

ORGANISED BY



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY FORUM 2023



GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN MALAYSIA MADANI

WEDNESDAY, 8 MARCH 2023.
9.00AM – 12.30PM.

HYBRID EVENT: KL & YOUTUBE LIVE.



YOUTUBE LIVE : [CLICK HERE](#)

BACKGROUND

Championed and adopted by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Malaysia Madani envisions a Malaysian society which emphasises humanity and the principles of fairness, justice and effective governance. Based on the six core values of sustainability, prosperity, innovation, respect, trust and compassion, which are in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Malaysia Madani envisions policies which ensure that minorities are not marginalized, and lay the foundations of a humane economy which prioritises the needs of the people, especially the poor and vulnerable.

THEME

In conjunction with the International Women's Day (IWD), celebrated on 8 March 2023, the United Nations (UN) in Malaysia and the National Council of Women's Organisations, Malaysia (NCWO) join the global campaign to celebrate women and amplify the call to accelerate the advancement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in Malaysia. The UN in Malaysia and NCWO will organize the IWD 2023 Forum under the theme of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Malaysia Madani.

IWD FORUM 2023 STRUCTURE AND OBJECTIVES

The forum consists of two panel discussions designed to engage a broad audience of stakeholders around the theme of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Malaysia Madani, focusing on the enabling environment necessary to empower women and advance the gender equality agenda.

The first panel will take stock of Malaysia's progress in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment focusing on the enabling environment. The panel will review and discuss the legal and institutional frameworks and the main barriers which prevent women from achieving their full potential in society, the economy and the political sphere. The panel will identify social norms and other challenges, and will zoom in on the role of civil society in addressing these challenges and advancing women's rights and gender equality.

In line with the global theme of the IWD 2023 "DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality", the second panel will discuss the importance and role of digital inclusion and transformative technology and digital education as immense opportunities to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and deliver on the promise to leave no woman or girl behind. The panel will discuss 1) digital inclusion to support women's economic empowerment and female labour force participation, 2) how to leverage social media for leadership and political participation and influence, and 3) how to further engage with young women as key players in achieving the aspirations of Malaysia Madani.



**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT** **GOALS**

PROGRAMME

8.30AM - 9.00AM

Registration

OPENING SESSION

9.00AM - 9.30AM

Welcome Remarks:

YBhg. Prof. Emerita Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr. Sharifah Hapsah
Syed Hasan Shahabudin
President, National Council of Women's Organizations (NCWO)

International Women's Day Video Message:

Mr. António Guterres, UN Secretary General

Opening Remarks:

Ms. Karima El Korri
UN Resident Coordinator for Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei Darussalam

PANEL DISCUSSION 1: ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

9.30AM - 10.45AM

Moderator

Ms. Sheahnee Iman Lee

Keynote Speaker:

YB Dato Sri Azalina Othman Said
Minister for Law Reforms & Institutional Governance (video message)

Panel Speakers:

Instituting the Legal Frameworks for Gender Equality & Women's Empowerment:

Ms. Honey Tan, Human Rights Lawyer

Nurturing institutional frameworks and governance for gender equality & women's empowerment:

Ms. Maria Chin Abdullah, Former MP for Petaling Jaya and former Bersih 2.0 chairman

Addressing Social Norms & Role of Civil Society Organisations for Malaysia Madani:

Ms. Nurhuda Ramli, Program Officer, Outreach & Empowerment, Sisters in Islam

Role of Civil Society Organizations in advocating gender equality & women's empowerment:

Ms. Izzana Salleh, Global President and Asia Director, Girls for Girls



PANEL DISCUSSION 2: DIGITAL INCLUSION FOR ACCELERATING GENDER EQUALITY & WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

11.00AM - 12.15PM

Moderator

Ms. Sheahnee Iman Lee

Panel Speakers:

Technology for Increasing Female Labour Force Participation and Economic Empowerment:

Ms. Nadira Yusoff, CEO, Kiddocare

Leveraging social media for Political Influence and Leadership:

Ms. Qyira Yusri, Special Adviser to European Commission, Undi18

Mobilizing Young Women for Malaysia Madani:

Ms. Heidi Quah, Founder, Refuge For The Refugees (RFTR)

CLOSING

12.15PM - 12.20PM

Closing Remarks:

Dr. Asa Torkelsson

Representative for Malaysia

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

