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Contact:
Selina Gan
Email: selina@scwo.org.sg
Tel: (O) 6571-0181

Public Consultation on TIP National Plan of Action

SCWO is much encouraged by the State's proposed action plan and concerted attention to improve Singapore's policies and practices relating to Trafficking in Persons. We have noted that the majority of people trafficked to Singapore identified to date have been women, both for purposes of prostitution and illegal labour. With our location and the increase in travel to and through Singapore, better checkpoint vigilance and stronger measures to identify and deal promptly, sensitively and humanely with victims of TIP are extremely necessary. At the same time, perpetrators need to be dealt with strongly, and accompanied with compensation for victims, so as send a strong message to perpetrators and to deter others from these practices and at the same time acknowledge the social and personal costs to victims.

SCWO's recommendations to Singapore's efforts at complying with Article 6 of the Convention to End Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) was presented in the SCWO CEDAW Shadow Report which was put forward to the United Nations in July 2011, included improvements to the response to trafficked women and girls and implementing a National Communications Awareness Strategy for better public awareness and education. In the concluding comments, the United Nations CEDAW Committee has recommended specialized legislation against TIP to better identify victims and prosecute traffickers. SCWO hopes that this Public Consultation should result in feedback to support this.

SCWO has put in a point-by-point list of proposals, as annexed, for the State's Inter-Ministry TIP Taskforce's consideration in response to the public consultation.

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About SCWO

The Singapore Council of Women's Organisations is the National Coordinating body of women's organisations in Singapore. Our 52 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 that provides support and assistance for claimants who have difficulty recovering court-ordered maintenance from their spouse.

Legal Clinics – Experienced lawyers from the Singapore Association of Women Lawyers (SAWL) are available twice a month to give basic legal advice and information to assist women unable to afford private legal service.

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 between 18 to 35 years of age, 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.