



# Annual Report 2020/2021





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2020/21



# President's Foreword

*“Injustice is a sin.”*

Of the many things I was able to do in the past year since summer of 2020, serving the Union as its President has been the most enjoyable and empowering experience. I am grateful for the diligent and goal-driven team of directors, deputy directors, and executives. We number just below 60 students from all sorts of backgrounds. Each has sat at one point or another on the other side of a computer screen at our meetings which consist largely of listening to my (seemingly) endless droning of ideas and initiatives. They patiently plan out realistic routes to bring no less than 3 brand-new initiatives, 4 flagship events, 3 human rights campaigns, and so much more to life. The consistent drive and improvements have motivated me in turn to make them proud by fostering inclusivity, cooperation, and resoluteness as part of the spirit and character of the Union.

What follows are the 2 main themes infused into the KPUM 2020/21 direction.





Foremost is inclusivity. From seeing the benefits of having a more welcoming and diverse executive team, to having my right-hand Vice President be someone who did not know KPUM existed before his position in the committee, and to meeting familiar faces who diligently and admirably persisted in their efforts to join the core team - inclusivity is not only positive, it is vital. It is not just a matter of ticking boxes and looking good statistically. It is about recognising that our partners and affiliates are also often very diverse, that our membership is bigger and growing every year, and that everybody needs to be represented in the way we form our plans and revamp our initiatives.

A close second is sustainability. The Union's foundations are strong as a result of the long list of previous committees' good work. Therefore, one of the main things we had to work on this year was maintaining the track record rather than starting a new one. Figuring out how to push something to greater heights and improving anything we may not have been historically good at overwhelmed many of my concerns. Many times, simple fixes such as a newsletter were not available nor appropriate. Other times, it was just a matter of accepting and working within our physical constraints of time and place. I admit, being stuck in London for the majority of the year has not been helpful. Yet, the newly opened avenues of fluidity in study hours and a newly found healthy base of alumni presidents who stay committed to advising my team and I were the unexpected silver lining of my term. Thank you especially to Sean Tan, who consistently helps us even in his incredibly busy schedule!



Here is what I learnt in trying to apply them.

*My greatest bane was the expectation. Balancing a necessity for empathy alongside the demands of responding to public expectations held towards the Union has been for me a perplexing and at times, unsuccessful, endeavour. From worrying about the less-than-great reception of my personally written response regarding controversy at the Bar, or the postponement of CLP examinations, to the mental welfare of my fellow colleagues and the tricky work of attracting sponsors and affiliates anew, my personal record is far from ideal. Alone, I would have achieved far less. My biggest thanks go to the President's Office, my own department. They sustained me with their light-hearted inside jokes, diverse work styles, and both intellectual and emotional maturity. I am assured by how equally matched their trust in me is with my trust in them.*

People, engineered by Mother Nature, can adapt incredibly fast to adverse circumstances. I trust that it goes without saying what circumstances I am referring to. This knack of adapting is expected from the profession of law and of the legal bar in Malaysia, both of which remain frustratingly outmoded in key aspects. Namely, technological access and responsiveness. These two characteristics often create generational division. The people I have come across in the course of my term have shown me that many are too quick to differentiate themselves and to take a stance before marching into a debate or typing a comment or sharing a link to the like-minded. We are law students and lawyers, we should (and can) do better than this. The questions that are at play in every viral article, every public statement, must first strike up a discussion. The real discussion, a real debate, is not merely about disagreeing with the other side. It is not always bipolar. You are entitled to a pitchfork parade, but at the very least, aim clearly.



It would be going too far to say that I had enacted any real change or played a part in improving the odds. All I can hope for is that my term as President has at its bare minimum kept the Union a lively presence full of opportunities that continue to give to prospective and current undergraduates to find valuable work experience or a new direction through the work that the Union does. As my predecessor cautioned me time and time again: not every President is created equal. So, whether or not you agree with this foreword does not matter all that much to me. It just shows that you are smart and can think for yourself. What does matter, is that you have a similarly matched passion to do something about what you believe in.

Finally, this foreword precedes an Annual Report that has been diligently compiled by Kelly Lim Shuvern, our General Secretary and Adrian Soon Rui Zhang, our Secretary. Although they have chosen not to include their own voices, their efforts and commitment to the Union must be appreciated and is impossible to overstate. As you flip through the profiles, event reports, and sponsorship sections - I hope you not only appreciate the bare impressiveness of the records broken and the new achievements gained across all the departments, but also the massive haul of energy that it takes to produce those connections and initiatives that unfailingly draws thousands of Malaysian law students to the Union's doorstep. As my term draws to its natural close, I am excited to see what the next committee brings. Welcome to KPUM.

Yours Sincerely,

**SAMMY CHEN**  
President



# Deputy President's Foreword

When I was elected as the Deputy President of KPUM, I wasn't sure if I would be a good fit for this role. The Union has accomplished so many achievements in the past and this put a lot of pressure on my shoulders in maintaining the legacy of the Union. Fortunately, I wasn't alone on this journey. I was honoured to have been able to work alongside teammates who treated each other like family and friends, all driven by a work hard play hard ethos towards achieving a common goal for the Union - to make KPUM a better place for Malaysian law students amidst the pandemic.

This year is deemed very different from the past all thanks to the pandemic. From calling for emergency meetings to revisit the sponsorship packages, to virtually and physically meeting with law firms, to revamping the vast majority of KPUM's pre-existing projects and initiatives, and to finally getting all departments running smoothly - this term has definitely been through ups and downs that are probably unexpected of when we first got elected.

We can only come this far not merely because of any single individual or a specific department - heroism and individualism are never in the blood of KPUM - but only because of the mutual relationship of trust and confidence between everyone in the team. The existence of the President's Office aids nothing except to act as a mediator in glueing all departments together. Through ups and downs, we have felt the weight of the Union stronger than ever but it is exactly through tough times like these where we grow as a person and together as a team.





Whilst I cannot comment on how well KPUM has been doing this term (that's for the new committee to do), I can see that everyone has put in their heart and soul, despite being a busy law student, into flourishing this community, creating memories and making lifelong friends beyond their bubbles - and that's all that matters. What I've said above may not sound very relevant to the new committee but I'm certain that you will eventually go through a similar process. If I may have one piece of advice for the new committee, please don't forget to have fun! Remember to prioritise your own mental health and academics before KPUM. As our previous president, Tan Kian Leong always said, "KPUM is the most important of the least important things."

To all my fellow teammates, thanks for being part of the journey, it's been great and memorable. To the new committee, welcome and have fun! :)

Yours Sincerely,

**JUN TING WONG**  
Deputy President



# Vice President's Foreword

From what I have noticed, every term describes itself as having gone through an unprecedented year. This statement might hold some degree of truth to it, for every year has its fair share of firsts and KPUM is constantly evolving as we progress through the times. However, what I want to say is that KPUM this year has gone through a turning point that is less felt by other committees. The 2020/2021 term inherited KPUM's historic legacy smack dab in the middle of a pandemic and a global recession which would have hampered our operations greatly if not for the goodwill our predecessors shared with them and also our resourcefulness in adapting to the changing times.

COVID-19 has proved to be the bane of our physical (or might I say traditional, given it has been 2 years since Covid-19 set in) setting of our events such as forums, conferences, competitions and many more. We acknowledge that many events have to be shelved and suspended in light of lockdown restrictions and more importantly for the wellbeing of our members. At the same time, we are cognizant of the fact that there is no telling how long the pandemic will last. In uncharted territory, we took a page out of the previous committee's #StayatHome series and burnished and improved it in many ways to various aspects of our events. Innovation and digitalisation is key in adapting to these trying times.

If I may say so for the Division Board, this resulted in a move towards the digital platform such as physical firm tours being replaced by the KPUM Explorer initiative, field trips taken over by an online presentation in the Lawatan Edisi Malaysia and KPUM's first ever virtual moot competition.





Our team in the Division Board has worked tirelessly to bring these events to you, the students, and are constantly finding ways to be engaged with the students by way of survey programmes and feedback forms, to see how we can navigate these waters. I would like to make a special note to the team in the Division Board who are invariably working dynamically to bring out the best in KPUM. Elena does a diligent job of taking care of our finances in Malaysia, Yi Shan launched an alternative way to bring the law firms to the students, Kelynn is constantly on the ground engaging with our student base, Zhi Shin campaigned strongly about human rights in Malaysia, Sumita is always providing us with the best designs which forms the image of KPUM and lastly our Division Board secretary, Adrian, who is in charge of the many paperwork that the Union has and indirectly holds the Union together more than I do. I also want to thank my friends in the President's Office of the Executive Committee, Sammy, Jun Ting and Kelly for being my source of inspiration. I truly benefited from all your leadership and ideas and it made me a stronger leader through our term.

Each year, we receive interest from many students who are committed to bettering the Union. It is that aspect which I hope KPUM will not lack in the future, that we will continue to attract keen and bright students who are prepared to give back to the student base as well as embark on a journey of self-development. If our predecessors and us can take the Union far enough to be what it is today, so can you, so make the best out of your time in the Union, make friends and enjoy your time here.

Yours Sincerely,

Sze Fung Ng  
Vice President





# Our Network

# Main Sponsors

Shearn Delamore &co.

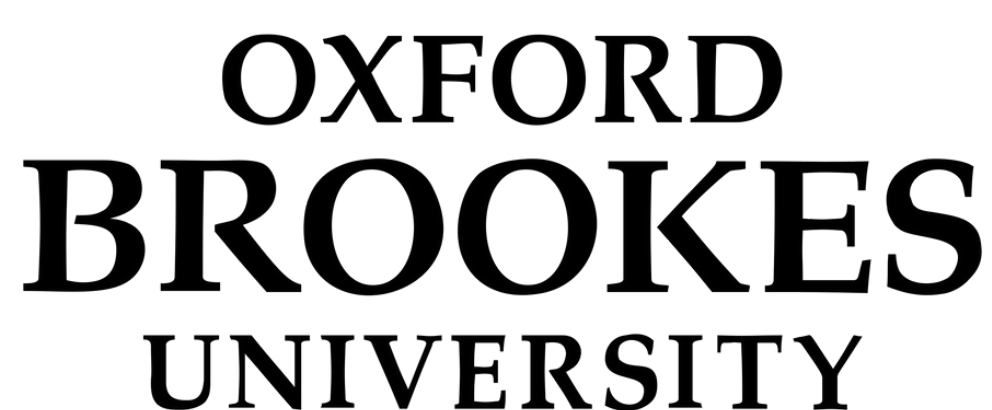




# Affiliates



# Affiliates









# Partners



HERBERT  
SMITH  
FREEHILLS

SKRINE





# Partners

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Zaid Ibrahim & Co

ZAIN & CO.

THOMAS PHILIP

ADVOCATES & SOLICITORS

CECIL ABRAHAM & PARTNERS

ADVOCATES & SOLICITORS

AP – ALBAR & PARTNERS



# Partners

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LCWP

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張勝凡律師館  
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RAJA, DARRYL & LOH

KSH

KEE SERN, SIU & HUEY

其昇, 秀玲及芷惠律師事務所



STEVEN THIRU & SUDHAR  
PARTNERSHIP





**ANTI  
DEATH  
PENALTY  
ASIA  
NETWORK**



# Law Career Convention 2021 Partners

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Shearn Delamore & <sup>co.</sup>

Zaid Ibrahim & co

 RAJA, DARRYL & LOH

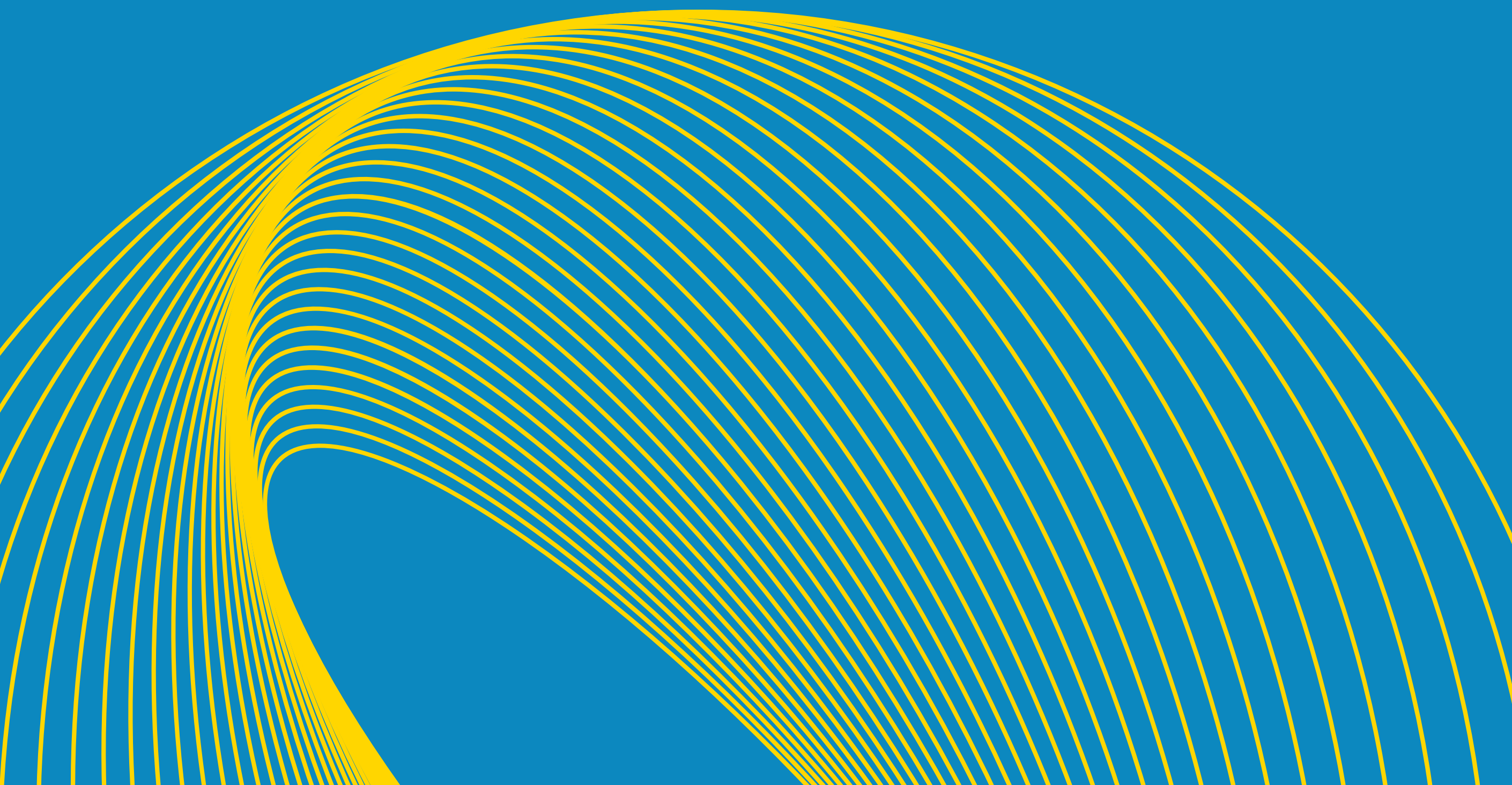
 TAY & PARTNERS

ZAIN & CO.

