

Ongoing Projects and Programmes: Violence Against Women

1. Campaigns

a. S.H.Out – Sexual Harassment Out

AWARE's campaign to OUT Sexual Harassment in both senses of the phrase:

First, to make sexual harassment visible by getting people to speak out against sexual harassment in the workplace; second, to get rid of sexual harassment in the workplace.

Website: www.shout.org.sg

b. We Can! End All Violence Against Women

The We Can! Campaign began as a six-year, six-country South Asian Campaign in 2004. The campaign involved over 2,400 organisations in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Afghanistan. We Can! builds on the belief that people change when they recognise something as their own problem, and feel that another way is possible, and that they have the power to make that change. AWARE is the 16th country to join this global campaign to change public perception and attitudes that condone gender violence. Join us as a Changemaker.

Website: www.wecansingapore.com

2. Training Programmes

a. Guide To Dealing with Workplace Sexual Harassment Training Programme

AWARE offers two workshops on sexual harassment:

- i. General Guide: A basic introduction on what constitutes sexual harassment for employees, people managers and the public
- ii. Managers' Guide to Dealing with Workplace Sexual Harassment: An advanced workshop to equip human resource professionals, in-house counsel and senior managers with the following:
 - Basic knowledge of sexual harassment
 - Skills to investigate and conduct an interview with the victim, and/or perpetrator
 - Tools to implement organization policy on sexual harassment

Course Outline:

<http://shout.org.sg/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Harassment-Training-Programmes.pdf>

b. Youth's Guide To Healthy Relationships, Assertiveness and Empowerment

This workshop aims to promote healthy relationships and prevent risk behaviours among youth. The notion of being in love with one's partner can often cloud one's judgment, and the desire to keep the relationship going can lead to unhealthy situations.

c. Miss Representation Campaign

In 2012, AWARE joined the Miss Representation Campaign by developing a media literacy programme around the movie targeted at youths and adults.

The discussions centre around imbalanced and distorted media portrayals of women and men, the role of media, glass ceilings, challenges faced by women in leadership, violence against women and what individuals can do to count the misrepresentation of gender roles in media.

d. Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE)

CSE aims to provide the youth with the tools, the knowledge, the skills and attitudes to make responsible choices about their sexual health. A major focus of the programme is to equip them with the understanding and skills to better handle relationships, including how to say “no”.

e. Media Literacy and Gender

This workshop aims to teach youths the importance of learning how to be critical consumers of media. The media represents men and women in specific and limited ways, especially in terms of physicality, personality and suitable work of men and women. These dominant patterns of dominant representation both reflect and reproduce power and structural gender relations in society. Such media representations have implications in real life as they affect social values.

Email publiceducation@aware.org.sg for the course outlines.

3. Support Services

a. Helpline (1800-7745935)

Helpline is open Monday to Friday from 3pm to 9.30pm. Our Helpline volunteers have been professionally trained and are able to help callers with a variety of concerns. The aim is to offer empathy, support, information and encouragement to women in need of assistance.

b. Befrienders

This service supports women who are victims of gender-based violence to go to the Family Court, police stations, hospitals, and other help centres. Our Befrienders' presence have helped many women who are fearful of facing the Respondent face-to-face at mentions or hearings.

c. Counselling

Our counsellors provide support for women who are in distress or at a time of uncertainty in their lives.

d. Legal Clinic

Experienced lawyers are available at the twice-monthly Legal Clinic and provide women with free legal information and advice. Please call 1800-774-5935 to book an appointment.

e. Sexual Assault Befrienders Service (SABS)

Victims of sexual assault who need support can call the SABS Helpline (6779-0282), which operates Mondays to Fridays, from 10am to 3pm.

From 3pm to 9.30pm, call 1800-774-5935. You can also write to sabs@aware.org.sg for help. SABS Befrienders will accompany a sexual assault victim to the police, the hospital or to court, to provide information and support.

Email sabs@aware.org.sg for more information.

4. Recent Research reports

a. AWARE CEDAW Shadow Reports 2007 and 2011 [\[url\]](#)

AWARE believes that the CEDAW mechanism is crucial in keeping women's issues on the national agenda. We believe it is necessary and important to use such a human rights framework as we work towards the elimination of discrimination and the advancement of women. Our CEDAW Shadow Reports are a key way of participating in this process

b. 2012 Workplace Sexual Harassment Report [\[url\]](#)

In this report, AWARE reviews the current laws relating to Workplace Sexual Harassment against the experience of victims of Workplace Sexual Harassment that AWARE supported. The Report concludes that the current law and mechanisms which deals with this issue primarily through the criminal law is inadequate for the following reasons:

- Criminal remedies are often not the appropriate remedy as they aim to punish the offender rather than to stop the offender's actions or to provide compensation to the victim, which are usually what the victim seeks
- Victims of WSH have very few options for seeking assistance and intervention.
- There is no specific WSH legislation and an explicit statement by the State that sexual harassment is unacceptable.

c. Recommendations on Trafficking in Persons National Plan of Action [\[url\]](#)

AWARE submitted our recommendations for tackling trafficking in persons (TIP) in Singapore in response to the Inter-agency Taskforce on Trafficking in Persons exercise to seek public feedback on the proposed National Plan of Action. This Plan of Action will guide Singapore's response to TIP from 2012- 2015.

d. Submission to Ministry of Law on Section 157(d) of the Evidence Act [\[url\]](#)

AWARE successfully lobbied for the repeal of this outmoded provision which made it possible to discredit an alleged sexual assault victim through her sexual history.

For more information on the work that AWARE has done as well as information on domestic violence, sexual violence and workplace sexual harassment, visit our website at www.aware.org.sg and our S.Hout website at www.shout.org.sg