



BREAK THE SILENCE AGAINST RAPE

Good Shepherd Services (GSS) and internationally acclaimed artist group Pangruk Sulap have joined forces in the producing the t-shirt design for this year's 16 days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. The 'Orange The World' (OTW), campaign starts with International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on the 25 November and ends with International Human Rights Day on 10 December.

Photo *Dr Trixie Kinajil (2nd from left), Assistant Executive Director receiving the 2019 OTW t-shirt from Adi Helmi bin Jaini witnessed by Dwana Andrew, Awang Sulfallah Bin Jamaslyn and Cabrini John*

In the run-up to this campaign, GSS organized workshops for youth in Tambunan and Ranau to encourage youth to explore the issues of gender-based violence and to visually express their stand through the art of wood carving and printing which was supervised by members of Pangruk Sulap.

"Collaborating with Good Shepherd on the issue of gender-based violence for this campaign felt very right as foundationally both organizations have the same core-belief that there be zero-tolerance for any form of violence. We have primarily expressed this through our art expressions while GSS's advocacy has been through their community engagement activities" said Adi Helmi bin Jaini from Pangrok Sulap.

"This campaign is another step further towards strengthening our partnership. We have done several events together and Pangruk Sulap was a contributor to our Art Exhibition fund-raising event in 2018" said Chin Poh Choo, Executive Director, Good Shepherd Services. "However, this is the first time we have worked on an advocacy campaign together" she added.

This year's campaign theme 'Orange the World: Generation Equality Stands Against Rape' calls for everyone across all generations to take a stand against rape. According to the UN Women website, one in three women are impacted by this violence and states that 15 million adolescent girls worldwide have experienced forced sex.

“This year’s theme calls for us to consciously challenge the barriers that promote gender-violence and hinder gender equality” said Chin. “There is a need to end this pervasive and negative culture of silence against rape. It is not an easy task, but we can make it happen by starting with ourselves in small ways such as having conversations about the issue with people we care about to break the silence” she added. “If we find it difficult to speak about the issue, imagine how much more difficult it is for the victims” said Chin

“Although most of the victims are girls, rape also happens to boys but no matter who it happens to, rape is a crime and we must stand up against it and combat issues such as toxic masculinity mindset” remarked Adi. “Inequality leads to injustice and breeds discrimination. These have been central themes for our art works, and we can fully resonate with the campaign theme” adds Adi.

GSS and Pangruk Sulap urged the government to collaborate with NGOs to develop and adopt victim-centered protocols to support rape survivors to break their silence and seek justice. “The advocacy against rape essentially starts with gender inequality. A very do-able first step for key stakeholders to address this is to increase the participation of women in decision making in policy making in the legal, social, economic and political sectors” said Chin.

GSS will be conducting programmes throughout this 16 day campaign in various communities, private organizations and government agencies. The campaign for Sabah will be kicked off with a community run held in Kg Pinipi involving about 150 participants from various surrounding villages.