SKRINE



# Executive Committee & Department Executives



# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



**SAMMY CHEN**

President  
King's College London



**WONG JUN TING**

Deputy President  
University of Warwick



**NG SZE FUNG**

Vice President  
University of London (External)



**LIM SHUVERN**

General Secretary  
University of Nottingham



**SOON RUI ZHANG**

Secretary  
Brickfields Asia College



# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



**SHAHIR SHAARI**

Finance Director  
Queen Mary, University of London



**ELENA OOI**

Treasurer  
University of London (External)



**LEE LI ZHU**

Director of Careers Development  
University of Warwick



**ANG YI SHAN**

Deputy Director of  
Careers Development  
University of London (External)



**CHEAH YI JANE**

Director of Skills Enhancement  
University of Warwick



**DANG IRIANI**

Deputy Director of  
Skill Enhancement  
University of Hertfordshire (DL)



# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



**SONIA YONG**

Director of  
Corporate Relations & Outreach  
University of Bristol



**KELYNN LEE**

Deputy Director of  
Corporate Relations & Outreach  
University of Reading (Malaysia)



**SARAH CHEW**

Director of  
Media & Communications  
University of Liverpool



**SUMITA SELVAKUMAR**

Deputy Director of  
Media & Communications  
Brickfields Asia College



**CHONG ZHU ANN**

Human Rights & Activism Officer  
University of Warwick



**CHONG ZHI SHIN**

Human Rights & Activism  
Deputy Officer  
Brickfields Asia College



# MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS



**CHAN  
SYN YI**



**SADDIQ  
NOOR**



**SYARIFAH  
FARISSA**



**ONG  
KAI LING**



**AZZAD  
AIMAN**



**LOO  
CIEN XI**



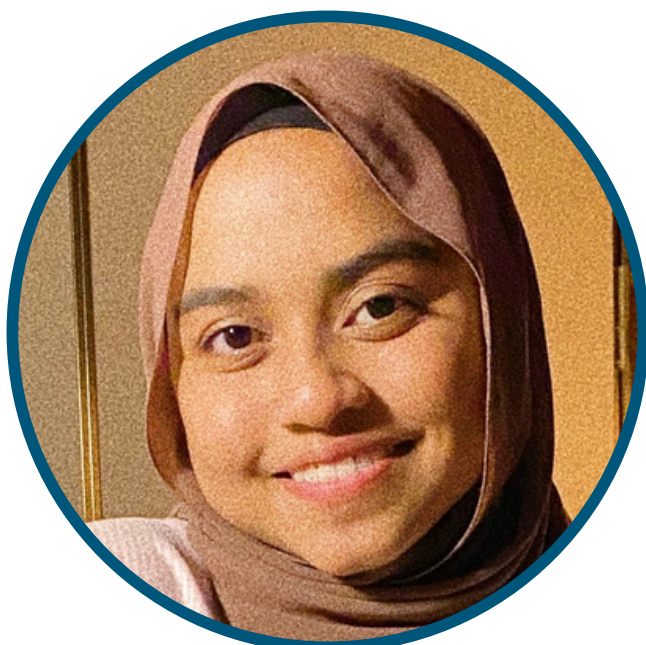
**SHARLINEE**



**KHAIRUL  
FARHAN**



**KINGSLEY CHIN**



**DEENA**



# CAREERS DEVELOPMENT



**KATHERINE NISHA  
DE ROZARIO**



**TEOH YUN XIN**



**JUSTIN CHAI**



**CALVIN THAM**



**IMRAN**



**TAN YI XIAN**



**STEPHANIE  
KHOO HUI YIN**



**HOI SHU  
TING**



# SKILLS ENHANCEMENT



**XAVIER  
WONG**



**SARAH  
PATRICKS**



**RUTH  
LIM**



**JANICE  
LING**



**EUNICE  
SOO**



**CHAM  
HUI JIN**



**BEATRICE  
TING**



**AMIR  
DANISH**



**ALYSSA  
MILLER**



**ADNAN  
YUNUS**



# CORPORATE RELATIONS & OUTREACH



**AMIRAH  
AZHAR**



**SHRUTHI  
VENKATESAN**



**KIT LEE  
JEAN WEI**



**EMILIA  
LYE**



# HUMAN RIGHTS & ACTIVISM



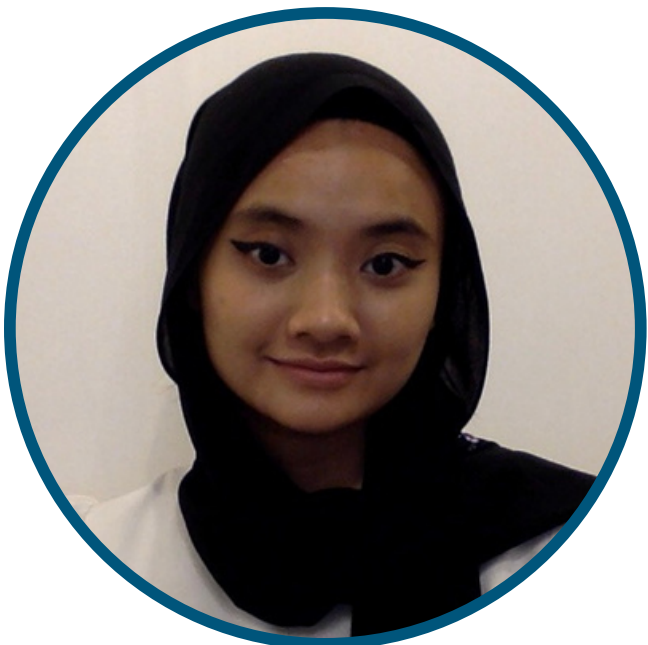
**JENNAH  
AMIN**



**JOHNSTON  
TAN**



**LEE  
YAN CHENG**



**SARA  
SOFEA**



**NADIAH  
AHMAD FARID**



**NURIN  
ALIAH**



**MATTHEW  
RAPHAEL**



**SUREKHA**

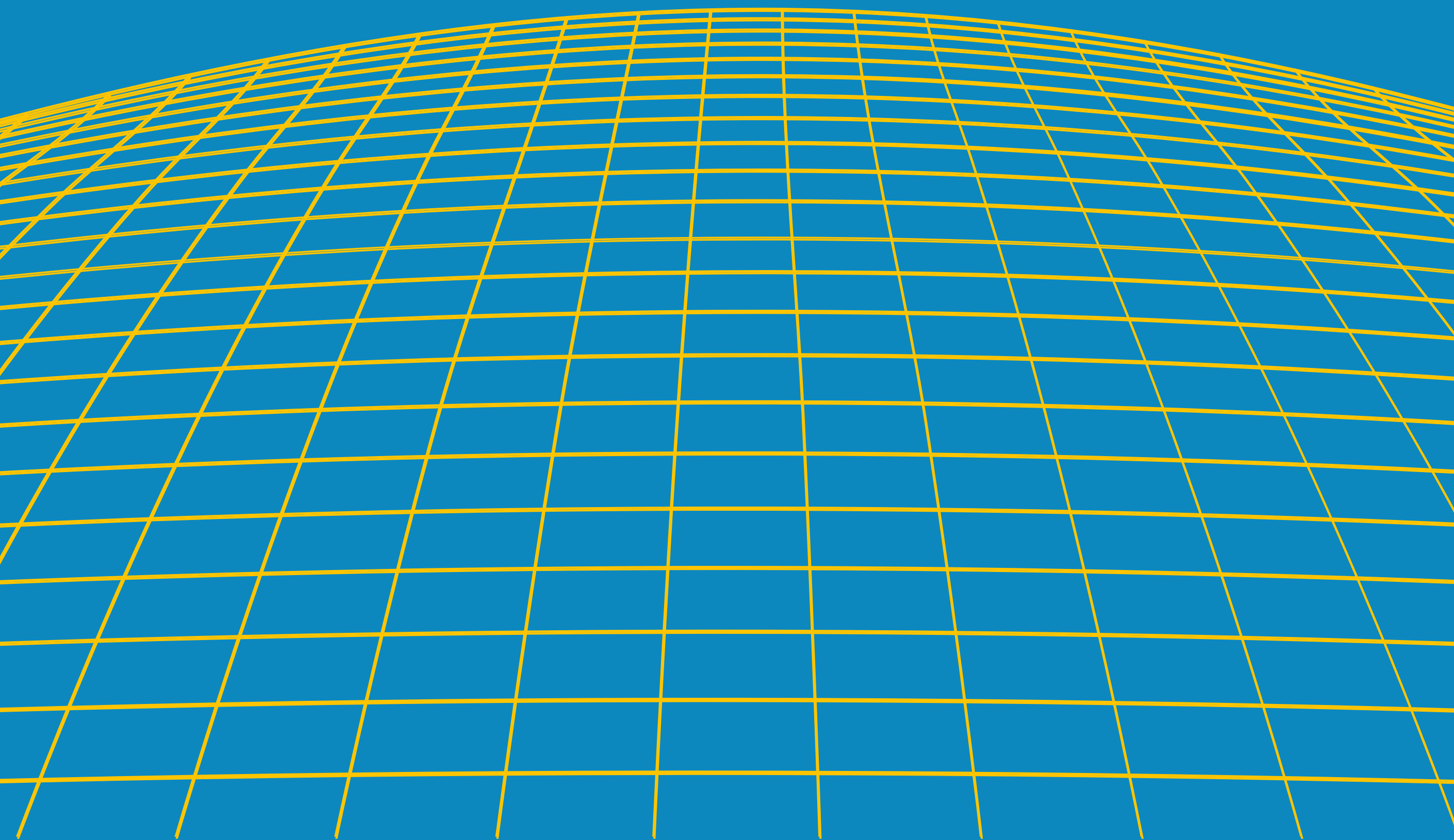


**BRITTANY  
KWAN**



**SHARMILA**

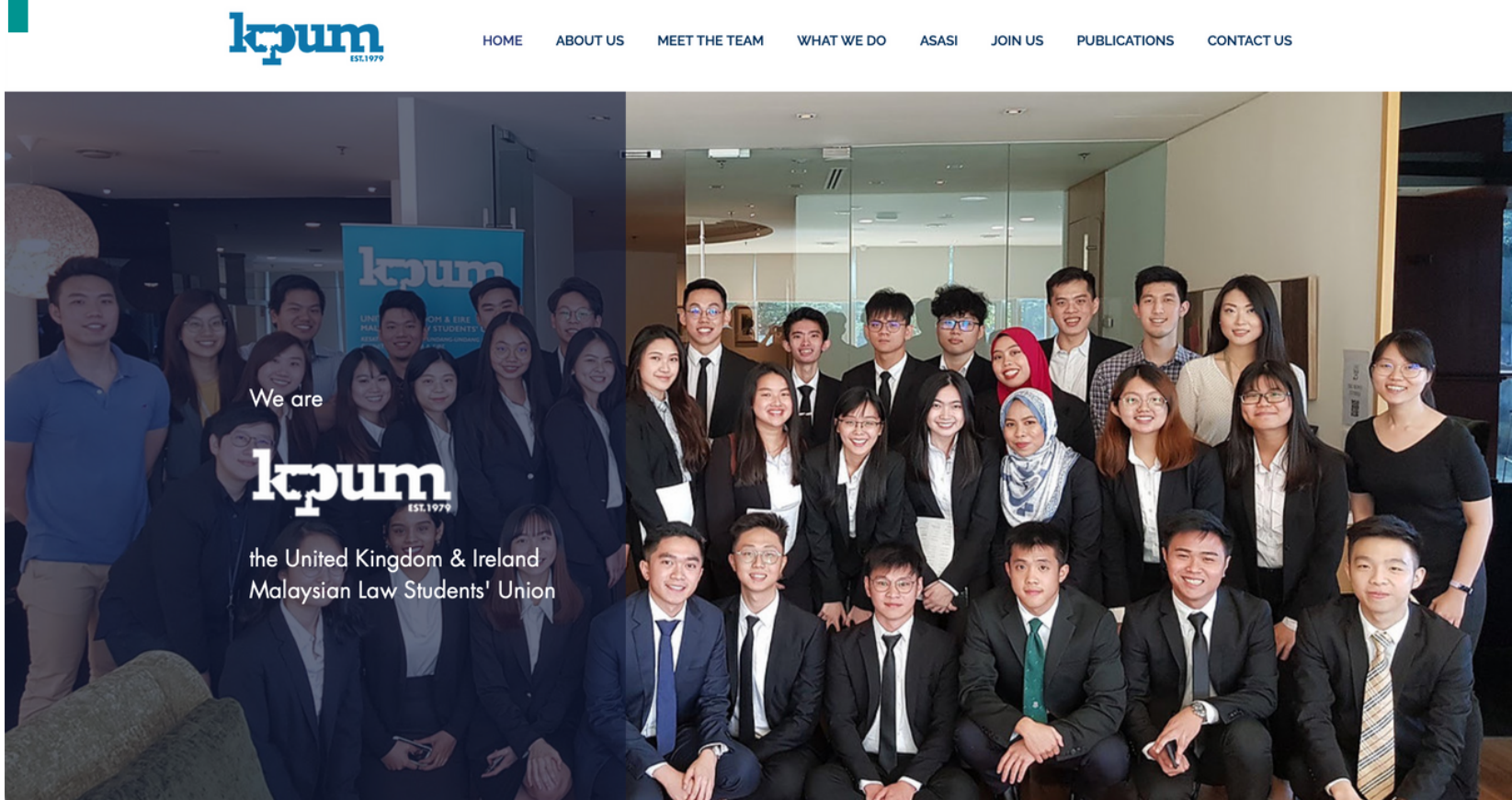
# Department Reports



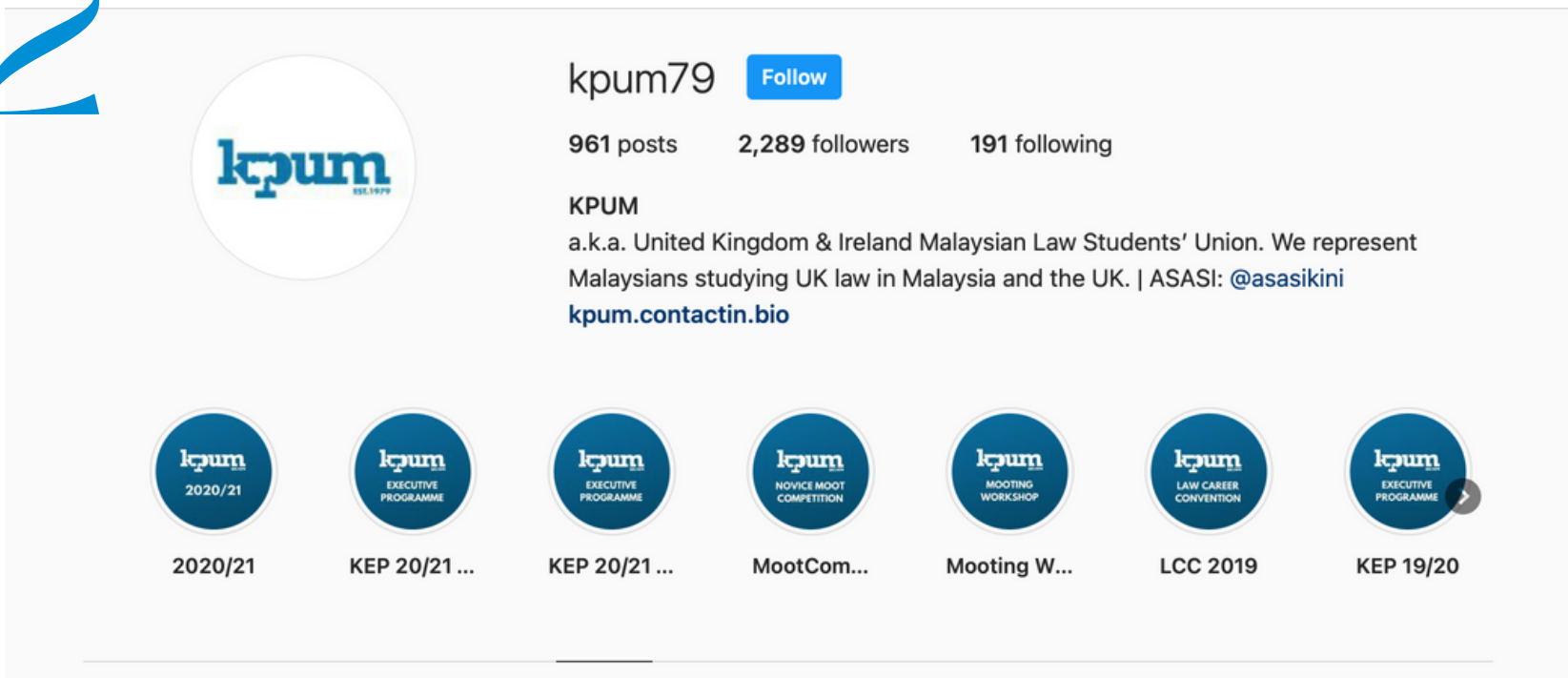


# Publicity

01



02



03



# Publicity

## 04



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## About us

The United Kingdom and Ireland Malaysian Law Students' Society or Kesatuan Penuntut Undang-Undang Malaysia di UK dan Ireland (KPUM) has acted as an umbrella body for all Malaysians studying law in the UK for over 20 years.

