

Media Release – For immediate use

How have women progressed in Singapore since Independence?

Exhibition by Singapore Women's Hall of Fame takes another look at The Lives of Women

29 October 2019 - Four years before Singapore became an independent nation in 1965, a landmark law was passed that gave women and men equal status in marriage. Has the legal equality in marriage accorded by the Women's Charter become a daily reality for women in post-Independence Singapore?

An exhibition that will open on Saturday 2 November 2019 at the National Museum explores this and related questions and issues.

The exhibition, titled *The Lives of Women: How have women progressed in Singapore since Independence?*, is the second of a three-part series staged by the Singapore Women's Hall of Fame (SWHF) in collaboration with the National Museum of Singapore.

This second exhibition, which will run till mid-January 2020, traces the key policies and developments that have affected women's lives in Singapore over the last five decades. It also highlights the important contributions made during this period by some of the women in the Hall of Fame.

The first exhibition, in 2018, looked at what life was like for women in pre-Independence Singapore. It attracted close to 60,000 people during its 11-week run.

The final exhibition will be held at the end of 2020 and will look into the crystal ball to draw a picture of what life might be like for women in Singapore in 2050. Visitors to the current exhibition will get a chance to offer their thoughts about what they think lies ahead for women.

The SWHF decided to put together this series of exhibitions because while the history books are full of information about the lives and achievements of men, little is said about the lives and contributions of women.

Visitors to the first exhibition were appreciative of the focus on women's lives.

A 23-year-old woman said on her feedback form: "The exhibition featured important women from Singapore in the past that many would not have known about. It broadens my knowledge about the many contributions these women made that have helped to shape Singapore the way it is today."

An 18-year old student said: "The exhibition portrayed the challenges and struggles faced by women in Singapore over the years. It is heartening to see the distance we've come – from the first woman

admitted to the Bar in 1929 to me: a current law student! I thank these women for lighting our way and hope I can do the same!”

And an 11 year schoolgirl said: “I am a girl and feel happy to know that women also made great discoveries and had great ideas! Now I can tell my brother men didn’t do all the cool stuff!”

The details of The Lives of Women exhibition:

Venue: The Concourse @ NMS

Dates: 2 November to 19 January 2020

Time: 10 am to 7pm, daily. Admission is free.

For more information, please contact Denise at denise@scwo.org.sg / 6571 0186.

About SWHF

The Singapore Women’s Hall of Fame (SWHF) aims to recognise and salute the outstanding women of Singapore in all fields of endeavour. It is a celebration of the women who have made, or are making, an impact on our nation – the boundary breakers and record holders, the risk-takers and change makers, the role models and the standard setters.

They were the women who, at a time when social norms set limits on what a woman could do, pushed back the barriers and led the way for others. They were the pioneers, the pathfinders. They dared to dream and they turned their dreams into a new reality for the women of their time and the generations to come.

They are, today, the women who are shaping our society with their vision and passion, their enterprise and leadership, their talent and creativity, their humanity. They are the women who inspire us, and we want to recognise them and honour them.

For more information, please visit www.swhf.sg

About SCWO

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.

For more information, please visit www.scwo.org.sg