**NAZREEN NIZAM**

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SUMMARY

Over eight years of experience in social activism. Coming from a legal background, I am passionate on issues pertaining to human wellbeing and rights. I am working on freelance basis for a few NGOs and a university - conducting training, writing, translating and researching. Currently, I coordinate EngageMedia's migrant worker advocacy project, including organising video training programs with migrant workers, refugees and stateless peoples (MRS) in Malaysia, and linking video content produced to campaigns. Besides that, I am also co-founded and coordinating an initiative called Streets Project Kuala Lumpur, working with the homeless community around the city. For the past few years I have been associated with Persatuan Kesedaran Komuniti Malaysia (EMPOWER) and Sisters in Islam (SIS). Both are a progressive feminist NGO fighting for human and women’s rights. SIS works on mainly Muslim Family Laws issue and EMPOWER on women’s political participation and good governance. I am also actively involved with Fiesta Feminista, a feminist initiative by the Joint Action Group for Gender Equality (JAG) to bring together people who want to build a more just and democratic society. Previously, I worked at The Islamic Cultural Centre in London for over two years. I feel intensely about ignorance, injustices and suffering, and want to commit myself to the upliftment of society in whichever way I can.

EDUCATION

* **LLB (Honours),** University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, *1999 – 2003*

* **Sijil Tinggi Pelajaran Malaysia / Malaysia Higher School Certificate (A’Level),** Malacca High School, Malacca, Malaysia, *1997 – 1998*

WORK EXPERIENCE

* *June 2013 – present*

**Project Coordinator (part-time), EngageMedia**

My position aims to build the video skills of citizen journalists, migrant workers and stateless people so that they can effectively tell their own stories and be a catalyst in linking migrant worker videos to advocacy and social movements.

* *April 2013 – present*

**Freelance Trainer, Writer, Editor, Translator, Researcher**

Training

* Hak Wanita Dalam Undang-Undang Keluarga Islam (Sisters In Islam, Perak Women for Women, Women Centre for Change)
* Amalan Terbaik Undang-Undang Keluarga Islam (Sisters In Islam, Perak Women for Women, Women Centre for Change)
* CEDAW and Muslim Family Laws (AWAM)
* Sexual Harassment at Workplace (AWAM)
* CEDAW – Introduction, Principles of CEDAW, Intersectionality, Temporary Measures (EMPOWER)
* Sex and Gender (EMPOWER)

Writing

* Articles for Buletin Sosialis (Parti Sosialis Malaysia)
* Press Statement on International Women’s Day (Parti Sosialis Malaysia)
* Factsheet on Malaysian General Election (Open Society Foundation)
* Election Observation Report on 13th General Election (PEMANTAU/BERSIH)
* Legal information brochures on Jenis-jenis Penceraian, Nafkah Anak, Harta Sepencarian dan Mut’ah (Sisters In Islam)

Translation

* Movie script of A Whisper to A Roar (English to Malay)
* PEMANTAU press statements
* EMPOWER press statements
* SISTERS IN ISLAM press statements and memorandums

Research

* The Everyday Lives of Bangladeshi Female Migrants Workers in Malaysia : Negotiating Identity and Mobility (Gender Studies, University of Malaya)
* Impact of Polygamy on Muslim Families in Malaysia (Sisters In Islam)
* *February 2013 – present*

**Coordinator and Co-Founder, Streets Project Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**

Streets Project Kuala Lumpur (SPKL) is an independent collective working to alleviate the isolation of people sleeping rough by providing them with nutritious meals, clothing and assistance in the transition to employment and life off the streets. Our goal is to provide a space where they can gain a sense of belonging in a spirit of love, acceptance and understanding. Also, to foster the skills they need to move towards independent living. We aim to reach out to support and campaign for people who are experiencing homelessness, and particularly those for whom no other provision exists.

Currently we only have one activity, Street Cafe, every Sunday. Street Cafe is an opportunity for the community to meet and socialise with their friends, as well as play games, music or just read the magazines and newspapers quietly, in privacy and without worrying about being moved on. We set up mats and a table and provide hot meals, tea, coffee, biscuits, cakes and fruits. We also coordinate with other groups to offer medical and legal aid.

We are also planning to have another two activities – Street Work and Hospitality – once we are more stable financially.