Established officially in 1979, we have constantly aimed to promote the interests of our members, which come from over thirty institutions in the UK, including universities and bar schools.

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Kuala Lumpur



**Rosli Dahlan Saravana  
Partnership**

Law Practice  
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## 05



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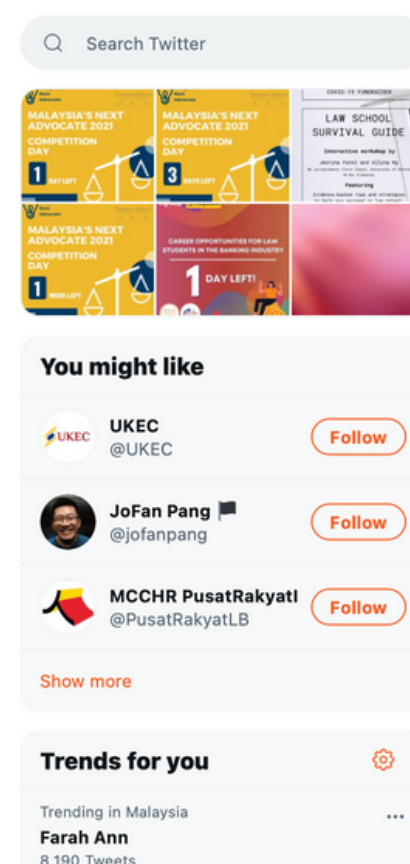
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# Analytics

	Number of Followers on 14 June 2020	Number of Followers on 28 September 2020	Number of Followers on 12 April 2021	Number of Followers on 18 July 2021
IG	1301	1632	2222	2275
FB	5746	6250	6571	6588
Twitter	848	912	984	981
LinkedIn	614	967	1460	1691

# Media & Communications Annual Report

In the 2020/2021 term, KPUM's MNC Department faced new challenges with the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

- Media & Communications Executive, Saddiq, created a study playlist for law students entitled 'Top Picks by Lord Denning'. This was never done in KPUM before. We are pleased to say that a total of 64 people liked the playlist and listened to it on a daily basis.
- The 2020/2021 MNC team has also made several improvements to the KPUM website. We created a 'Join Us' webpage and the ASASI webpage was also revamped. We added more webpages to make our events look more attractive in addition to our posts as well. The website is managed by Sarah, Sumita, Sharlinee, Kingsley and Deena.
- MNC also explored and ventured more into colour schemes that KPUM has never used before. For instance, #StayAtHome series used to be a blue and green gradient during the 2019/2020 term but has been changed to a purple and blue gradient during the 2020/2021 term. While we rarely used KPUM blue in comparison to the last term, many acknowledged that the Union's graphic design has improved significantly in terms of attractiveness and creativity.
- MNC was also split into two subunits/sub-departments, the first being publicity and analytics, and the second being graphic design. The executives were assigned into the subunits based on their skills, capabilities and talent. This segregation also helped improve the workflow of the department.
- KPUM also moved to IGTV in which there are currently 3 videos — 'Legal Academy with Tay & Partners', 'Legal Academy with LHAG' and 'KPUM 2020/21 What we have done so far'. The highest view is a total of 1.3K.



# Finance Department Annual Report

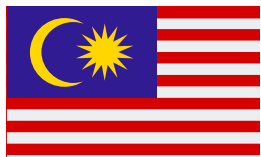
In the 2020/2021 term, KPUM's Finance Department faced new challenges with the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. The main issues were mostly logistical and were related to the execution of bank transactions. However, we managed to discover possible alternative solutions such as internet banking from our petty cash system. In addition, we managed to explore other subscription plans that may solve these difficulties, but we will leave it to the discretion of the upcoming term in deciding on whether the implementation of the proposed subscription will best suit the Union's interest.

This term, we also implemented a coding system on invoices and receipts in our transactions with our collaborating parties (including firms and universities) for sponsorships and events held throughout the year. The coding system made it easier for the Finance Department to back-track in our book-keeping. It proved to be extremely helpful on the one occasion where the bank had contacted us with a request of providing proof that it was a genuine transfer (e.g an invoice) before releasing the wired amount from a UK university. Drawing similarity to the mentioned scenario, it should be noted from hereon that standards of procedure (SOP) (detailed in Google Drive) must be followed in regards to international transfers.

There are two major points that should be noted - (1) the minor handlings revolve around periodical bookkeeping and (2) our occasional reimbursements are made up from the credit and debit of KPUM's official accounts and a Petty Cash account.

Attached below are the transactions of the term 2020/21, updated as of 9 August 2021.

# Finance Department Annual Report



## Accounts (Credit and Debit)

### 1. KPUM's Official Account

Updated: 26 July 2021

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1		Debit (Money Coming In)						Credit (Money going out)			
2	DATE	DESCRIPTION	f	REFERENCE	AMOUNT (RM)		DATE	DESCRIPTION	f	REFERENCE	AMOUNT (RM)
3											
4	(25/09/2020)	From Last Term	b/f	RHB Account Statment	3126.46		Sept/ Oct	Signatory Transfer Service Fee			10.00
5											
6	23/11/2020	November balance			3116.46						
7											
8	1/1/2021	January balance			3116.46						
9											
10	31/3/2021	Shearn Sponsorship			8500.00						
11											
12	31/3/2021	March balance			11616.46						
13											
14	17/6/2021	Pre-LCC: Nottingham Trent			GBP 100.00						
15											
16	26/7/2021	Current balance			12173.86						
17											

### 2. Petty Cash Account

Updated: 9 August 2021

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
1		Debit (Money Coming In)						Credit (Money going out)				
2	DATE	DESCRIPTION	f	REFERENCE	AMOUNT (RM)		DATE	DESCRIPTION	f	REFERENCE	AMOUNT (RM)	
3												
4	03/09/2020	Transfer Acc	b/f		139.10							
5												
6	25/09/2020	Shearn Cash Prize		Novice Moot 2020, Hui Jie Claim	200.00							
7												
8							26/09/2020	Reimburse Hui Jie for Cash Prize		Novice Moot 2020	200.00	
9												
10	Sept 2020				139.10							
11												
12	12/8/2020	CDW sponsorship		sponsorsip to park in petty cash	500.00							
13												
14	January 2021				639.10							
15												
16							3/3/2021	Reimburse Kelynn for 5 tealive vouchers		Survey 2021, 8.95 x5	44.75	
17												
18							16/7/2021	Reimburse Yi Jane for Thomas Phillip Plaque		MNA (plaque + courier)	120.00	
19												
20	24/07/2021	Messrs Anton Chen (Alex Anton Netto)		KPUM Prize Money (610339988)	1630.00							
21												
22							26/07/2021	Cash Prize AnC to Koh Shu Huan		AnC Moot	400.00	
23							26/07/2021	Cash Prize AnC to Teoh Yun Xin		AnC Moot	400.00	
24							26/07/2021	Cash Prize AnC to Hannah		AnC Moot	100.00	
25							26/07/2021	Cash Prize AnC to Shobita		AnC Moot	100.00	
26							26/07/2021	Cash Prize AnC to Connie		AnC Moot	100.00	
27							26/07/2021	Cash Prize AnC to Najihah		AnC Moot	500.00	
28							26/07/2021	Reimbursement to Dang		AnC Moot (Stationery and Misc.)	30.00	
29												
30	26/07/2021				474.35							
31												
32							09/08/2021	Reimbursement to Joanne Yli		KPUM Survey (Grab vouchers x5)	50.00	
33												
34	09/08/2021				424.35							
35												
36												

## Outstanding Debts / Pending Payments

1. Survey:
- Owed to:
  - Amount: RM50
  - Reason:



# Finance Department Annual Report

For the 20/21 term, KPUM's Finance Department faced multiple challenges with regard to the business bank account with HSBC. The main issues were outdated signatories, correspondence address and primary users for the account. This ultimately resulted in a hold in our accounts and we had to adapt by considering other alternatives as well as thorough financial planning.

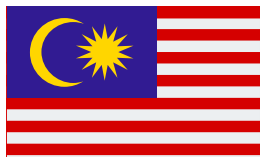
This term, we attempted to rectify these issues with HSBC to ensure a fresh start for the next term. As of 29 July 2021, we have successfully updated the primary user and are close to completing the Change of Signatories as well as the Correspondence Address linked to our business bank account. Ultimately, this would allow the next Board to have full control over the account with updated information in HSBC's systems, allowing direct communication with the bank should the next Board decide on any changes (i.e changing the amount of signatories required for a transaction).

In addition, we have also attempted to set up a Business-Internet Banking account with HSBC. This will prove functional as it allows reimbursements to be carried out much quicker and in a more efficient manner, as compared to traditional banking with cheque books. It would also allow us to set up a petty cash account, making it more convenient for small transactions as well as less stringent tracking and oversight.

A major point to note is that following the change of the Board of Directors with each term, a full mandate application has to be submitted to HSBC to ensure that the list of signatories are updated accordingly.

Attached below are the transactions of the term 2020/21, updated as of 9 August 2021.

# Finance Department Annual Report



## Accounts (Credit and Debit)

### 1. KPUM's Official Account Updated: 9 August 2021

Debit (Money Coming In)					Credit (Money going out)				
DATE	DESCRIPTION	f	REFERENCE	AMOUNT (€)	DATE	DESCRIPTION	f	REFERENCE	AMOUNT (€)
1/9/2021	Balance b/d			5690.11	29/7/2021	Balance c/f			5690.11

### 2. Petty Cash Account Updated: 9 August 2021

Debit (Money Coming In)					Credit (Money going out)				
DATE	DESCRIPTION	f	REFERENCE	AMOUNT (€)	DATE	DESCRIPTION	f	REFERENCE	AMOUNT (€)
21/10/2020	UKEC			250.00	10/11/2020	Zoom- November			39.63
5/11/2020	Tay & Partners			500.00	2/12/2020	canva pro annual			107.99 or 9p/m
					5/12/2020	GC x KPUM token		half yet to be reimbursed by GC	40.00
					10/12/2020	zoom-December			39.63
				522.75					
					1/1/2021	G suite- January			56.13
				426.99	10/1/2021	zoom- January			39.63
					2/2/2021	Gsuite- February			56.07
				331.29	11/2/2021	Zoom- February			39.63
11/3/2021	UKEC		Sponsorship	238.00	2/3/2021	G suite- March			54.89
19/3/2021	Zaid Ibrahim Co		LCC	150.00	2/3/2021	G-suite April		earlier charge for April	55.07
22/3/2021	UWE		LCC	100.00	9/3/2021	Zoom- March			39.63
31/3/2021	University of Law		LCC	100.00					
				769.7					
1/4/2021	Zain Co		LCC	150.00	8/4/2021	LCC Hopin		reimbursed to Li Zhu	189.12
7/4/2021	Raja Daryl Loh		LCC	150.00	10/4/2021	Zoom-April			39.63
16/4/2021	Skrine		LCC	300.00					
22/4/2021	Cardiff Uni		LCC	100.00					
				1240.95					
14/5/2021	City Uni			100.00	3/5/2021	G-Suite			55.27
				1246.05	10/5/2021	Zoom- May			39.63
					3/5/2021	G-Suite			55.27
					10/5/2021	Zoom- May			39.63
					2/6/2021	G-Suite June			53.92
					10/6/2021	Zoom-June			39.63
					2/7/2021	G-Suite July			55.46
					10/7/2021	Zoom- July			39.63
				962.51					



# Finance Department Annual Report

## Outstanding Debts / Pending Payments

### 1. G Suite

- Owed to: Shukri (2019/20 Deputy)
- Amount:
- Reason: Insufficient funds accessible due to HSBC issue
- Actions: Awaiting HSBC process

### 2. Zoom

- Owed to: Kian Long (2019/20 President)
- Amount:
- Reason: Insufficient funds accessible due to HSBC issue
- Actions: Awaiting HSBC process

### 3. WIX

- Owed to: Sammy (2020/21 President)
- Amount:
- Reason: Insufficient funds accessible due to HSBC issue
- Actions: Awaiting HSBC process



# EVENTS



Malaysia's  
Next  
Advocate

and more...



# Events (President's Office)

## GENCORPORATE X KPUM MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME



Annually, this is our first collaborative programme with GenCorporate. Relatively recent at about two years old, the programme aims to connect individuals who have at least 2 years of undergraduate experience of studying in the UK with students who are starting their journey into their degree. The courses that are included include Law, which is where KPUM helps to coordinate and promote the programme. Applications usually occur in late August (19 August 2020 this year) and include an induction session in early September (6th September 2020 this year). The programme is run primarily through social media chat platforms such as WhatsApp or anything the paired mentors and mentees are comfortable with. Mentors in the law course category have ranged from third year undergraduates to experienced associates at top Malaysian law firms. GenCorporate oversees the marketing and running of the programme, with some support from the KPUM liaison. The mentorship programme officially ends around the end of the first academic term (January) but mentors and mentees are encouraged to maintain contact after the fact.

## GENCORPORATE X KPUM: NAVIGATING DEEP WATERS - DATA PROTECTION AMIDST COVID-19



The second annual collaboration KPUM holds with GenCorporate, which usually occurs in December (6th December 2020 this year). It is a webinar or seminar session depending on whether virtual arrangements are necessary. The talk is GenCorporate's effort to include a pertinent legal topic in their range of events and outreach. Every year the theme of the talk is decided by GenCorporate and KPUM facilitates both speaker contacts and suggestions that relate to the theme, as well as the marketing and promotion in order to engage an audience. Moderation of the panel is also usually done by GenCorporate members and KPUM provides an emcee to ensure the smooth flowing of the events. KPUM also purchases or agrees on the tokens of appreciation that speakers receive. In the past, physical events have presented chocolates, tea, and biscuits. This year, it was in the form of Amazon credits. The speakers invited are from UK-based law firms such as DLA Piper and Herbert Smith Freehills, as well as universities like the University of Cambridge.



# Events (President's Office)

## STUDENT BURSARY INITIATIVE (UKEC X KPUM)



KPUM is proud to be UKEC's Key Education Partner, and hopes to continue this co-supportive relationship. UKEC is also one of KPUM's main sponsors this year. The Student Bursary Initiative is a helpful opportunity for individuals who are considering pursuing a Law degree of professional legal qualification in the UK to apply for financial assistance. It is exclusive to KPUM members and is relatively generous in amount, matched to the UK currency due to the international nature of a COVID-19 impacted collaboration. The wide range of institutions that UKEC includes in the bursary initiative means that the opportunity is open to students already enrolled or are going to begin their course full-time. This initiative is one of the two main ways in which KPUM visibly collaborates with UKEC and opens up opportunities for its members.

