ‘Conversations on Singapore Women’s Development’, launched earlier on 20 September 2020¹, had kick-started national efforts to understand Singaporeans’ aspirations and ideas on how to further advance our local women. While Singapore women have made remarkable progress over the years, cultural, social and structural obstacles for women still remain and more can be done collectively to uphold and uplift our women as we build a more inclusive society.

The focus of today’s discussion was “**Shaping Mindsets Towards Gender Equality**”, and participants were allocated breakout groups to delve into specific areas where gender gaps, stereotypes and biases persist.

The sub-topics include:

- (1) women leadership,
- (2) unpaid work,
- (3) workplace discrimination/harassment, and
- (4) sexual objectification.

PPIS, as the pioneering Muslim Women’s organisation in Singapore, is proud to have organised this first session to consolidate views and insights to help shape programmes, policies, and legislation in Singapore to uplift our women.

Newly-elected President of PPIS, Mdm Hazlina Abdul Halim said: “It is pivotal that PPIS, which aspires to be the voice of Muslim women, facilitates such essential discourse as we recognise the need to support our local Muslim women in an evolving social landscape. We believe that it is imperative that values are ingrained from young to put a stop to unfair and unacceptable treatment towards girls and women, particularly concerning any form of violence, sexual assault and harassment.

“We are also heartened by the participation of male allies in today’s session, as men’s involvement in the socio-economic progress of women cannot be underscored enough. Aside from male allies, shaping mindsets towards gender equality involves a collective effort. From family upbringing, to female role models, education, advocacy, policies and legislations, society as a whole is responsible for the fair treatment of everyone – regardless of gender, race, religion and nationality. This ecosystem of support is fundamental as a catalyst to our women’s development.”

¹ <https://www.msf.gov.sg/media-room/Pages/Conversations-on-Women-Development.aspx>



This is the first in a series of two online conversations planned by the organisation. The second conversation focusing on employment and employability of women returning to work, will be held in the first quarter of next year.

-End-

Special Guest:

Dr Suzaina Kadir
Vice Dean, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy

Event Details:

Date: Saturday, 12 December 2020
Time: 10am – 12.15pm
Mode of Event: Zoom
The event was held in English.

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 Singapore Muslim Women's Association) is a non-profit organisation focused on services for women, family and children. PPIS is dedicated to working with women of all ages in carrying out their multiple roles in society. We run three core community services namely Family Services, Student Care and Early Childhood Education (ECE).

With 16 centres islandwide, the services work seamlessly to provide quality and holistic support, as well as developmental programmes for women and their families across the different phases of their lives.

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