

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **A.C.T. Against Violence**

### **The Singapore Council of Women's Organisations Announces the Launch of A.C.T. Against Violence – A Catch-All Help Site Against All Forms of Violence Against Women**

**Singapore, Thursday 26 November 2020** – To help increase awareness on the important issue of violence against women, the national coordinating body of women's organisations, Singapore Council of Women's Organisations (SCWO), will be launching *A.C.T. Against Violence*. This website aims to be a one-stop information and help site regarding ALL FORMS of violence against Women of all Ages.

The *A.C.T. Against Violence* website will be launched at SCWO's annual *In Her Stride* event on 30 November 2020 in commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Since 2018, "In Her Stride" is held annually to shed light on best practices in protecting and rebuilding lives of family violence survivors.

This website aims to be a one-stop information and help site regarding **ALL FORMS** of violence against Women of **ALL** ages. This will include the elderly, children, other family members that are not intimate partners as well as adults who are vulnerable i.e. those who may be physically or mentally incapacitated.

The website will be a platform to help increase **awareness** of these forms of abuse, to **connect** to people who will need this information, and to advise on how to **take precautions** against it. These aims form what we have coined **A.C.T.** (Awareness, Connect, Take Precaution) and together they form the overarching objectives of this website.

The launch of this website comes at an important time in our society's development, especially with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our everyday lives. This is timely, and more significant now as the last few months alone have seen a spike in cases of violence against women, especially during the circuit breaker period.

**Ms Junie Foo, SCWO President**, commented that: *"In these fast-paced and uncertain times, this website will continue to evolve in order to stay relevant with the changes in our society, especially those in the area of violence against women."*

**Assoc. Prof Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim Minister of State, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of National Development, and Co-Chairperson of the Family Violence Taskforce**, commented that: *"Comprehensive information on where and how victims of violence can seek help, and how their families and friends can better support them is a valuable resource as we continue to work on providing more and better support for victims of violence."*

*"I am glad that the Singapore Council of Women's Organisations (SCWO) has launched their new 'A.C.T. Against Violence' website, to give victims of violence and everyone in the community access to such useful information. The Government is committed to tackling family violence, but we cannot do this alone. We will continue to work closely with our community partners such as SCWO to combat family violence and create a safer Singapore for everyone."*

**Minister of State, Ministry of Social and Family Development and Ministry of Education, and Co-Chairperson of the Family Violence Taskforce, Sun Xueling**, said, *"Family violence must not be condoned. Particular focus must be collectively placed on preventing violence against women, as studies have shown that family violence disproportionately affects women as victims. I am glad that SCWO is a member of the Family Violence Taskforce, and has launched 'The 'A.C.T Against Violence' website today. I urge everyone to use this resource wisely so that we can break the silence on family violence, together."*

The SCWO believes that this important resource website will help to open conversations on the issue of violence against women, continuing on with its extensive work in this area.

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## 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. Together with our members, we seek to promote the ideals of **'Equal Space, Equal Voice and Equal Worth'** for women in Singapore.

SCWO provides opportunities, platforms and services that empower and support women across the various stages of life to fulfil their fullest potential, from programmes that inspire and educate younger women and girls such as the Women's Register and Inspiring Girls, to those targeting older women through advocacy work by the **SCWO Ageing Taskforce** which aims to raise awareness on the gendered phenomenon of ageing.

The **Women's Register (WR)**, is a platform for networking, inspiration, community engagement and education that allow young women to learn, support and receive guidance from other women in the community. Public Education and Outreach to schools and organisations are done actively through the **Inspiring Girls** programme, by connecting young girls with empowering female role models and introducing them to the full variety of careers, and through the **Singapore Women's Hall of Fame (SWHF)**. SWHF recognises and celebrates the outstanding contributions of women in Singapore across all field of endeavours. **BoardAgender** is dedicated to advancing more women into senior leadership roles and boardrooms in Singapore.

**Maintenance Support Central (MSC)** empowers women with knowledge pertaining to their marital rights and provides them with all-round support by partnering with the public and private organisations to provide services such as free legal consultations on Family Law, and public education talks. **Star Shelter** aims to provide a safe temporary refuge for women and their children who are survivors of family violence regardless of race, language, creed or religion, empower them to manage and take responsibility for their lives, and assist them in rebuilding their lives free from violence.

SCWO strives to empower women holistically, to support women at every life and career stage and this is achieved by the close collaboration and cooperation with the SCWO's member organisations, as well as the public, private and people sectors to co-create solutions to empower women in Singapore.

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