## THE MALAYSIAN JUDICIARY VIRTUAL SUPERIOR COURT ATTACHMENT PROGRAMME



The Malaysian Judiciary Virtual Superior Court Attachment Programme is an initiative to offer an opportunity to law students who are currently studying overseas to work in the judicial and legal services in Malaysia. It should be noted that KPUM (by way of the President's Office) plays a role in assisting the Malaysian Judiciary in promoting their e-Attachment programme and is not an initiative of the Union. Therefore, the Malaysian Judiciary processes all applications and KPUM has no role in assessing these applicants. The Attachment Programme allows Malaysian students to shadow a judge or judicial commissioner of their choice from the levels of the Federal Court, Court of Appeal to the High Court.

## SHEARN DELAMORE NETWORKING DINNER 2020

The Shearn Delamore Networking Dinner 2020 annual networking event was held by Shearn Delamore & Co., KPUM's long-established Platinum Sponsor, traditionally for the purpose of introducing the new committee to the firm. Through this casual, informal dinner the committee got to build connections with the associates of the firm and partners like Mr Anand Raj and Ms Karen Abraham whilst getting a better understanding of the firm's expectations in the coming term.



# Events (President's Office)

## KPUM EXECUTIVE PROGRAMME 2020/2021

The KPUM Executive Programme (KEP) is a flagship initiative of the President's Office to recruit executives – a non-elected position to help out with the operations of the working committee. The Executive plays an integral role in making events happen under the supervision of the relevant director and contributes new ideas and initiatives to the department heads of the Union. In the 2020/2021 term, we received a record number of interests towards the KEP totaling up to 117 responses. The difference between the selection process with previous terms is that in the 2020/2021 term, the President's Office has given equal opportunities to interview all candidates that applied to assess their interest in the role. Through the interviews conducted, we managed to recruit 44 candidates to join our Union as an Executive.

## KPUM SHADOW DIRECTOR PROGRAMME 2020/2021

The KPUM Shadow Director Programme (SDP) is an initiative by the President's Office to allow potential nominees for election to have some exposure to the work in the relevant department, to ask any questions or to have a more direct conversation with the incumbent director. This is to ensure that regardless of the final pool of nominees at election, the handover process is smoother and more efficient, virtual or otherwise. It also allows for the nominees who have taken part in the mentoring programme to think more practically about what they would like to bring to KPUM in their year. The agenda of the shadowing programme is set by the relevant Director and it is their responsibility to show the Shadow Director the workings of the Union. Within 2 weeks after the launch of the registrations of the programme, KPUM has successfully attracted 40 candidates who are interested in different roles within the Union. Upon screening their CVs and written responses, the President's Office has decided on 21 candidates who will be acting as the 2020/2021 Shadow Directors.



# Events (President's Office)

## AMEU X KPUM: LAW AND ECONOMICS

The first-ever formal collaboration between the Association Of Malaysian Economics Undergraduates (AMEU) and KPUM is established on the premise of bridging the gap between Malaysian law and economics students across the UK and increasing the exposures of both AMEU and KPUM to first-year undergraduates. With the theme being “Cross-paths: Law x Economics – The Unveiling of Commercial Awareness”, the panel discussion aims to equip both law and economics students with an essential understanding of commercial awareness in the legal and business context as well as provide insights into the application of commercial awareness. We were honoured to have YBhg Datuk SK. Lingam as the keynote speaker, followed by the panellists who are the elites in their own fields: Mr Jal, a partner from Shook Lin & Bok, Ms Jolene, legal counsel at iflix, Ms Rachel Lee, product manager at Instahome, and Mr Benjamin Hor, market research analyst at CoinGecko. We have received a positive response of 246 signups on the Google form.

## KPUM ARTICLE: CV WRITING TIPS – DOS AND DON'TS

An article prepared by the joint effort of the President's Office and Careers Development Department aiming to improve the CV quality of KPUM members. This article covered the most common mistakes that 30 Days of SIP and BTB candidates make e.g. colourful layout, including irrelevant information, list experiences without elaborating etc. This article has gathered the attention of over 566 views on KPUM's official website.

Moving on, KPUM should publish articles that can better equip our fellow members from multiple perspectives – careers or skills wise – as it appears that students are very receptive to personal and professional development materials.

## INFO SESSION WITH UKEC (UKEC X KPUM) APPLYING FOR THE BAR COURSE 2022: PANEL DISCUSSION

The second later collaboration that UKEC hosts with the help of KPUM in marketing and promotion to engage an audience. This year the info session is split into two to accommodate for as many interested individuals as possible, with the live session on the 10th July 2021 and the recorded session on 17th July 2021. UKEC finds and invites the speakers, with KPUM providing a list of recommended or relevant speaker names if necessary. UKEC also completes the promotional material, and KPUM posts the material on all available social media platforms. This year, the talk focussed on the experience of doing the bar training course, and speakers ranged from interns to associates at Malaysian law firms, as well as the young founder of HiBlendr, a sleek and modern smoothie machine company. **UKEC also provides information about their annual UK Postgraduate Law Fair, which happens in March 2021 to KPUM's social media platforms.** Since KPUM's only obligation here is to promote the event, it is a valuable part of our relationship with the education partner.

## DIVISIONAL BOARD DROPIN SESSION WRITE UP

The KPUM Divisional Board DropIn Session took place on 20 February 2021 at 8:00 PM (GMT +8) Malaysian Time. All Malaysian Division Executives were present and joined by the Executive Committees Sze Fung, Adrian, Kelynn, Sumita, Zhi Shi, Dang Iriani and Yi Shan. The DropIn Session is aimed at bridging the gap between the KPUM Executives and the KPUM Executive Committees. This was done after an informal survey conducted within the respective KPUM Departments found that KPUM Executives lacked a coherent understanding of the functions of the Executive Committee Board, specifically the President's Office. Participants were encouraged to unmute themselves and have conversations in this casual setting. Through this DropIn session, KPUM Divisional Board Executives were able to get to know the Executive Committees present and voice any concerns or raise any questions they might have.



# Events (Corporate Relations & Outreach)

## KPUM IN COLLABORATION WITH THE MIDDLE TEMPLE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION [MTSA] - “MOTIVATIONAL TALK BY JERN-FEI NG QC”

A motivational speech given by Jern-Fei Ng QC on how to stay persistent and driven when pursuing a career at the Bar.

## KPUM IN COLLABORATION WITH THE MIDDLE TEMPLE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION [MTSA] - “UNDERSTANDING AND ALTERING ASIAN DISCRIMINATION”



## Q&A SERIES: PATHWAYS TO THE BAR 2020/21

“Q&A Series: Pathways to the Bar” is an initiative by the Corporate Relations and Outreach department which strives to provide law students interested in pursuing the Bar with an informative guide on how to go about undertaking this journey.

“Q&A Series: Pathways to the Bar” takes the form of a booklet, packed with details on three main areas regarding applying to study for the Bar: the Bar Course, the Inns of Court, and the Bar Course Aptitude Test (BCAT).

The booklet also contains a hypothetical application timeline, as well as some student testimonials from graduates of prestigious Bar Schools. It seeks to be a source of learning and motivation for students who are considering pursuing a career as a barrister.

This report can be read at <https://www.kpum.org/post/q-a-series-pathways-to-the-bar>

# Events (Corporate Relations & Outreach )

## LAWATAN EDISI MALAYSIA 2021

Lawatan Edisi Malaysia 2021 was organised in collaboration with the **Kuala Lumpur Bar Committee (KLBC)** and **Kuala Lumpur Young Lawyers Committee (KLYLC)**. The event was held on Zoom and took place on 3 July 2021, from 5.00pm - 7.00pm.

The objectives of this event were to educate participants about the functions and roles of the KLBC; to provide insight into the work of the KLYLC; to highlight the relevance of the KLBC and KLYLC to law students; and to build camaraderie within the legal community by providing a platform for law students and lawyers to network.

The event began with a panel discussion featuring Alvin Oh (Honorary Secretary for the KLBC), Shugan Raman (Chairperson for the KLYLC), and Daniel Annamalai (Co-Deputy Chairperson for the KLYLC). The panel was invited to discuss the scope, role and history of the KLBC; the role and impact of the KLYLC; the relevance of the KLBC and KLYLC to law students; and the past and upcoming initiatives of the KLBC and KLYLC.

Following this, participants were divided into five breakout rooms and given the opportunity to network with representatives from the KLBC and KLYLC. The KLBC and KLYLC representatives invited to participate in this networking session were Alvin Oh (KLBC), Bobby Ooi (KLYLC), Daphne Rethual (KLYLC), Daniel Annamalai (KLYLC), Jesselyn Tham (KLYLC), Pavithra Apparao (KLYLC), and Shugan Raman (KLYLC).

After the networking session, the event closed with a Kahoot Quiz highlighting facts regarding the KLBC and KLYLC. The top three winners of the quiz were each awarded two webinar vouchers for any paid event organised by the KLYLC.



# Events (Skills Enhancement Division) &

## Crosspaths: Law x Economics

A collaboration with the Association of Malaysian Economics Undergraduates (AMEU) where we engaged with professional speakers to provide an insight into commercial awareness and the link between the two notable industries on 7 November 2020.

KPUM also assisted in contacting speakers:

1. Jal Othman (Partner, Shook Lin & Bok)
2. Jolene Lee (Head of Legal, Healwell Pharmaceuticals)

## CLP/Bar Survey Form (ft. CDD)

This survey form was created and shared by SED with the purpose of allowing students to be more informed when choosing the Bar or the CLP. The information gathered from the survey was passed on to CDD to publish.

## 'The Legal Industry Post-Covid - How Should Aspiring Lawyers Prepare Themselves for This?' Write-up

This was done in collaboration with RDL's Mr. Vijey Mohana Krishnan in February 2021.

This article was written based on the insights provided by Mr Vijey, a partner and tax lawyer in this law firm. With the glaring uncertainty facing many law students and graduates during the pandemic, publishing this article was aimed at enlightening readers on the challenges and reality of legal practice in the post-covid era. Aspects analysed in the article included how law students and graduates should equip themselves with the skills to adapt to the ever-changing nature of legal practice, the challenges of working from home as well as the emphasis on commercial awareness and tech-savviness as an edge that aspiring lawyers should develop and possess.

# Events (Skills Enhancement Division) &

## LHAG Legal Academy

### Webinar:

#### “Covid Fatigue -How lawyers are managing their stress and mental health during this pandemic”

This webinar was centred upon one of this year’s most talked about topics -Covid-19, it aimed to provide guidance to attendees on how they can best manage stress and look after their mental health during this tumultuous period.

KPUM was joined by a partner -Jason Tan- and an associate -Eleena Wahab- from Lee Hishammudin Allen & Gledhill.

The webinar began with both Mr. Jason and Ms. Eleena providing us with a bit of insight into their personal opinions on mental health, particularly within the legal industry. We then moved onto discussing the impact Covid-19 has had on their mental health, this included their feelings about remote working, and the exacerbated use of online platforms.

The last segment of this webinar was about the different ways stress can be identified and addressed, with both Eleena and Jason providing law students with very valuable pieces of advice. The webinar ended with a Q&A session.

### Write-up:

#### Coherent Skill Sets That Benefit a Lawyer in Malaysia - LHAG



In March 2021, the Skills Enhancement Department of KPUM collaborated with renowned law firm, Lee Hishammuddin Allen & Gledhill (LHAG), in publishing an article titled “Coherent Skill Sets That Benefit a Lawyer in Malaysia”. Insights on the substantive of this article was contributed to by Mr Chris Toh, a tax lawyer in LHAG. The purpose of this article was to enlighten readers, especially law students and graduates, on the types of skills that are valued by law firms in modern legal practice. Among the skills highlighted were the ability to work well with colleagues and open-mindedness in listening to the ideas and arguments from all levels of people, including juniors.

### Video:

#### What do employers/recruitment partners look for in an interview? Subsequently, what is the career progression at Lee Hishammuddin like?

In this video, two partners (Ms. Bella from the corporate department and Mr. Jack from the dispute resolution department) spoke in detail not only about what they personally look for in applicants but also what the firm as a whole expects from interviewees. Furthermore, they also covered the area of career progression speaking from their long experience with the firm.



# Events (Skills Enhancement Division) &

## Tay & Partners Legal Academy

### Webinar:

#### “The essential skills to be a competent associate”

The webinar aimed to provide an understanding of the expectations of an associate and how to effectively equip oneself with the necessary skills to become a competent associate. The speakers include Ms Lim Bee Yi (partner), Mr. Low Kok Jin, Mr Chuah Chong Ping (associates) from Tay & Partners..

The webinar began with an introduction to the speakers’ experiences transitioning from university to a practising lawyer. It proceeded by discussing the roles of associates and their daily jobs. The final segment focused on highlighting skills which have been helpful in managing their workload. The webinar ended with a Q&A session.

### Write-up:

#### Top Practice Areas -Tay & Partners

The Skills Enhancement Department of KPUM reached out to Tay & Partners in April 2021 on the firm’s top practice areas. In this article, we learnt that Tay & Partners is immersed in practice areas ranging from real estate, employment and dispute resolution to even more modern areas of practice such as intellectual property as well as technology, multimedia and communications. This wide array of practice areas has enabled Tay & Partners to become one of the most established full-service commercial law firms in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

### Video:

#### A Day at Tay & Partners

A lawyer from Tay & Partners took a ‘day in the life of a lawyer’ video which clearly depicts the routine of their lawyers. From conducting legal research, attending virtual meetings and even the occasional coffee break, it was filmed within the walls of their firm which gives viewers a bonus of a mini firm tour.

# Events (Skills Enhancement Division) &

## ‘Bar Info Session’ w UKEC (the education centre)

This webinar was generally targeted for penultimate year students who were in the midst or were going to apply for the bar and needed more information and insight on.

The SED department contributed by introducing speakers with varied backgrounds/careers who took the bar.

## Malaysia’s Next Advocate (KPUM X Thomas Phillip)

MNA 2021 in collaboration with Messrs. Thomas Phillip was carried out virtually as a consequence of Covid-19 restrictions. Nonetheless, it was successfully carried out with 25 participants, a total of 8 judges present, alongside Adeline, the liaison person, and 5 timekeepers from KPUM. There was a diverse display of advocacy skills across participants with 4 finalists moving into the final round that was presented with an audience of up to 36 people (preliminary rounds were done on a one presenter to one judge basis). Thomas Phillip was generous enough to present £250 to the first runner up and £500 to the champion of MNA 2021, each also given a one month internship experience opportunity with the firm.

Challenges faced: poor internet connectivity of some participants which may have caused them a disadvantage because of the disruption it caused to his/her presentations. This could have been prevented, in the event the next MNA is still virtual. Adeline suggests that:

For future MNAs, we need to add a guidance note to minimize interruption as a result of poor connectivity. This can include organizing a dry run a day or two before the competition, and recommendation for the usage of LAN network if possible. Alternatively, we can offer the candidate the option to type out responses in lieu of verbal communication at points of time when the internet connection is disruptively unstable.



# Events (Careers Development Department)



## Law Career Convention

On 3rd of April, we held the inaugural Law Career Convention. Due to COVID-19, this year's Law Career Convention was held online through the virtual platform, Hopin. We were fortunate to have secured six sponsors as firms were prudent with sponsoring student organizations during this pandemic. The theme this year is 'A New Legal Generation: Students Today, Lawyer's Tomorrow'. Essentially, it focuses on the new generation of students that has been impacted by the drastic change in the legal sector, especially since COVID-19 has signalled a shifting landscape in the legal industry: requiring law firms to be more tech-savvy, changing the face of advocacy and resulting in a greater focus in certain practice areas of law.

We started off with the firm's presentation on the main stage. Firms were given 10-15 minutes (depending on the tier of sponsorship) to talk about their firm, culture and practice areas. This was then followed by the first breakout session which focused on the specific practice areas from Shearn Delamore & Co., Skrine, Tay & Partners, Raja, Darryl & Loh and Zain & Co. After the practice areas session, we head on to virtual booths which were run concurrently with a talk hosted by Shearn Delamore and an interactive session with Skrine. The first day of the Law Career Convention ended with two panel discussions: Cryptocurrency and its Regulation and Intellectual Property and Copyright by Shearn Delamore.