* *August 2012 – April 2013*

**Programme Coordinator, Coalition To Abolish Modern Slavery in Asia (CAMSA), Malaysia**

As the programme coordinator with CAMSA, I am responsible to provide a comprehensive case management to identified victims, establish protocols for cross-referral of victims among service providers, refer Vietnamese clients to partners in Vietnam for follow-up assistance, collect lessons learned and best practices to improve case management model, advocate for the interests of victims before government agencies, network with service providers and government agencies to promote government-NGO collaboration, collaborate with MTUC and other partners to train Vietnamese migrant workers and volunteers and manage the toll-free helpline.

* *Jan 2012 – August 2012*

**Chief Operating Officer, Program Mikrokredit Wanita Ladang (WALA) Selangor, Malaysia**.

WALA Selangor aims to empower women by equipping them with the knowledge, tools and skills to become successful entrepreneurs while continuing their work in the plantation. It have multiple interrelated major components:

* Communications strategies and approaches to increase the awareness, understanding and take-up of microcredit and micro finance among communities, plantation women.
* To develop capacities of the women and their families for their political empowerment through various approaches so that women can make effective decisions for change in order for the project to become achievable.
* To enable a group women from the plantation to acquire skills and develop entrepreneurial expertise through activities such as business coaching and hands-on business skills training. This includes an exploration of new and innovative ways of opening market access for the targeted women, taking advantage of ICT and through the development of business networks.
* Building partnerships with the urban population like residents associations and relevant market chains to increase market access for the products manufactured by the women in the plantations

This programme also aims to develop and enhance the capacity of key stakeholders to support the empowerment of women entrepreneurs and at the same time to promote the initiative within the Selangor state entrepreneurship development.

As the COO of this non-profit organisation under the Selangor state government, I play a critical leadership role in executing the strategies developed by the team. I also oversee the general management of a program area that includes not only program development, delivery and evaluation but also knowledge management and public relations.

* *July 2008 – December 2011*

**Legal & Advocacy Officer, Sisters In Islam, Malaysia**

As Legal and Advocacy Officer I am responsible for coordinating the programmes and projects of the Advocacy, Legal Services and Public Education Unit. We seek to promote better understanding of issues pertaining to Muslim women with a view to uphold the principles of equality, justice, freedom and dignity within the framework of a democratic state. Essentially we are working to reform all the discriminatory laws under the shariah system because we believe that change is necessary and change is possible. I am mainly working on the Muslim family Law campaign to reform the discriminatory provisions under the law as currently practised in Malaysia. We are doing nationwide training among grassroots communities, working particularly with women, in order to raise public awareness and mobilise more voices on the necessity for a new family law that is more just and equal towards women. Apart from meeting women and women’s groups that are directly affected by the negative impacts of this law, we also have regular meetings with policy-makers and those who are in the position to influence the decision-making process. By doing this we are endeavouring to ensure that our proposed draft law can be passed in Parliament without much resistance.

On the legal services front, I give legal advice on family law cases on regular basis via telephone, email and face-to-face consultation. I also write every week for SIS Legal Literacy column in a local Malay newspaper and develop SIS Legal Literacy materials such as brochures, pamphlets and information sheets. Further, I assist in overseeing and monitoring the Legal Aid Chambering Students programme.

* *August 2005 – January 2008*

**Interfaith Relations Officer, Islamic Cultural Centre, United Kingdom**

 My primary role as Interfaith Relations Officer was to spread awareness on progressive interfaith relations and understanding of religious tolerance in the UK, especially among the youth. This kind of work became more crucial after the 7/7 London attacks. I attended meetings and conferences with other moderate interfaith groups in order to exchange information and coordinate opportunities for a liberal-approach interfaith work based on justice issues and shared belief. From time to time we also coordinated open dialogue with diverse religious traditions to call for mutual understanding and respect between religions so that all can practice their faith in moderation and with freedom.

PERSONAL DETAILS

D.O.B. : 30th July 1979

Nationality : Malaysian

Languages : English and Malay. Can understand spoken Hindi and Tamil.

Interests : Art & crafts, travelling, reading and cooking

REFERENCES

**Ms. Maria Chin Abdullah, Executive Director of EMPOWER / Steering Committee of BERSIH 2.0**

EMPOWER

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**Ms. Ivy Josiah, Executive Director of WAO**

Women's Aid Organisation (WAO)

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PERSONAL STATEMENT

I am a rebel at heart. I believe in a radically new social order and I have faith that a different and more humane scheme of things is very much possible. My deepest desire is to contribute in one way or other in the creation of a better future for humankind. I have immense zeal for working with people in order to improve the wellbeing of the community. I am a self-starter and constantly keen about learning new things. You will find me to be well-spoken, energetic, outgoing, confident, and personable. With the degree of commitment I posses towards social justice — I am certain that I could prove to be an asset for your organisation.