

WOMEN'S TRIBUNAL MALAYSIA Reimagining Justice

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WOMAN

Speaking truth to power

The first ever Malaysian Women's Tribunal provided a platform for women to testify about the abuse and mistreatment they've suffered and to advocate for better laws and means to seek protection and redress.

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THE testimonies of women at Malaysia's first Women's Tribunal last weekend were both outrageous and heart-breaking. They all depicted the horrors that women in our country suffer, with no avenue for protection or redress.

The 26 women who presented their testimonies – either live, through a video recording or via a proxy – were as diverse as the violations they'd been through.

But they all share one thing in common: The law, enforcement agencies and/or government have failed to protect and safeguard them from harm or provide them the justice they seek.

And so, while they continue to push, hope and wait for justice, they have turned to the Tribunal to share their stories, with the hope that it could be a way forward for their voices to be heard.

A chance to be heard

The Tribunal, a first in Malaysia, aims to provide an alternative form of redress and advocacy for women who have experienced violence or discrimination in any form.

There were stories of workplace discrimination and harassment, exploitation, domestic violence, bullying and more. There were the voices of cis-gendered women, trans-gendered women, migrant workers, Orang Asli women and children, women with disabilities, children of Malaysian women who have been denied Malaysian citizenship, and more.

Held over two days, online over Zoom, it presented the lived realities of these women through their testimonies as well as statements of advocates.

Tomorrow (Dec 4), the panel of "judges" – International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific (IWRAW Asia Pacific) founder and CEDAW UN committee member (2005-2008) Mary Shanthi Dairiam, co-founder of Sisters in Islam (SIS) in Malaysia and Musawah, the global movement for equality and justice in the Muslim family Zainah Anwar, and UNDI18 programme associate advocate for higher political participation and representation of Malaysian women at 111 Initiative Nadia Mahayah – will present their verdicts having consulted with a team of three advisors and five lawyers.

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TRIBUNAL WANITA

Photo: Shika/Women's Tribunal Malaysia

Over two days — 27 and 28 November 2021 — 26 witnesses presented compelling personal testimonies before a panel of three judges, about the discrimination and violations of their rights that they have experienced.

The aim? To raise awareness, and seek justice for themselves and every woman in Malaysia. In 2021, some women's groups* in Malaysia created their own court: a Women's Tribunal to Reimagine Justice.

An audience of 3,850 viewers on Zoom and Facebook live viewed the proceedings. Click [here](#) to watch!

This website contains information about the first Women's Tribunal Malaysia which includes witness testimonies, advocate statements and judges' findings and recommendations.

<https://www.womenstribunalmalaysia.com/en#about>

The Final Report can be read at link below:-

<https://www.womenstribunalreport.com/>