The second day of the Law Career Convention kicked off with a breakout session where firms either had a workshop or a practice area session. Interestingly, Skrine had a mini panel discussion which talked about their lawyers' experience at Skrine. ZICO Law also held a legal due diligence workshop and we also had ASASI organise a session titled 'A Legal Career in Human Rights'. After the breakout session ended, we moved on to virtual booths which run concurrently with an interactive session with Shearn Delamore and Skrine. This was then followed by two mini panel discussions hosted by Shearn Delamore, the topic are as follows: "How has COVID-19 transformed legal practice in Malaysia" and "Litigation, Arbitration and Modes of Dispute Resolution in Malaysia". We ended the Law Career Convention with a bonus session with Shearn Delamore where we had a session with young lawyers and pupils of the firm.

Pupillage interviews were conducted separately from the Law Career Convention and to the discretion of the participating firms.

## Pre Law Career Convention 2021

On 29th March 2021, we held the pre-Law Career Convention. This year's event was designed to actively engage students with legal education providers in the pursuit of quality exploration. The theme was "The Bar & CLP", which focused on the legal professional qualification experience and process. The event was fruitful as the virtual platform allowed attendees to attend a randomised networking session facilitated by the event platform's software.

At 9.40am UKT, we had an introduction and briefing on the main stage of Hopin. Following that was the insight session with participating schools and UKEC. Each session lasts for 25 minutes as it provides participants with the opportunity to visit two sessions. During the insight session, participating schools shared about their Bar School and what it can offer to prospective students while UKEC provided personal consulting services to attendees. This is then followed by networking and virtual booths with the sponsors. Lastly, we had a panel discussion about debunking the myth of Bar and CLP schools. The panelists involved were Ms. Chew Sue Peng, Ms. Kee Hui Yee, Mr Tim Koh and Mr Ng Jo Yee. It was an interesting discussion as we touched on the differences between pursuing CLP and Bar Schools. Students found it useful as the speakers spoke about their different experiences and challenges when doing the relevant professional qualifications.



# Events (Careers Development Department) &

## StayAtHome Webinars

### *LLM - One Step Forward?*

This webinar consists of multiple successful legal practitioners who studied LLM. Discussion topics include breaking down the perceptions of doing an LLM, how an LLM will help with one's future career and the speakers' experience about doing their LLMS.

### *Law School to Practice - The Transition*

This webinar explored the best way one can go about their wide interest in multiple legal and non-legal fields. The panellists spoke about their fair share of transitioning to different law firms and even different career fields.

### *Career Pathways in Arbitration (CDD - MY Division)*

A collaboration with AIAC and AIAC Young Practitioners Group that invited panellists from different backgrounds to share their awarding journey in becoming an arbitrator or counsel in arbitration, and their thoughts on the future of arbitration practice.

### *Cross Paths - Law x Economics*

This is a collaboration with the student organisation, AMEU (Association of Malaysian Economic Undergraduates). The webinar explored the connection between law and economics. It gave students an opportunity to engage with professional speakers and provide insights into commercial awareness.

### *Personal Branding for Law Students*

Personal branding is of vital importance to prospective graduates and highly relevant to one's future career. In this session, we speak to Rizal Azis and Ranukka Singham to decipher how personal branding can boost your employability as a law student from various aspects: better communication skills, presentation, and professionalism, to name a few.

### *Innovation for Law Firm*

Innovation is something all businesses, regardless of the industry they are in, should strive to grow and improve efficiency. However, the legal industry isn't exactly best known for its innovation. How can the legal industry achieve innovation and what does it really mean to "innovate"? The webinar explored how students can expand their knowledge in legal tech and why and how it is important.

## Internship Programme

### *30 Days of Summer*

This year's 30 Days of Summer Internship Programme is different. It was designed with speculations and uncertainties as the restless pandemic continued to loom over Malaysia. Upon invitation, more than 20 law firms were interested in the programme and were relatively optimistic about the internship being physically conducted. However, as various MCOs were implemented, firms started to be apprehensive and started to question the feasibility of the programme. Firms such as HSF KL and Cecil Abraham & Partners eventually withdrew from the programme to prioritize employee health.



# Events (Careers Development Department) &

Drawbacks aside, we still managed to partner with 20 firms for this year's programme and they were fully supportive of either a hybrid or a virtual internship. Both of which have received great feedback from the interns and the firms. This proves that the legal scene in Malaysia is very adaptive and open to novel settings of traditional practices.

Personally, the programme this year stood at a better position as compared to last year because we were better prepared. Lee Li Zhu (Director of Careers Development) gave a lot of guidance and things to be aware of when executing such a massive programme for the benefit of Malaysian law students across the nation.

## ***Beyond the Bar***

This internship programme featured partner firms from industries that are closely related to legal practice and consistently employ law graduates. They ranged from typical big names to smaller firms with niche expertise. Connecting to partner firms was intended to be in line with the programme's objectives.

The internship programme this year differed from the last in dealing with the consequences of the pandemic. Last year, firms were suddenly pulling out, but this year they were subtle about their limited capacity. Collaboration behaviour was similar to the past but they are now extremely reluctant to take on interns at all, even though they will make a fuss about their selection process.

This year we had a small firm approach us speculatively about joining in this year's internship programme. The incoming committee may want to look at reaching out to firms through a public media space about joining our internship programme. The more firms, the better.

This programme sought to enlighten law students on the advantages of other industries and help them make connections with employers. There were minor hiccups but with the Career Development department's full support and the Presidential Office's knowledge and guidance, the programme remains successful yet again this year.

## **Shearn Delamore & Co. Virtual Internship Programme**

As the firm's Platinum Sponsor, Shearn Delamore & Co. will be collaborating with us on a two-week virtual internship programme. The internship programme aims to hone law student's legal skills through various sessions with the firm's lawyers and allow students to experience the working culture of the firm while working from home. The firm is said to take on 50-60 successful applicants via applications through KPUM.

At the time of writing, the internship programme has not started and much of the planning is still in discussion with the firm. However, it is proposed that the structure of this year's internship programme is similar to last year's - consisting of two interactive virtual sessions on Zoom every working day by lawyers of the firm. One new feature of this year's internship programme is the possibility of having another session on Clubhouse in the evening.

As with other internship programmes, interns will be allocated to a department and be assigned a partner and buddy. They will be given individual tasks from the partner or buddy and have the opportunity to receive feedback as well.

Note: The 2-week virtual internship with Shearn Delamore & Co. is a separate internship programme from the 30 Days of Summer Internship Programme.



# Events (Careers Development Department)

## KPUM Explorer

As it is infeasible to organise physical firm tours during the Covid19 pandemic, the Careers Development team launched a new event titled ‘KPUM Explorer’ in February 2021. We collaborated with various Malaysian based law firms to produce e-booklets for their respective firms, and published the booklets on an interactive map of Malaysia. The interactive map is available on KPUM’s official website. This initiative is aimed at bringing law firms closer to KPUM members by offering them in-depth insights into the legal industry in Malaysia as well as aiding students in their career planning.

The KPUM Explorer e-booklet offers students a comprehensive understanding of law firms. In general, the e-booklet can be divided into four sections. The first section provides an overview of the law firm. It includes the general information of the firm, its size, a description of the firm’s core practice areas and links to the firm’s social media platforms.

The second section describes the unique culture of the law firm by providing personal insight into its management style, working values, social and corporate social responsibility aspects of the firm.

The third section covers legal internship and pupillage opportunities for law students and prospective graduates. This section lists out in detail the application process, requirements of the firm and the general job scope of which an applicant should expect.

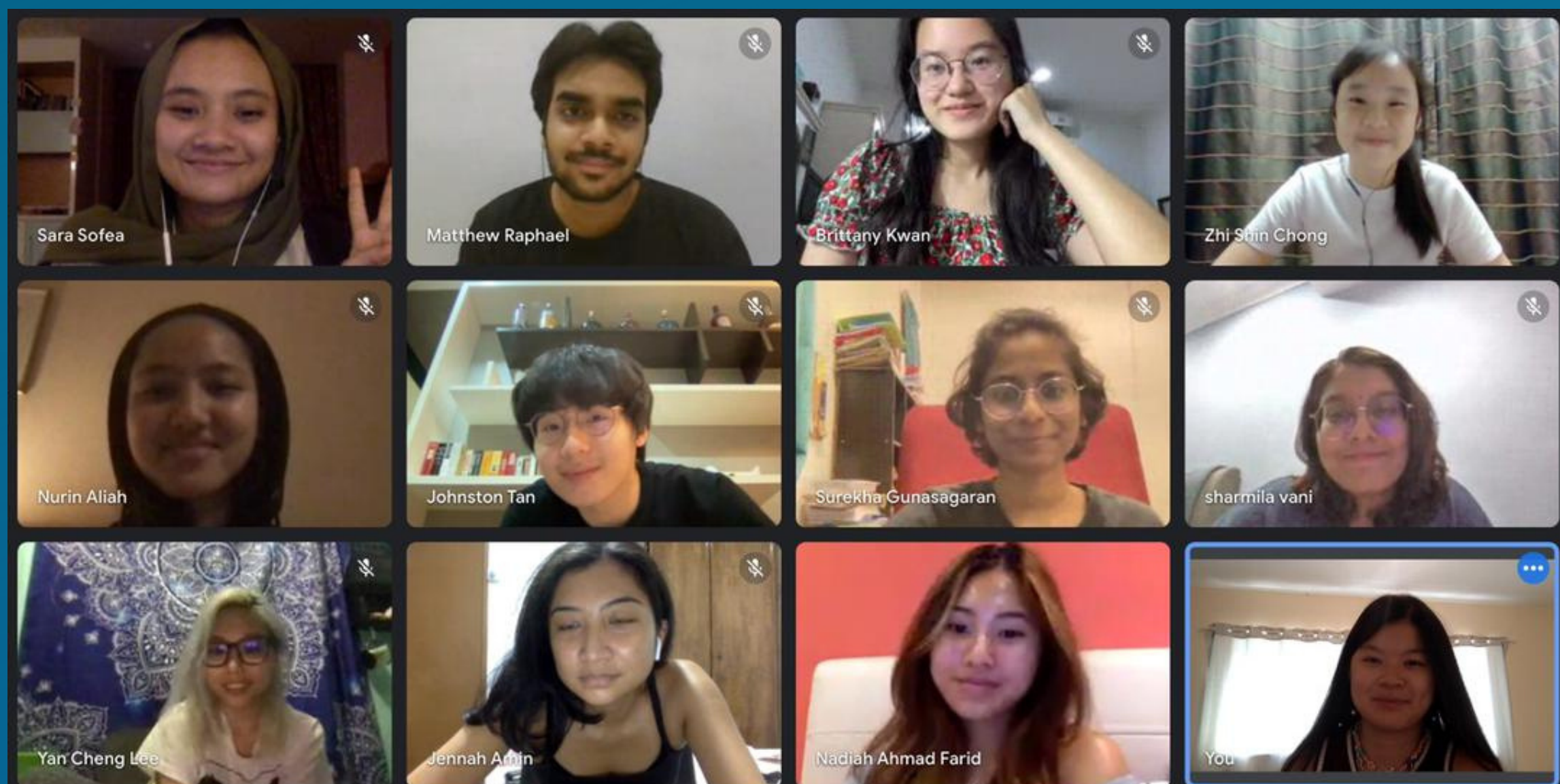
Lastly, the e-booklet ends with testimonies from the firm’s employees. They share their personal experience and advice over various topics ranging from studying and interview tips, stress management as a litigator and what a day in the life of a corporate lawyer look like.

Over 7 months, 8 publications were made under the KPUM Explorer, and the partnered firms are as follows:

1. Zaid Ibrahim & Co
2. Richard Wee Chambers
3. Shook Lin & Bok
4. Rosli Dahlan Saravana Partnership
5. Gan Partnership
- *An additional Q&A article titled “KPUM Explorer - Gan Partnership” was published. It covers sharing of experiences by people from Gan Partnership, on the topics of the importance of mooting experience, interview tips, preparation for an exam, and legal writing skills.*
6. Izad Kazran & Co
7. Tay & Partners
8. Bryan & Co



# Events (Asasi) &



## ASASI x AWAM x SKY: Table Sexual Harassment Bill Campaign

A collaboration with All Women's Action Society (AWAM) and Skills And Career For Youth (SKY) to increase the awareness of sexual harassment, and to push for Parliament to table for the Sexual Harassment Bill. The campaign was also aimed to educate the general public on the contents of the proposed Bill.

The campaign's infographics were prepared by AWAM, and ASASI's role in the campaign was to share the infographics on its social media platforms. ASASI also published an official statement in support of the tabling of the Sexual Harassment Bill, and included the petition link to table the Bill in ASASI's Linktree.

### Webinar:

#### “Enough is Enough: Time to table the Sexual Harassment Bill”

The webinar was a collaboration between AWAM and SKY. ASASI assisted in the preparation of drafting speaker questions, as well as providing a moderator of the webinar. ASASI also created “Highlights of the Webinar ” infographics post webinar. The speaker of the webinar was Ms. Lilian Kok (Program Officer of AWAM).

### Human Rights Round-up

This is a flagship initiative under ASASIKini in which local and international news articles regarding human rights are collated and summarised in eye-catching infographics to be posted on ASASI's social media platforms on a bi-weekly basis.

ASASI posted a total of 16 round-ups (as of 30.7.2021).



# Events (Asasi) &

## Women Minorities: Representation in Politics

*Initially, this campaign was supposed to be a collaboration with Empower, however due to unforeseen circumstances, Empower had to pull out from the collaboration.*

The campaign's purpose was to raise awareness on the lack of representation of women and especially women minorities in politics - specifically those who have been elected to office. These minorities that we selected were youth, women with disabilities, and those of minority races.

### Infographics:

The infographics were aimed at increasing traffic for the upcoming webinar at the end of the week and providing key details, history, and statistics on women minorities' representation in the national political sphere.

