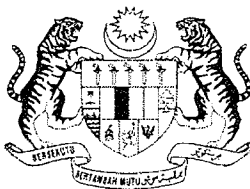


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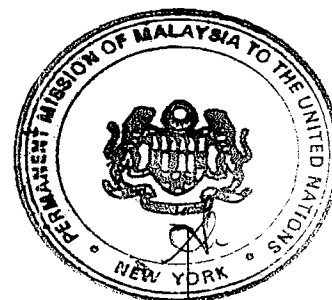
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The Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the United Nations and, with reference to the latter's Note no: DAW/2005/001 dated 28 March 2005 and DAW/2005/002 dated 31 March 2005 and has the honour to provide herewith two copies of brief information on the implementation of strategies, policies and programmes undertaken by the Government of Malaysia in accordance with the following General Assembly resolutions:

- (i) General Assembly resolution 58/143 of 22 December 2003 entitled "Violence against women migrant workers";
- (ii) General Assembly resolution 58/185 of 22 December 2003, entitled "In-depth study on all forms of violence against women".

The Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

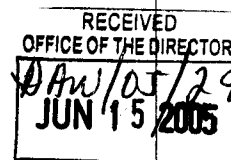
New York, 16 June 2005



Secretariat of the United Nations
New York

(Attn: Director,
Division for the Advancement of Women
Department of Economic and Social Affairs)

Fax: (212) 963 3463



'VISION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN'
DESA

**UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 58/143:
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN MIGRANT WORKERS**

The Malaysian Government is greatly concerned with the issue of violence against women migrant workers, in particular domestic maids. The migrant workers, including women migrant workers are accorded equal legal protection in respect of violence against them under the following laws:

- Article 6(1) and 6(2) of the Federal Constitution guarantees that no person shall be held in slavery or in the same act and prohibit all forms of slavery; and
- Under the Penal Code, Malaysia applies the same legal provisions to violence against women migrant workers as to violence against its own nationals.

In Malaysia, the incidence of violence against women migrant workers, particularly domestic maids are at a relatively low level compared to the total number of migrant maids. Nevertheless, the Malaysian Government is greatly concerned and also undertaking various measures to address the issue, which includes imposing stern action against the perpetrators and banning employers who abuse their maids. The Police Department has established a hotline for the public to lodge reports and provide information on cases of maid abuse.

The Ministry has also established Women Service Centres (*Rumah Nur*) in 14 state capitals to provide support services including counseling and legal literacy programme. These centers are open to all women including victims of trafficking activities. To date, there is no case of trafficked women reported to the centers.

In 2004, the Government has agreed to gazette five *Rumah Nur* as temporary shelter homes for victims of violence while *Rumah Nur* Selangor has been identified as a shelter home for victims of trafficking.

**UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 58/185:
IN-DEPTH STUDY ON ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

