

International Day of the Girl Child 2020

The province of Singapore-Malaysia held their celebrations for the International Day of the Girl Child in the week of 16th to 22nd November 2020. A variety of activities across several locations in Malaysia were held to create awareness and understanding of the rights of a girl child, and the girl children had a chance to share the voices and opinions.

Kuala Lumpur:

International Day of the girl child was celebrated for 4 different groups :- 2 separate sessions were held for the children and adults in KL Shelter; and another two sessions were held for the women in 2 different Government Shelters (RPWZT and RPW 5).

Observations:

The session for children was effective in creating awareness on the issues faced by girl child around the world and in creating awareness about Girl Child's rights. Having a boy in the sessions was a great – he was enlightened to know that girl child too has rights. They were focused, showed active participations, and were involved throughout the session.

The activities for both children and their mothers included :

1. An explanation about International Day of the Girl Child and to create awareness.
2. A slideshow to describe difficulties faced by girl around the world.
3. Awareness on Cybersecurity.
4. Introduction on support systems and safe spaces for the girl child to express joys and challenges or violations to her rights

We asked the children to draw and decorate what they want to be in the future, which enabled them to share their hopes and dreams.

The children's program concluded with a song: *Girl on Fire* by Alicia Keys





The adults, meanwhile, were asked to write, draw, and stick pictures related to their stories of how their rights were taken away when they were little girls.

A presentation of their work of art and sharing session followed of what they want for theirs and other girl children. The pictures in the slides helped them to understand issues faced by girl children and to understand girl child's rights. Knowing some would have language difficulties, our slide presentation was translated into two languages, which helped a lot.



Similar activities were held at the government shelters, although we had to have one virtual session due to the Movement Control Order in place.

At all the sessions, the women learnt of their rights and the rights of girl children, and the sharing sessions were passionate and lively as the women opened up to share their own experiences of how their rights were taken away when they were young.



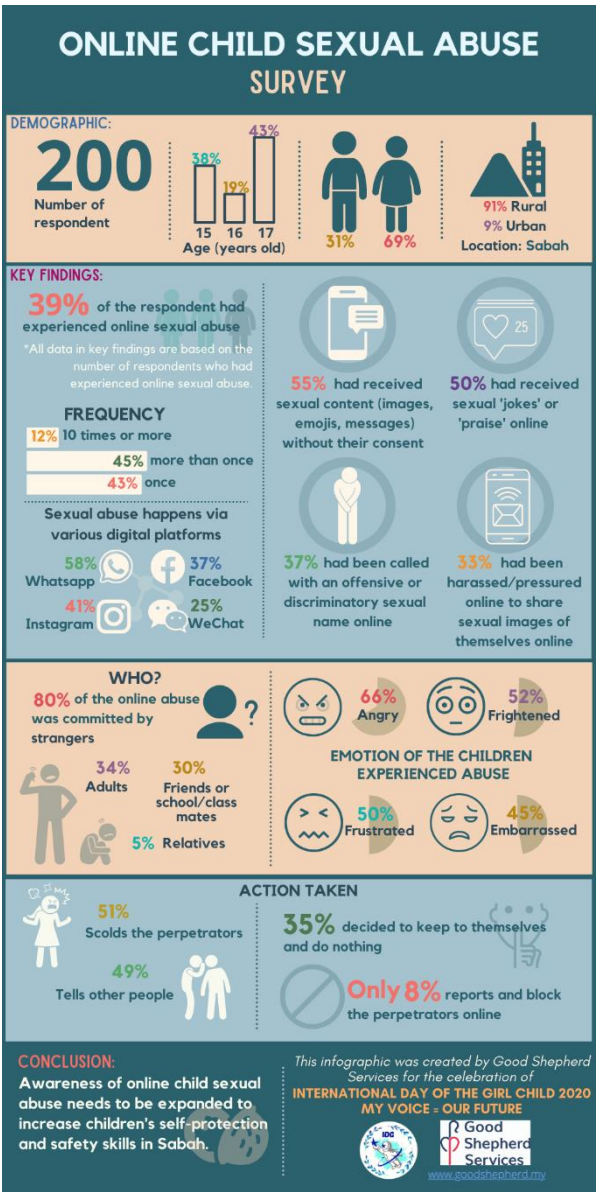
Sabah

Meanwhile in Sabah, Good Shepherd Services actively shared the voices of the girl children. Comprising residents of the community hostel Asrama Komuniti Tulid and Good Shepherd Services Community Service Centre, they expressed their opinions, hopes, dreams and fears through dance, choral speaking, and their artwork amongst others.





In conjunction with the International Day of the Girl Child, an awareness program was organized by Good Shepherd Community Service Centre for children and adults. As part of the program, both children and adults have pledged for an equal future by placing their painted palm on the pledge wall. #IDG2020 #MyVoiceOurFuture



Reaching out through social media proved a worthwhile effort, as the children are comfortable with accessing as well as using social media as a tool for their voices. They all seemed to be natural you-tubers!

Links to their videos as below :

Link to the video of the children from Good Shepherd Community Service Centre performing choral speaking titled “My Voice, Our Equal Future”

Youtube link: <https://youtu.be/xtwvUPjiaus>

Artworks of children by children aged 13-17 years old, depicting their understanding of staying safe online

Youtube link: <https://youtu.be/vgJKoMKgI8>

Here is a video collating the voices from six girls on their opinion on what does being a girl mean to them.

Youtube link: <https://youtu.be/af8r2eXFXz8>

Our masterpiece was a collaboration video featuring the girls and boys, beneficiaries of the various programs of Good Shepherd Services and Global Shepherds.

Youtube link: <https://youtu.be/rD8ORqFmyIk>

Our Migrant Development Program team reached out to the migrant community in Keningau, Sabah and introduced to them the International Day of the Girl Child and to create awareness.

Target group was teachers as well as students of the various CLCs(Community Learning Centres) and ALCs (Alternative Learning Centres), including CLC Java and ALC HOPE.

Several activities were held, albeit earlier in September, which turned out to be a good move as the Movement Control Order was imposed in early October which restricted travel and banned group gatherings.

Awareness was imparted via videos and slide shows; other activities include role-playing “Stop Violence against Girl Child”, group discussions and sharing sessions, expressing their opinions via written messages and/or drawings.

The children also had much fun creating videos for the Good Shepherd regional IDG campaign.

Although this is the first time they are learning about IDG, we are confident the interest has been generated, awareness has been created, and the fire to voice out for the rights of girl children has been ignited within these communities.

We are especially grateful to the teachers, who helped in organising the activities and in the process learned about the rights of the girl child.



Children of ALC HOPE

For more pictures and stories :

<https://www.facebook.com/goodshepherdservicesmalaysia/>

<https://twitter.com/gssmalaysia?s=20>

<https://www.instagram.com/gssmalaysia/>

<https://www.facebook.com/globalshepherds>

<https://www.instagram.com/globalshepherds>

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