### Webinars:

#### “ASASI’s Campaign on Malaysia’s Women Minorities: Representation in Politics (Youth)”

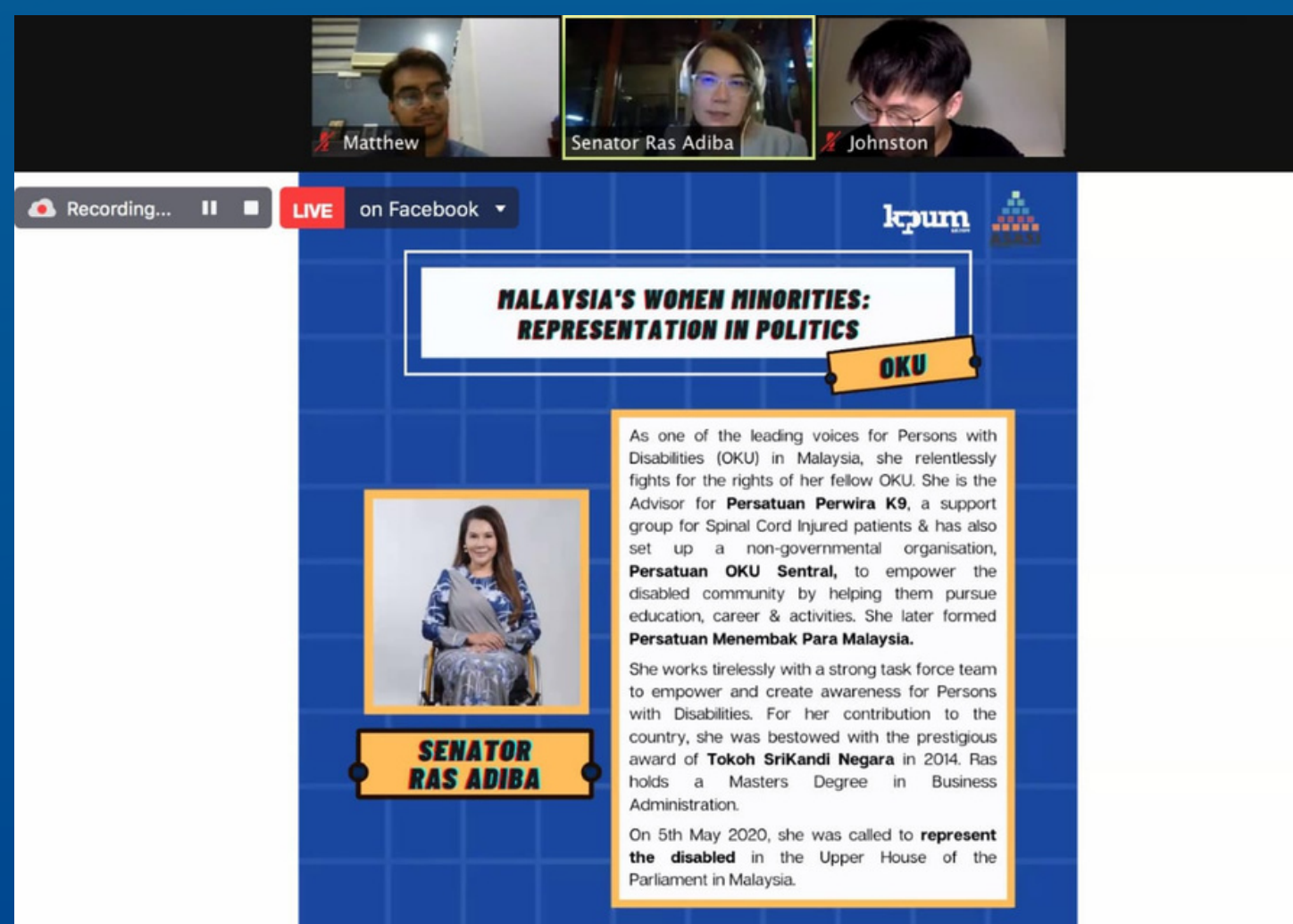
This webinar aimed to identify key issues such as the Youth / student representation in Parliament and participation in politics. The speaker for the webinar was Ms. Qyira Yusri (Co-Founder of #UNDI18).

The webinar began with Ms. Yusri who shared her background and experience in joining the political sphere. The webinar covered discussion areas pertaining to the significance of having young women in politics, ways of increasing young women's participation in politics, as well as how non-governmental organisations work with the Education Ministry to ensure how youth are properly educated on their political rights.

#### “ASASI’s Campaign on Malaysia’s Women Minorities: Representation in Politics (OKU)”

The webinar aimed to highlight the importance of the OKU representation in politics in Malaysia. The speaker of the webinar was Senator Ras Adiba (Senator for Persons with Disabilities).

The webinar covered insights of Senator Ras Adiba's experiences as an OKU politician, importance of OKU's representation in politics, challenges faced as a Senator for Persons with Disabilities, as well as what can the public do to ensure 15% of the Malaysian population has a disability that they can be represented equally in various sectors of public office.





# Events (Asasi) &

## “ASASI’s Campaign on Malaysia’s Women Minorities: Representation in Politics (Minority Races)”

This webinar aimed to raise the importance for Minority Races to be properly represented by a Minority Race politician in Parliament. The speaker for the webinar was YB Kasthuri Patto (Member of Parliament of Batu Kawan).

The webinar covered discussion areas of the importance of having women minority races in politics, what public bodies can do to increase participation and awareness of political issues, as well as challenges faced as a minority race women politician.

## Written Submissions

This was a minor initiative conducted by ASASI which involved receiving, editing and publishing articles submitted for ASASI. Submissions were open to all members of KPUM and were allowed to be anonymous.

ASASI received a total of 3 submissions this term:

1. “My Two-Cents: Local Advocacy For Women’s Rights do not harm men”
2. “The case for a unified domestic regime against modern slavery”
3. “We won’t forget our victims of enforced disappearance”

## ASASI Internship Programme 2021

The ASASI Internship Programme is a flagship initiative by KPUM spearheaded by the ASASI portfolio. This internship programme focuses on human rights and activism in the legal profession, and aims to expose interns to relevant human rights matters at grass-root level as well as provide them with a platform to further their capabilities in contributing to social change.

The 11 partners for ASASI Internship Programme 2021 include:

1. Anti-Death Penalty Asia Network (ADPAN)
2. All Women’s Action Society (AWAM)
3. Center for Orang Asli Concerns (COAC)
4. Eliminating Death and Abuse in Custody Together (EDICT)
5. Enabling Her Power to Decide (EMPOWER)
6. Malaysian Centre for Constitutionalism and Human Rights (MCCHR)
7. Malik Imtiaz Sarwar
8. Tan Law Practice
9. The Center to Combat Corruption & Cronyism (C4 Center)
10. The Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM)
11. Suara Rakyat Malaysia (SUARAM)

# Events (Asasi) &

Notably, ASASI has gained new Partners (ADPAN and AWAM) this term. Communication with Partners was smooth. However, in light of Covid-19, some Partners such as MCCHR and C4 Center adopted a virtual internship. SUHAKAM also withdrew from the Internship Programme due to employee's safety concerns, hence, the initial candidates for SUHAKAM were reallocated to MCCHR and C4 Center.

## *Communication:*

ASASI liaised with the Partners mostly through emails, but did call up and WhatsApp the Partner when necessary.

## *Promotion:*

A series of promotional posters of the ASASI Internship Programme was posted concurrently on ASASI and KPUM's social media platform.

The promotional posters were aimed to increase traction, gain further outreach, and promote the Internship programme to all KPUM members.

The promotional posters included: All 11 Partner's Profile, Past Intern testimonials, "What makes the ASASI Internship different", "Why intern under ASASI ", and Frequently Asked Questions. All of the Partner organisations or firms' website links were included in the website, poster, and caption link to allow interested candidates to learn more about the Partner.

## *Interview:*

ASASI conducted a round of interview with all 67 applicants of the ASASI Internship programme, this was done to assess the most suitable candidate for ASASI's Partners in the ASASI Internship Programme.

## **Revamped Website**

ASASI revamped its website for the 2020/21 term. The website acted as a central hub for all ASASI initiatives, promoting internships, biweekly human rights round-up posts or any panel talks.

The website is mostly used for the internship promotion as other social medias are more efficient in getting engagement for posts. The website has gone through a massive overhaul and easier website navigation has been implemented.

## **Access to Justice: Marginalised Communities Campaign**

The campaign's aim was to increase awareness on the issues to access justice for marginalised communities, particularly - Migrant Workers and Prisoners in Malaysia, to encourage activism, steer discussion, and to educate the public on the current issues regarding access to justice of these communities.

## **Infographics:**

The infographics highlighted Migrant Workers' and Prisoners' rights, the history of exploitation of Migrant Workers in Malaysia, current laws governing Migrant Workers and Prisoners, relevant statistics, as well as current issues that Migrant Workers and Prisoners face, in particular regarding COVID-19. The "Highlights of the Webinar" infographics were also posted post-webinar.



# Events (Asasi) &

## Webinars:

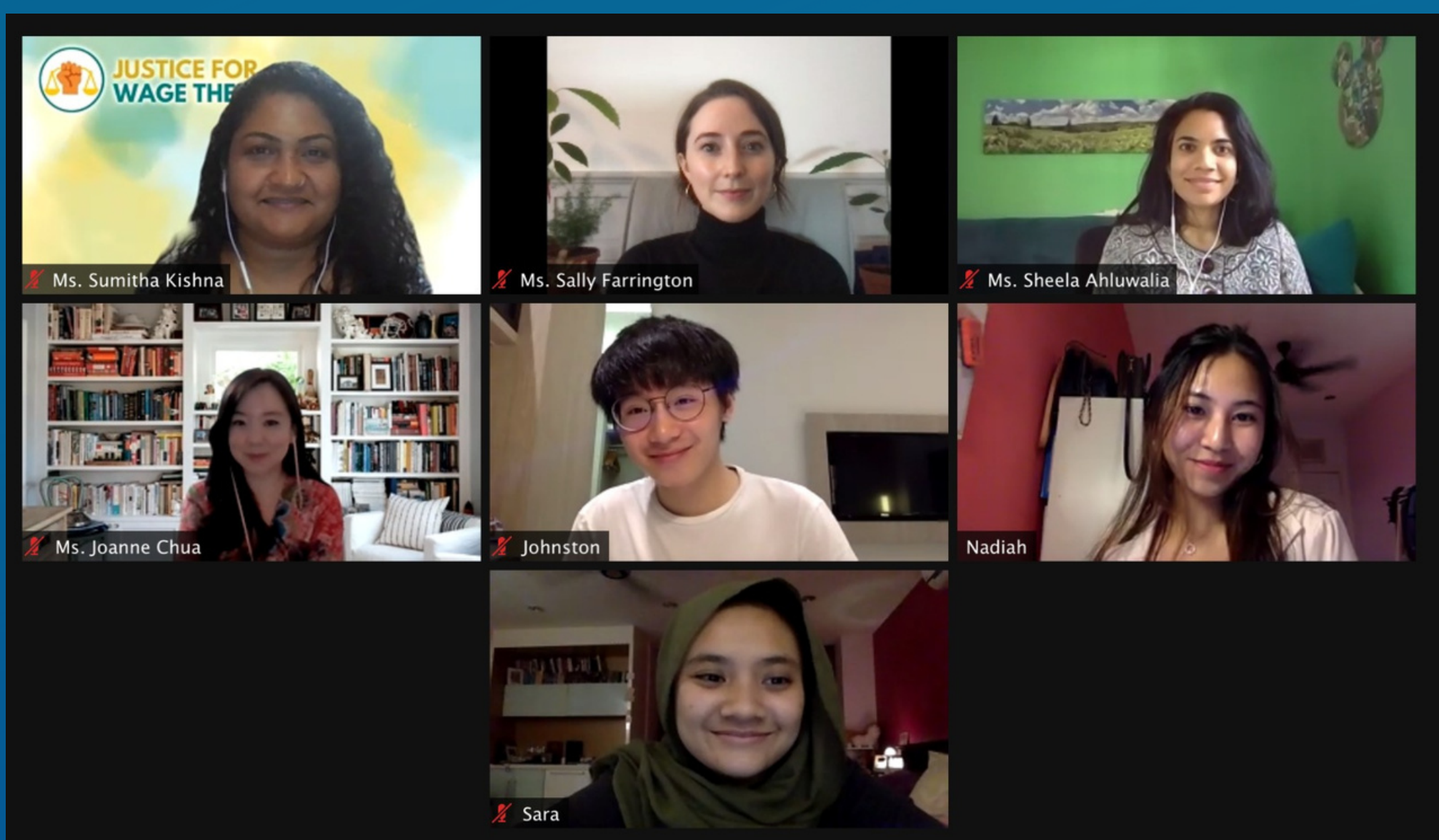
### **“Access to Justice: Migrant Workers”**

This webinar aims to shine light and spread awareness of the marginalised group - Migrant Workers in Malaysia, particularly on the realities they face.

The speakers of this webinar were:

- Ms. Sheela Ahluwalia (Senior Labour Analyst for Transparentem),
- Ms. Joanne Chua Tsu Fae (National Programme Officer for International Organisation for Migration)
- Ms. Sumitha Shaanthininni Kishna (Director for Our Journey)
- Ms. Sally Farrington (Industry Research Analyst for Transparentem)

This webinar unraveled how the Migrant Workers were being treated in the current climate, the extremity of the discrimination of migrant workers, the rights of migrant workers have, and the extent of authorities enforcing the rights of this community.



### **“Access to Justice: Prisoners”**

This webinar aimed to highlight the pressing issues the prisoners face such as poor prison conditions, drug rehabilitation, challenges to prison reform and the lack of accountability taken by authorities. The speakers for the webinar were:

- YB Nurul Izzah Anwar (Member of Parliament for Permatang Pauh)
- Ms. Lily Jamaludin (Campaigner for Amnesty International Malaysia)
- Mr. Jowe Almeida (Special Tasks Officer to the Deputy Speaker of House of Representatives, YB Dato’ Sri Azalina Othman Said)



# Events (Asasi) &

The webinar highlighted the rights of prisoners, the reality of prisoners having access to the rights, and whether the laws in place were adequate to protect their rights.

ASASI also collaborated with SKY as regards to the “Access to Justice: Prisoners webinar”, wherein both ASASI and SKY worked together in drafting of speaker questions and moderating the webinar.

## Podcast:

### “The ASASI Podcast”

The ASASI Podcast was platform for listeners to listen to the experiences of actual migrant workers/prisoners, it was created to raise awareness on the struggles migrant workers and prisoners face in their personal lives, as well as to provide a platform to actual migrant workers/prisoners to talk about the injustice they have faced as a result of the flawed system and authorities.

The ASASI Podcast has 2 episodes, the first episode was an interview with a Filipino migrant worker, and the second episode featured a Malaysian who was previously detained.

## **ASASI x YPolitics - Law and Politics: Bridging the Connection Campaign**

The campaign was a collaboration with YPolitics, and was aimed to raise awareness about the interrelationship between the workings of politics and the workings of the legal world. The campaign was aimed at increasing the understanding on how the political sphere often shapes the law in the country. The campaign focused on three areas: Refugee Rights, Sedition Act 1948, and UNDI18.

YPolitics was in charge of making the promotional materials as well as infographics of the campaign. ASASI worked together with YPolitics in research, drafting speaker questions, and moderating the webinar. ASASI was in charge of reaching out and contacting speakers of the webinar.

## Infographics:

The infographics were aimed at giving a brief background on some of the contentious laws in three specific areas - refugee rights, the Sedition Act 1948, and UNDI18.

## Webinar:

The webinar was to allow for experts in the field of the youth vote (UNDI18), the Sedition Act 1948, and refugee rights to provide an insight on how the political situation in the country over the last 60 years has shaped the legal position in the country.

The webinar was held over a 2 hour session divided into 40 minutes each (Undi 18, Sedition Act, Refugees) and each speaker(s) was given 40 minutes panel time. The Speakers for the webinar were:

- Tharma Pillai (Co-Founder and Advocacy Director of UNDI18)
- Rajsurian Pillai (Advocate and Solicitor of High Court of Malaya)
- Arissa Jemaima Ikram (Co-Founder and Director of Community Development & Social Welfare of Women For Refugees)
- Davina Devarajan (Co-Founder and Director of Strategic Development & Social Welfare of Women For Refugees)



# Events (Asasi) &

## Official Statements

### “Table the Sexual Harassment Bill”

This statement was published in support of AWAM in the tabling of the Sexual Harassment Bill in Parliament. The statement condemns any form of sexual harassment in any sitting, and urges the Malaysian Parliament and Cabinet to take serious and grave action to end Sexual Harassment.

The statement also included the petition link, current laws on sexual harassment, other issues facing awareness over sexual harassment protection, as well as contents of the Sexual Harassment Act.

### “Deportation of 1,086 Myanmar Nationals”

This statement was published to condemn the actions of the Immigration Department for deporting 1,086 Myanmar Nationals despite a court order issued which prohibited the government from deporting them before 10am, 24 February 2021, amid concerns of the risk of being returned to the military-ruled Myanmar.

**The statement addressed Malaysia’s current stance of migrant and refugee communicates, the deportation incident, and what could the audience do upon reading the news of the deportation of Myanmar officials.**



# FINAL STATEMENTS



# Open Letter to the Bar Standards Board on the conduct of the August 2020 BPTC examinations



Bar Standards Board,  
289-293 High Holborn,  
London WC1V 7HZ,  
United Kingdom.

