

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### SCWO provides Syariah Legal Clinics

**30 Jan 2013** With the assistance and support of the Law Society of Singapore's **Muslim Law Practice Committee**, the Singapore Council of Women's Organisations (SCWO) now offers Legal Clinics that provides legal advice specifically on matters pertaining to the Syariah Law.

This is an extension of the holistic services currently provided by SCWO's **Maintenance Support Central** and existing bi-monthly **Legal Clinics**, in collaboration with **SAWL** (Singapore Association of Women Lawyers), which assists approximately 100 women every year.

We are now able to close the gap in services available to Muslim women in the Central District by providing legal clinics on **Syariah Law** issues which is currently offered only at the Jamiyah Legal Clinic and some mosques. Volunteer lawyers, conversant in Syariah Law will be available on the third Monday of each month to assist with legal advice for Muslim Women. The first Legal Clinic for Syariah Law was held on the 21<sup>st</sup> January 2013.

The Syariah legal Clinic is open to all women in Singapore with an income cap criteria. It is available on the third Monday of the month from 6.30 to 8.30 p.m., and strictly by appointment.

For more information, to confirm attendance or arrange interviews please contact, Ms Selina Gan, email: [selina@scwo.org.sg](mailto:selina@scwo.org.sg)

## About SCWO

The Singapore Council of Women's Organisations is the National Coordinating body of women's organisations in Singapore. Our **57 Member Organisations** represent **more than 500,000 women** in Singapore.

Incorporated in March 1980, the SCWO serves to unite the various women's organisations, clubs, committees, groups and women leaders together, working in accordance with its various aims and objectives. The SCWO also serves to coordinate these associations into a national movement and to act on their behalf in matters for which it is authorised by its members.

The SCWO is represented on various Government and inter-ministry committees where we contribute our views in the areas of family, women, and on children's issues. We are involved in government Feedback Sessions and other discussions on issues and policies

## Our Services

**Star Shelter**—It is the only secular crisis shelter in Singapore, and is a safe temporary refuge for women and their children seeking refuge from a life of family violence. It is a place where they learn to re-build their lives, be independent, and prepare for a future free of violence.

**Maintenance Support Central** – The One-Stop Drop-In Centre for the provision of services for the effective enforcement of maintenance orders.

**Legal Clinics** – Experienced lawyers from the Singapore Association of Women Lawyers (SAWL), and other volunteer lawyers are available twice a month to assist women without the means of basic legal advice and information. Syariah Legal Clinic is also available for Muslims seeking advice on Syariah Law.

**IT Hub**— A Training Centre run by volunteers for women and their family members to become IT connected and updated.

**New2U Thrift Shop**—Sells pre-loved apparel, shoes, accessories and household items, with proceeds going to Star Shelter.

**Function Rooms**—The Bonny Hicks Education and Training Centre consists of six rooms ranging from 9 sqm to 88 sqm, equipped for training, seminars and meetings, available for rentals to member organisations and the public.

**The Library**— The Library is named after the late Justice F.A. Chua. It is an archival library for all women's organisations -local and international.

**The Café** – The café @ SCWO offers a range of tantalizing food, desserts and coffee.

## Our Initiatives

**WR—Women's Register** is a platform for young women in Singapore 18 years old and above, to support them with mentors, provide internship opportunities, enhance community involvement and advice on building networks of their own.

**BoardAgender** – aims to provide a forum in Singapore to facilitate a greater awareness and understanding of the benefits of gender balanced business, and for the advancement of more women into senior leadership roles and boardrooms of public and private corporations.

**Wall of Fame** – In 2005, SCWO launched the Wall of Fame to honour the significant contributions of pioneering women activists who have helped shape the landscape of female advancement in Singapore.

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29 January 2013