1. The Malaysian Government views the issue of violence against women including domestic violence as an important social issue. In addressing the issue in a holistic approach, the Government has taken various measures including conducting studies and researches on reviewing the existing laws, conducting trainings and courses for enforcement officers, and organizing public awareness campaigns.
2. Studies on violence against women have been conducted by both the Department of Women Development with the institutions of higher learning and the non-governmental organizations. Some of the studies which were undertaken are as follows:
 - a) Violence Against Women: Domestic Violence in Penang
 - b) Battered Women in Malaysia: Prevalence, Problems and Public Attitudes, 1995
 - c) Violence Against Women: Victim to Victors
 - d) Monitoring the Domestic Violence Act (1994) Malaysia
 - e) Single Women: Survivors of Domestic Violence - A Needs Assessment Survey, 2002
3. The public institutions of higher learning in Malaysia also actively carry out researches on various gender-related issues such as:
 - a) Women and the Legal System
 - b) Feminism from the Western and Asian Perspectives
 - c) Gender and Technology
 - d) Women and Development
 - e) Women and Islam
 - f) Women and Health
 - g) Gender and Information Communications Technologies Attitudes and Practices Towards Gender in the Workplace
 - h) Household Formation and Egalitarian Gender Relations
 - i) Indigenous Women and Men in Transition
 - j) Transcending Gender Roles in the Domestic Realm
 - k) The Women's Movement and Civil Society
4. The Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development has appointed a local university to carry out research on the profile of rapists in Malaysia. The objective of the research is to retrieve detailed information on the profile of rapists in Malaysia as well as to analyse their thinking patterns. Through this research, the Ministry expects to identify the root causes of why people commit crimes. The findings of this research will enable the Government to formulate effective policies, strategies and programmes to combat such social disease.
5. In addressing the issue of domestic violence, the Domestic Violence Act (DVA) was enacted and being implemented. Domestic violence is viewed and dealt with as a criminal offence with appropriate penalties imposed. Provision is made for the victims to apply for an interim protection order to prevent from further acts of violence by the perpetrators and the imposition of penalties for breach of the protection order.
6. To further enhance the effectiveness of the Domestic Violence Act, the Attorney General's Chamber in collaboration with relevant government agencies and interested non-governmental organisations is reviewing the DVA, particularly on the difficulties in obtaining the Interim Protection Order, the power of judges and the need for counselling for victims, as well as the lack of understanding of the provisions under the Act.
7. In 2000, the Women and Girls Protection Act 1973 and the Child Protection Act 1991 were reviewed and streamlined into the Child Act 2000.
8. To further protect women's rights; existing laws and regulations such as the Penal Code have been subjected to amendment to enhance the penalties for offences relating to rape, prostitution and incest. The

Government has issued a directive to amend the Employment Act 1955, the Occupational Safety and Health Act 1994 and the Industrial Relations Act 1967 to include provision on sexual harassment at the work place.

9. A one-stop crisis centre has been set up in many hospitals in Malaysia to provide treatment for victims of violence as well as other support services in a conducive atmosphere. It is an inter-agency initiative to bring together police investigation and medical treatment under one roof.

10. The Ministry has also established Women Service Centres (*Rumah Nur*) in 14 state capitals to provide support services including counseling and legal literacy programmes. These centers are open to all women including victims of trafficking activities. To date, there is no case of trafficked women reported to the centers.

11. In 2004, the Government has agreed to gazette five *Rumah Nur* as temporary shelter homes for victims of violence while *Rumah Nur* Selangor has been identified as a shelter home for victims of trafficking.

12. A sum of MYR 439, 335.75 had also been allocated to the National Council on Women and Family Development at the parliamentary constituency level to carry out 91 programmes relating to violence against women. This includes legal literacy programmes as well as awareness programmes in year 2004.

13. The Government launched the "Women Against Violence" (WAVE) campaign in July 2001. While the aim of the campaign is to eliminate violence against women and family, the campaign's objective is to garner support from all Malaysians to eliminate violence, particularly against women. This programme has been extended to the state as well as the community levels. The implementation of the WAVE campaign will be intensified with greater cooperation and participation of the community. To date, 14 series of the WAVE campaign have been carried out which involves 1223 volunteers.

14. Volunteers are given training to assist the one-stop crisis centers as well as other organizations in providing support to those in need, especially victims of violence.

15. Various activities, including the dissemination of information brochures, talks and seminars have been organized to ensure the efficiency of handling and managing issues relating to domestic violence.

16. The Government has also embarked on the "Stop Rape: Respect And Restrain" Campaign in 2004. The campaign involves integrated and multiple strategies bringing together government experts, NGOs, private sector and the professional community. In its support for the work of the NGOs in addressing violence against women, the Government has disbursed a total of MYR 8,337,433.44 to 45 NGOs to conduct various programmes from 2001 to 2003.

17. Gender-disaggregated database called the "Gender Disaggregated Information System" (GDIS) has been developed to ensure that policy makers have accurate, reliable and timely information to formulate policy and programmes for the advancement of women.

Prepared by:

Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development
MALAYSIA