15 August 2020

SEND VIA: EMAIL

## **Open Letter Concerning the Conduct of the August 2020 BPTC Examinations**

To whom it may concern,

We write to you from the Kesatuan Penuntut Undang-undang Malaysia di UK dan Eire ('KPUM'), otherwise known as the United Kingdom and Eire Malaysian Law Students' Union. This open letter is penned on behalf of Malaysian law students currently sitting for their Bar Professional Training Course ('BPTC') examinations, whose interests as members of the Union we are bound to uphold.<sup>1</sup>

We acknowledge issues identified in various testimonies of current BPTC candidates concerning the delivery and procedural planning of the August 2020 bar examinations. We further refer to your statement published on 14 August 2020.<sup>2</sup> We are chiefly concerned with the complaints we have received from several members of the Union in relevance to the welfare of the affected law students, and in anticipation of the remaining two August 2020 exams.

Numerous concerns have been flagged for our attention but we have opted to highlight in particular two issues that present as particularly troubling. These are summarised in the following:

### **1) Unreasonable restrictions imposed upon examination candidates:**

We are appalled to hear of the undignified treatment of candidates who have been prevented from using the washroom throughout the duration of their three-hour exams,

<sup>1</sup> Article 5(1), KPUM Constitution. <<https://www.kpum.org/our-constitution>>.

<sup>2</sup> 'Statement by the Bar Standards Board', 14 August 2020.

<<https://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/resources/press-releases/statement-by-the-bar-standards-board.html>>.

# Open Letter to the Bar Standards Board on the conduct of the August 2020 BPTC examinations



one of whom has been identified as a member of the Union. While we understand the need to maintain the integrity of the examinations, we consider it wholly unacceptable that students be forced to choose between relieving themselves on-camera whilst in the view of their proctor, or potentially failing their exams for leaving their seats to use the washroom.<sup>3</sup>

We note that in your statement dated 14 August 2020,<sup>4</sup> advice had previously been disseminated to candidates by way of the exam Guide to go to the washroom as close to the start of the examinations as possible, failing which, candidates should instead opt to take their examinations at a test centre where such lavatory breaks would be possible. However, this advice wholly ignores the practical reality in Malaysia. Due to high demand, places at test centres were exceptionally difficult to obtain. Most Malaysian candidates were unable to secure or benefit from such an option. The challenges of accessing test centres was conceded in your official statement, thus we note that you are fully aware of the high unavailability of this option for candidates.

## 2) Technical difficulties and unsatisfactory responses pertaining to the same:

We are also extremely concerned that numerous candidates have reported technical difficulties when attempting to access their exams, with some unable to sit for their papers entirely.<sup>5</sup> Your statement makes reference to percentages provided by Pearson VUE, citing that “89% of [the BPTC] exams have been delivered without any reported incident”. With all due respect, we do not consider this figure to be one that inspires confidence in the delivery of the examinations. The fact that as many as 11% of candidates were unable to sit for their examinations properly is huge cause for concern.

Compounding this issue has been the unsatisfactory response offered to candidates who faced technical difficulties, many of whom were told that they must resit (and further delay) their examinations in December 2020. We do not think this response is adequate,

<sup>3</sup> ‘Online law students ‘had to use bucket toilet’ in exams’, 13 August 2020.

<<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-53765462>>.

<sup>4</sup> (n 2).

<sup>5</sup> ‘Technical problems hit 11% of BPTC students’, 14 August 2020.

<<https://www.legalfutures.co.uk/latest-news/technical-problems-hit-11-of-bptc-students>>.



# Open Letter to the Bar Standards Board on the conduct of the August 2020 BPTC examinations



and echo the Chair of the Bar Council's message on this matter.<sup>6</sup> Such a redundant delay would place the affected candidates at a massive disadvantage relative to their colleagues in a prospective search for employment. Accordingly, we have accounts from candidates who were unable to accept their pupillage offers on account of concerns over this issue of postponement.

We would like to highlight that numerous candidates have complained of PearsonVUE's responses to enquiries regarding the technical difficulties during the examination. The responses were inadequate, including excessive waiting times on calls to Pearson's customer service hotline. Evidently this contributes to unnecessary anxiety and stress to such a candidate through no fault of their own, and who otherwise would be in a more optimal condition to sit their exams.

We fully appreciate the disruptive impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the conduct and delivery of the BPTC examinations and the work of the Bar Standards Board. In the same vein, we are unable to passively witness candidates be subjected to the above issues and poor examination conditions. The complaints should have been addressed more substantively as soon as they were made public or publicised across various news platforms.

In light of the issues raised above, we suggest the following course of actions:

- 1) **Immediate revision of the unreasonable restrictions imposed upon candidates for any examinations henceforth;**
- 2) **Urgent review Pearson VUE's virtual examination platform to address the myriad of reported technical issues concerning viability and integrity;**
- 3) **Resolution to reschedule resits due to technical difficulties to be earlier than December;**
- 4) **For the Bar Standards Board and PearsonVUE to directly address the inadequacy of the latter's responses to candidates who faced technical difficulties along with explicit identification on how these issues will be resolved.**

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<sup>6</sup> 'Chair of the Bar Council steps in over BSB exam issues', 13 August 2020.  
<<https://www.barcouncil.org.uk/resource/chair-of-the-bar-steps-in-over-bsb-exams-issues.html>>.

# Open Letter to the Bar Standards Board on the conduct of the August 2020 BPTC examinations



It is unconscionable for BPTC candidates to be taking their examinations in an environment of high uncertainty, and no less in the midst of a pandemic situation. We sincerely wish to see efforts to mitigate against a repeat of the concerning complaints and events that have transpired in the aftermath of the first exam. We hope that actions are being taken to resolve these issues in time for the second exam scheduled to take place between the 17th-19th of August.

We thank you for your time, and look forward to swift and decisive action on your part.

In Service of the Union,

Sammy Chen,

**President, 2020/21**

**Kesatuan Penuntut Undang-undang Malaysia di UK dan Eire (KPUM) /United Kingdom and Eire Malaysian Law Students' Union.**



# Official Comment on the Pupil Remuneration Scheme Petition

Dear reader,

This is an official statement that the President's Office of KPUM 2020/21 has unanimously decided to issue in light of the recent launching of the pupil remuneration scheme petition. You can access the petition [here](#).

## What's the fuss?

The issue centers around whether there should be higher minimum financial support in recognition of the conditions of a typical Malaysian pupil's experience. Individual opinions are bound to exist on a spectrum on whether or not the current pupillage structure across different law firms are satisfactory.

KPUM does not wish to speak in particular support of any single view. KPUM fully acknowledges that as a student Union with a committee and membership of majority law undergraduates (both current and prospective) we do not speak from a position that claims to fully comprehend the experience of pupillage from either the pupil or the master's perspective.

## Why write this comment?

We write this comment in light of our primary goal of empowering the welfare, confidence, and awareness of Malaysian law students who wish to learn with us the ups and downs of being in this multifaceted and often puzzling industry.

Whilst we do not wish to exacerbate the issue, we fully and wholeheartedly believe that the legal training schemes and prospects available for prospective and current pupils should accord with standards that are able to place our graduates on an internationally competitive platform.

It is no longer a question of whether the current scheme works. Pupillage works. Codes of conduct work. The current standards are sufficient.

Instead, It is crucially a question of whether the scheme is open to innovation. Whether or not aspects of it are being allowed to slowly fall into the signature flaw of this historical profession - apathy. If you have ever been part of a field of nervous youngsters trying to pass their driving test you get a pretty good measure of the tensions in this particular issue of pupil support. Just as you get better at driving not magically the day before the test but as you apply those skills post-license, there is an imbalance between the expectations of both the firm and the pupils of the type of experience that pupillage represents.

Some caveats are in order. There is no apathy to be found in the people of the law - there never has been. Being a Union who speaks to and seeks to connect with as many people of the law



# Official Comment on the Pupil Remuneration Scheme Petition

from all levels in our daily operations, KPUM can attest to the extraordinary diversity and commitment we come into contact with across our initiatives and projects.

## Who cares?

KPUM asks all sides to consider if the current pupillage structures retain aspects unsuitable for facing a future that is unquestionably moving faster than any one individual, let alone any individual firm.

Pupillage is a form of legal training virtually the same age as the legal profession itself. However, a strong historical grounding should not be a scapegoat for apathetic attitudes to change. Born in 1979, KPUM can understand this at least. We do not see a younger generation asking for more money for convenience or ease. Nor do we see calling for reform as evidence of weakness or a sign that young people are unable to “suck it up” and get to work.

The people who want to be in the legal profession are highly educated at some of the best Malaysian and English institutions, people who are full of enthusiasm and heart. These are people from all walks of life and backgrounds, who bring with them skills that go beyond the scope of academics, who live the reality of intellectual rigour and good old-fashioned persistence every step of the journey. When people of this calibre speak about a concern, or ask for change - it is apt to listen.

## Our message

With full and due respect, we humbly suggest to those with the power to reform Malaysian pupillage schemes: In listening closely, we can review whether we agree or disagree with the points of their concerns. We allow for flexibility and informed conversation. We encourage, always for the better, more engagement and self-awareness at all levels of the profession. Nothing is lost and there is everything to gain. The strength of an institution is only as strong as its most junior components.

With camaraderie and admiration, we ask of our graduate seniors, current pupils, and junior professionals : We hear you and this published comment is evident of our support, small and less experienced as it is. Thank you for your courage and forward-looking attitudes. However, change is slow and not always apt to implement. It is a time of incredible challenges and 2020 has not been easy for anyone. If what the petition seeks to achieve does not happen immediately, it is only a consequence of our current time. In a few years, new pupils will come flooding in the glass doors of law firms across the country carrying with them their own expectations. Without a doubt, you yourselves will eventually be in prime position to enact these reforms. Perhaps the true test is whether your own views will have changed and taken hold in a more progressive legal Malaysia. We from the 2020/21 Union committee look forward to joining you.

**If you would like to know more...**



# Official Comment on the Pupil Remuneration Scheme Petition



The sources listed below are what we have used to inform our stance. They do not comprise all the views available, but are a good starting point to inform yourself on the issues regardless of your level of understanding and engagement with the issue. We hope they prove useful. Special thanks to Cia Yee Goh, fellow KPUM alumnus, for providing support in bringing this issue to light.

## On Pupillage:

- Badan Peguam Malaysia (Bar Council Malaysia), 'Pupillage'  
<<https://www.malaysianbar.org.my/article/members/become-a-member/pupillage/pupillage>>

## A comparative view:

- Shih L, 'The Present Pupillage System – Are Pupils Being Trained Adequately?' (eLawyer Law Blog Forum, 3 February 2008)  
<<http://blog.elawyer.com.my/blog/the-present-pupillage-system—are-pupils-being-trained-adequately-by-lee-shih-advocate-solicitor/>>

## Pupils' perspective:

- Weera S, 'Kopitiam Talk Episode 1: Where Should I Start My Pupillage At? Big or Small Firms' (BrainyLaw, 11 October 2018)  
<<https://brainylaw.wordpress.com/2018/10/11/kopitiam-talk-episode-1-where-should-i-start-my-pupillage-at-big-or-small-firms/>>

## Lawyer's perspective:

- Azzatt F, 'A Pupil's Remuneration' (From The Bar School, 23 November 2020)  
<[https://fromthebarstool.life/2020/11/23/pupils-remuneration/?fbclid=IwAR3cdTSz2fthRh\\_rFbG0xGwIBkgvWC4zBYb9pULJq\\_s8fEMP7NRhwtzSWpU](https://fromthebarstool.life/2020/11/23/pupils-remuneration/?fbclid=IwAR3cdTSz2fthRh_rFbG0xGwIBkgvWC4zBYb9pULJq_s8fEMP7NRhwtzSWpU)>

## General opinion / News articles:

- Lada P, 'Unattractive Legal Profession' (TheStar, 26 October 2012)  
<<https://www.thestar.com.my/opinion/columnists/putik-lada/2012/10/26/unattractive-legal-profession?fbclid=IwAR2SDtZnJ3VyAovy2E2TgJMghVJ9XXOkaUtX2NjfgsLwwwD4a6qB3HYxVh4>>
- Rusli M, Osman N, 'Law graduates unprepared for pupillage?' (MalaysiaKini, 20 November 2020)  
<<https://m.malaysiakini.com/letters/551798?fbclid=IwAR3KK3nZPqF9SwZzM6YqvSB0L64PLDoBE9e9pBMPylRyGCrBmwfexBenxOU>>



# FINAL STATEMENTS



# Official Statement: Deportation of 1,086 Myanmar Nationals



By virtue of the mandate granted to us, the Executive Committee of the United Kingdom & Ireland Malaysian Law Students Union (KPUM) and the department of Human Rights and Activism (ASASI) would like to represent the members of our Union in issuing a statement to wholeheartedly condemn the recent actions of the Immigration Department for **deporting 1,086 Myanmar Nationals** despite a court order issued which prohibits the government from deporting them before 10 am, 24 February 2021 (Wednesday), amid concerns they could be at risk if they are returned to military-ruled Myanmar.<sup>1</sup>

## 1. Malaysia's current stance on the migrant and refugee communities

Although Malaysia is a member of the United Nations (UN), the Malaysian government has never been a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention or its Protocol. More so, there is currently no national legislative or administrative framework for dealing with refugees. By law, refugees are not differentiated from undocumented migrants. They are therefore vulnerable to being arrested for immigration offences and may be subject to detention, prosecution, whipping and deportation.<sup>2</sup> In the absence of a national administrative framework, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) conducts all activities related to the reception, registration, documentation and status determination of asylum-seekers and refugees.

