

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****From Victim to Survivor**

**Singapore Council of Women's Organisations together with Shirin Fozdar Programme, conference aimed at shedding light on best practices in protecting and rebuilding lives of family violence survivors**

**Singapore, Friday 16 November 2018.** In support of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, the Singapore Council of Women's Organisations (SCWO) and Shirin Fozdar Programme (SFP) launch “In Her Stride and Conference on the Move II: From Victim to Survivor”, a conference that will be held on 23 November 2018 at the SCWO Centre. The Guest of Honour of the event is Ms. Claire Chiang, Chairman of SFP and an inductee of Singapore Women’s Hall of Fame under SCWO.

The conference aims to shed light on how the different communities work together to eliminate violence against women through the work by crisis shelters and organisations that work against family violence in Singapore. Mr. Benny Bong, President of the Society Against Family Violence and other professionals from the social service sector will share best practices in protecting and rebuilding lives of survivors. This conference will also serve as a platform for students and other interested individuals to learn about social issues in Singapore. Mr Bong will also be joining Ms Lorraine Lim, Manager at the Star Shelter, in a panel discussion moderated by Mr Udhia Kumar, Master Social Worker.

Dr. June Goh, President of SCWO, said: “This is a meaningful collaboration, especially with the message to support victims who bravely broke their silence about family abuse and turned their lives around. It is imperative that we continue this discourse within the community and listen to the needs of these women and promote better ways to assist them. The theme of the conference, “*From Victim to Survivor*”, resonates with the work of our own initiative, Star Shelter – a crisis shelter which aids women to heal from the trauma of abuse and become self-reliant individuals.”

Mr. Benny Bong said: “This event tries to document and celebrate the journey taken by two groups. The first is the group of clients -Women who have suffered from domestic violence and, looks at how they have moved from being victims to survivors. From being downtrodden to experiencing their emancipation and then their self-actualisation. The second group is the Helpers; Social Workers, Counsellors, Social Activists and people across the spectrum of Professions who share a common cause of helping victims of violence. It documents their initial steps of first trying to do good, to doing right for the clients. Doing right to uphold client’s rights for safety and self-determination. The journey of both groups have been long and not always smooth. But it reflects the better part of humanity in the face of oppression and indifference.”

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### **About Singapore Council of Women's Organisations**

The Singapore Council of Women's Organisations (SCWO) is the National Coordinating body of women's organisations in Singapore. We have more than 50 Member Organisations representing over 500,000 women in Singapore.

Incorporated in March 1980, the SCWO, having been founded by women, seeks 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 seeks to co-ordinate these associations into a national movement and to act on their behalf in matters for which is authorised by its members.

It seeks to promote the ideals of '**Equal Space, Equal Voice and Equal Worth**' for women in Singapore.

### **Services**

The SCWO offer a range of services mostly for women in need. They are the **Star Shelter**, the **Maintenance Support Central** and **Civil and Muslim Law Legal Clinics**.

### **Initiatives**

The SCWO has various initiatives for women – to provide a platform for networking, education and inspiration through the **Women's Register (WR)** and bring awareness to the benefits of gender-balanced business through **BoardAgender**. It also celebrates the achievements of women through the **Singapore Women's Hall of Fame**.

### **Facilities**

The SCWO has various facilities that caters to the public such as the **IT Hub**, **New2U Thrift Shop**, **Function Rooms**, and a **Library**.