



## ENCYCLOPEDIA OF WOMEN AND ISLAMIC CULTURES

### Women's Organizations in Malaysia

Dr. Suad Joseph, General Editor

Distinguished Professor of Anthropology and Women and Gender Studies, University of California, Davis

#### EWIC Staff: Datasheet

- ❖ *The All Women's Action Society in Malaysia (AWAM)* focuses on ending gender-based violence, which includes domestic violence, human trafficking, and sexual assault. This feminist organization, established in 1985, provides counseling and legal help to survivors of violence and runs workshops on violence awareness. AWAM advocates for women's leadership and gender equality, while transcending religious and ethnic differences. The organization achieves its goals through public outreach and education, and has formed alliances with Malaysian men's groups. <http://www.awam.org.my/>
- ❖ *The National Association of Women Entrepreneurs of Malaysia (NAWEM)* brings together female entrepreneurs and women interested in business and entrepreneurship. The purpose of NAWEM is to assist women in navigating the private industry of Malaysia. They provide business strategies, education, and networking with other businesswomen through conferences and gatherings. NAWEM works with the government to create policies that benefit women in business and offers grants for entrepreneurial projects with donations from its members. Through a program called Tabung Amal Nawem (TAN) they fund members' new and current entrepreneurial projects to support and retain women entrepreneurs in Malaysian society. <http://nawem.org.my>
- ❖ The mission of the *Women's Aid Organization (WAO)*, founded in 1979, is to promote equal rights for all women. The philosophy behind WAO is that no woman deserves to be battered and that all humans have the right to self-determination. WAO's services include temporary housing for women and children in vulnerable situations, and emotional and social support to any women who seek their guidance. Additionally, WAO undertakes and encourages research that explores issues of women's oppression. They lobby both governmental and non-governmental organizations for the equal rights of women and children and raise awareness concerning violence against women. <http://nawem.org.my/>
- ❖ *Sisters in Islam* is a non-governmental, non-profit organization dedicated to the elimination of violence against women and gender equality. They provide resources for Malaysian women, from legal counselling, community outreach, and legal reform to lobbying for victims of domestic violence, rape, sexual harassment and child sexual abuse. <http://sistersinislam.org.my/>
- ❖ *Empower for Change* is a Malaysian group based on feminist and human rights principles that seek to enable women and youth to fulfill their full potential. They campaign for the Convention for Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). *Empower* serves as the secretariat for the Coalition of Clean and Fair Elections. <http://empowermalaysia.org>

NOTE: This is simply a selection of organizations that were referenced by other Malaysian organizations.

The EWIC Public Outreach Project is funded by the generous support of the Henry Luce Foundation

EWIC is available from BRILL online: <http://brillonline.com/>

<http://sjoeph.ucdavis.edu/>

February 7, 2014, 2014 L.T. / S.F.