However, since August 2019, UNHCR has not been receiving permission from the Malaysian Government for access to immigration detention centres. Since then, asylum seekers and refugees were not able to be identified by UNHCR as they were unable to visit the detention centres and facilitate their release, leaving the asylum seekers and refugees to languish in captivity.<sup>3</sup>

## 2. Background

On the 12th of February 2021, the Malaysian government agreed to hand over 1,200 Myanmar refugees back to their home country, currently ruled under a military junta (a government led by a committee of military leaders) that took over on the 1st of February. The Myanmar military government offered to send three navy ships to pick up its citizens held in Malaysian immigration detention centres via its embassy in Kuala Lumpur during the week of 21st of February.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Malaysiakini, 'Immigration deports Myanmar nationals despite court order' (Malaysiakini, 23 February) <<https://www.malaysiakini.com/news/564077>>

<sup>2</sup> 'Malaysia: Planned Forced Return of 1,200 to Myanmar' (Human Rights Watch, 19 February) <<https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/02/19/malaysia-planned-forced-return-1200-myanmar>>

<sup>3</sup> Amnesty International Malaysia, 'Malaysia must not endanger lives in Myanmar deportation' (Amnesty International Malaysia, 18 February) <<https://www.amnesty.my/2021/02/18/malaysia-must-not-endanger-lives-in-myanmar-deportation/>>

<sup>4</sup> Reuters, 'Malaysia to hand 1,200 Myanmar detainees to country's navy' (Free Malaysia Today, 12 February) <<https://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/2021/02/12/malaysia-to-hand-1200-myanmar-detainees-to-countrys-navy/>>

# Official Statement: Deportation of 1,086 Myanmar Nationals



On the 15th of February, the director-general of the Immigration Department, Khairul Dzaimie Daud said the deportation will involve individuals who violated the Immigration Act 1959/63 and Immigration Regulations 1963 for offences such as improper identification documents, overstaying and the misuse of visit passes.<sup>5</sup>

### 3. Why it matters

Among the 1,200 Myanmar Muslim detainees, there are **85 women and children** confirmed to be deported. "They don't want to go back to Myanmar," said Thu Zar Moun, the founder and chairman of the Myanmar Muslim Refugee Community. Apart from that, minority groups in Myanmar have been subject to facing discrimination and violence; returning the exceptionally vulnerable groups to the country they previously fled from would clearly expose them to the very persecution from which they were seeking refuge.<sup>6</sup>

Tham Hui Ying, the executive director of Asylum Access, said that returning the children to military-ruled Myanmar would breach Malaysia's commitments under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Child Act 2001 that states the government has the responsibility to protect children. The deported children also include 17 minors in detention who have at least one parent currently domiciling in Malaysia. It is an extremely inhuman practice to separate children from their parents as these minors are subjected to grave risk, and the separation clearly goes against the child's best interest.<sup>7</sup>

Further, Myanmar has been rocked by mass protests calling for the restoration of democracy ever since the military seized control of the country and detained elected leaders such as State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi and President Win Myint. Notably, Malaysia was among a handful of countries in the region to express concern about the military's move.<sup>8</sup>

Groups such as Fortify Rights and Human Rights Watch have emphasised the need for the Malaysian government to comply with international law and to ensure that UNHCR has access to detention centres to determine whether anyone slated for return to Myanmar is seeking protection before sending anyone back to a situation where they could face persecution.<sup>9</sup>

The **international legal principle of non-refoulement** prohibits countries from returning any person on its territory or under its jurisdiction to a country where they may face persecution, torture, or other serious harm. Although Malaysia is not a party to the 1951 UN Refugee

<sup>5</sup> Amnesty International, 'Malaysia: Deportation to Myanmar put lives in danger' (Amnesty International, 19 February) <<https://www.amnesty.org.au/malaysia-deportation-to-myanmar-puts-lives-in-danger/>>

<sup>6</sup> 'Malaysia to deport Myanmar asylum-seekers next week, refugee groups say' (Malay Mail, 18 February) <<https://www.malaymail.com/news/malaysia/2021/02/18/malaysia-to-deport-myanmar-asylum-seekers-next-week-refugee-groups-say/1950890>>

<sup>7</sup> Lim H T, 'Malaysia deports 1,086 Myanmar nationals despite court order' (Aljazeera, 23 February) <<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/2/23/malaysia-deports-1200-people-to-myanmar>>

<sup>8</sup> Ibid

<sup>9</sup> 'Malaysia: Planned Forced Return of 1,200 to Myanmar' (Fortify Rights, 19 February) <<https://www.fortifyrights.org/mly-inv-2021-02-19/>>



# Official Statement: Deportation of 1,086 Myanmar Nationals



Convention or its 1967 Protocol, non-refoulement is still recognised as part of the customary international law and is binding on all states.<sup>10</sup>

It is apparent that mass deportation exercises carried out with little transparency would contravene Malaysia's obligations to respect and protect the rights of migrants and refugees, and risk endangering their lives.

## 4. Court's and Government's response

Amnesty International Malaysia and Asylum Access Malaysia jointly filed for a judicial review in the Kuala Lumpur High Court to stop the government's planned deportation of 1,200 individuals back to Myanmar in cooperation with the Myanmar military.

On the 23rd of February, the High Court granted an interim stay of deportation of Myanmar nationals. In light of the court ruling, the court order must be respected and adhered by the government and none of the 1,200 individuals should be deported. However, in non-compliance with the court order from Kuala Lumpur High Court, the Malaysian immigration department has deported 1,086 Myanmar nationals to date.<sup>11</sup> Kairul Dzaimie Daud, director-general of Malaysia's immigration department, said the group had agreed to voluntarily return.

On the 24th of February, the High Court issued an order to stay the deportation of 114 Myanmar migrants, the only ones left of the group of 1,200 people the Malaysian government sent back to Myanmar in defiance of an earlier ruling.<sup>12</sup>

## 5. Contempt of Court

Article 126 of the Federal Constitution states: -

'The Supreme Court or a High Court shall have power to punish any contempt of itself.'

The act of going against orders of the High Court is akin to contempt of court, and so Article 126 grants the courts powers to punish this.<sup>13</sup> It is apparent that the Immigration Department should have obeyed the court order as defying the court order undermines the rule of law and impedes the functioning of courts. Therefore, defiance of court orders must be taken seriously to ensure legal certainty as well as justice across all sectors apart from human rights.

<sup>10</sup> n(2)

<sup>11</sup> Aliran admin, 'Court grants interim stay of deportation of Myanmar nationals' (Aliran, 23 February) <<https://aliran.com/civil-society-voices/court-grants-interim-stay-of-deportation-of-myanmar-nationals/> >

<sup>12</sup> Lim H T, 'Malaysia deports 1,086 Myanmar nationals despite court order' (Aljazeera, 23 February) <<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/2/23/malaysia-deports-1200-people-to-myanmar> >

<sup>13</sup> Tan T, 'NGO groups say deportation of 1,086 Myanmar nationals akin to contempt of court' (The Star, 24 February) <<https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2021/02/24/ngo-groups-say-deportation-of-1086-myanmar-nationals-akin-to-contempt-of-court> >

# Official Statement: Deportation of 1,086 Myanmar Nationals



## 6. What can you do?

KPUM respectfully requests that our politicians speak up and take action regarding the Immigration Department's decision to deport 1,086 Myanmar nationals, including unaccompanied minors and also children as young as three years old.

We stand in solidarity with Amnesty International Malaysia and -

- urge the Malaysian Judiciary and Parliament to take serious action against the Immigration Department for Contempt of Court.
- urge the Immigration department to provide another concrete explanation for deporting the 1,086 Myanmar nationals, as well as a transparent process of the deportation that has taken place despite an interim court order being issued by the High Court Kuala Lumpur.
- urge the Malaysian government to allow UNHCR access to all detainees scheduled for deportation, and comply with the extended stay order issued by the High Court Kuala Lumpur against the deportation of the remaining 114 Myanmar nationals.

KPUM makes this request not only on behalf of the refugees that were deported but also in hopes that human rights and justice be restored and the Constitution be upheld at all times to ensure that Malaysia becomes a safer and vigilant country for all refugees. As a country that abides by the rule of law, it is a must for us to do our part in ensuring that the vulnerable and defenceless refugees and asylum seekers are protected from harm.

If you would like to show your support and raise your concern regarding the deportation, do write to our Prime Minister and feel free to follow Amnesty's template, click [here](#).

On behalf of the Union,

Sammy Chen  
**President 2020/2021**

Wong Jun Ting  
**Deputy President 2020/2021**

Ng Sze Fung  
**Vice President 2020/21**

Chong Zhu Ann  
**Human Rights & Activism Officer 2020/2021**

Chong Zhi Shin  
**Deputy Human Rights & Activism Officer 2020/21**



# Official Statement: Deportation of 1,086 Myanmar Nationals



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Executive, Human Rights & Activism Office 2020/21

Kesatuan Penuntut Undang-undang Malaysia di United Kingdom dan Ireland (KPUM)/  
United Kingdom and Ireland Malaysian Law Students Union.

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# Official Statement: Table the Sexual Harassment Bill



The Executive Committee of Kesatuan Penuntut Undang-Undang Malaysia di United Kingdom dan Eire (KPUM) and KPUM's department of Human Rights and Activism (ASASI) by virtue of the mandate granted to us, would like to represent the members of our Union in issuing a statement to voice our wholehearted support for the Sexual Harassment Bill to be tabled at Parliament in its November session.

***Support the tabling of the Sexual Harassment Bill by signing the petition [here](#).***

Sexual harassment is a prevalent issue. According to All Women's Action Society (AWAM)'s Telenita Helpline's statistics throughout the Movement Control Order (MCO) in 2020, 18.5% of all cases which come through their helpline consisted of sexual harassment cases, whilst online sexual harassment accounted for 41.7% of these sexual harassment cases.<sup>1</sup> This past month alone, AWAM's Telenita Helpline received 33 cases in the span of 2 weeks from 1st - 15th October 2020. The number of calls for help continues to rise. Among the 33 cases, 12 were sexual harassment cases.<sup>2</sup> This is an alarming approximate 37% of calls in just 14 days, and alerts us to the need of providing better protection to victims and survivors of sexual harassment.

## **1. What does Malaysian law currently say about sexual harassment?**

Section 2 of the Employment Act 1955<sup>3</sup> states:-

'Sexual harassment means any unwanted conduct of a sexual nature, whether verbal, non-verbal, visual, gestural or physical, directed at a person which is offensive or humiliating or is a threat to his well-being, arising out of and in the course of his employment.'

Sexual harassment is currently covered by Part XVA of the Employment Act 1955<sup>4</sup> in Malaysia. The Federal Court in *Mohd Ridzwan bin Abdul Razak v*

<sup>1</sup> All Women's Action Society (AWAM), 'Online Sexual Harassment On The Rise During MCO' (SAYS, 27 May 2020) <<https://says.com/my/imbo/online-sexual-harassment-on-the-rise-during-mco>> accessed 31 October 2020

<sup>2</sup> All Women's Action Society (AWAM), 'AWAM's Telenita Helpline Statistics' (AWAM, 17 October 2020) <<https://www.awam.org.my/2020/09/09/statistics/>> accessed 31 October 2020

<sup>3</sup> Employment Act 1955, s 2

<sup>4</sup> Employment Act 1955, Part XVA



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*Asmah binti Hj Mohd Nor*<sup>5</sup> introduced the tort of sexual harassment in the Malaysian legal system, where survivors may seek civil remedies such as exemplary and aggravated damages by the harasser.

At enterprise level, guidelines are available to employers on the establishment of in-house mechanisms to prevent and eradicate sexual harassment in the workplace according to the Code of Practice on the Prevention and Eradication of Sexual Harassment in the Workplace 1999<sup>6</sup>.

## 2. Sexual harassment as a criminal offence?

Section 509 of the Penal Code Act 574<sup>7</sup> states: -

‘Whoever, intending to insult the modesty of any person, utters any word, makes any sound or gesture, or exhibits any object, intending that such word or sound shall be heard, or that such gesture or object shall be seen by such person, or intrudes upon the privacy of such person, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years or with fine or with both.’

The Penal Code does not specifically define sexual harassment. The definition of sexual harassment can only be found under Section 2 of the Employment Act 1955, which only covers sexual harassment in the workplace. There remains a clear lack of protection provided to sexual harassment victims and survivors. Other than that, there is a lack of enforcement from the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) and police when it comes to taking action against online sexual harassment.<sup>8</sup> Although there is a Public Service Department Circular 2018<sup>9</sup> issued by the Public Service Department, it is limited to providing guidelines on preventing sexual

<sup>5</sup> *Mohd Ridzwan bin Abdul Razak v Asmah binti Hj Mohd Nor* [2016] MLJU 277

<sup>6</sup> The Ministry of Human Resources, ‘Code of Practice on the Prevention and Eradication of Sexual Harassment in the Workplace 1999’ (August 1999) <<https://www.mohr.gov.my/index.php/ms/>> accessed 31 October 2020

<sup>7</sup> Penal Code Act 574, s 509

<sup>8</sup> FMT Repoorters, ‘Check rise in cases of online sexual harassment during MCO, says group’ (Free Malaysia Today, 25 May 2020)

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harassment towards civil servants in the workplace. Apart from that, there are no obligation imposed upon employers to enforce the Code of Practice on the Prevention and Eradication of Sexual Harassment in the Workplace 1999.<sup>10</sup>

### 3. Other issues facing awareness over sexual harassment protection

Sexual harassment cases are under-reported.<sup>11</sup> Among survivors who have faced sexual harassment, only 50% report or tell someone about the incident. Amongst the survivors who do report, most tell a friend or family member, rather than the police.<sup>12</sup>

However, it is evident that we as a society are not oblivious to the threat of sexual harassment both in the workplace and otherwise. The public has witnessed incidences of malicious comments targeted at female MPs in the Parliament<sup>13</sup>, students being sexually harassed in educational institutions<sup>14</sup>, as well as victims committing suicide as a result of being sexually harassed.<sup>15</sup> It is increasingly apparent that there is a long overdue need for our government and our courts to realise the importance and significance of a Sexual Harassment Act to provide protection for past, current, and mitigate harassment incidents in the long-term.

<sup>10</sup> MalayMail, 'Workplace Sexual Harassment: Is This the New Normal? - Leonard Yeoh and Pua Jun Wen: Malay Mail' (What You Think | Malay Mail, 19 June 2020) <<https://www.malaymail.com/news/what-you-think/2020/06/19/workplace-sexual-harassment-is-this-the-new-normal-leonard-yeoh-and-pua-jun/1876875>> accessed on 31 October 2020

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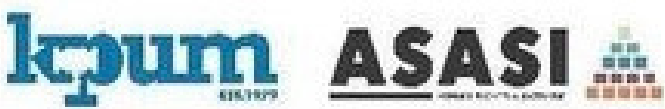
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<sup>14</sup> MalayMail, 'University in Malaysia tried to cover up sexual harassment: Foreign exchange student' (TODAYonline, 21 June 2017) <<https://www.todayonline.com/world/asia/university-malaysia-tried-cover-sexual-harassment-foreign-exchange-student>> accessed 31 October 2020

<sup>15</sup> Yap Wan Xiang, '20-Year-Old Woman Dies By Suicide After Allegedly Being Cyberbullied Over Her TikTok Video' (SAYS, 21 May 2020) <<https://says.com/my/news/20-year-old-woman-dies-by-suicide-after-allegedly-being-cyberbullied-over-her-tiktok-video>> accessed 31 October 2020



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## 4. What is the Sexual Harassment Act?

In essence, the proposed Sexual Harassment Act will outline a much wider scope for penalisation of sexual harassment offences in two ways: providing a more accurate definition of conduct constituting the offence, and covering a broader scope of places and situations.

### Defining sexual harassment more accurately

The Sexual Harassment Act would outline a more comprehensive definition of sexual harassment. Under the Act, the "conduct of a sexual nature" would include any unwelcome behaviour or unwanted conduct of a sexual nature in any form which includes but is not limited to, implied or overt verbal, non-verbal, visual, gestural or physical conduct. With the widened definition of the sexual harassment, conducts of sexual harassment would not be limited to specific actions or odd impractical arguments of technical language.

### A broader scope of situations and places

Besides, the definition of Sexual Harassment would be extended to include public spaces and not be confined to work environments. This is in hopes of addressing the under-reporting of sexual harassment cases as more individuals are covered and protected by the Sexual Harassment Act.

In addition, Sexual Harassment Act would require public and private actors to take proactive measures to combat sexual harassment. Government, individuals, bodies and institutions whether public or private, would have a duty to formulate policies and take all reasonable steps to prevent the occurrence of sexual harassment, which encourages more vigilance in ensuring a safe and healthy workplace for all.

The Sexual Harassment Act would also improve protection and access to justice. The Bill provides for vicarious liability of employers, which means employers would be held responsible if they are found by the law to fail in their duty to take reasonable precautions in providing a safe working environment or to investigate and provide redress where appropriate to any reported cases or complaints. This prevents employers from deflecting blame for sexual harassment or from acting against individuals for reporting sexual harassment. It also importantly provides incentive to pay more attention to this prevalent issue that remains in the 21st century.

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## Where will cases be heard?

A Tribunal would also be established, this would be a specialised and dedicated mechanism for reviewing and resolving sexual harassment complaints. It is a much cheaper and faster process that will pose less of a barrier to individuals reporting sexual harassment in comparison with going through the adversarial court system, the latter often found to be confusing, time-consuming and difficult to navigate for employees or the layperson.

If the Sexual Harassment Act is not passed successfully, victims and survivors can only bring a claim of sexual harassment under employment law or seek civil remedies under tort law in Malaysia, which leaves a large pool of cases and incidents unrecognised and therefore unaddressed.

KPUM condemns any form of sexual harassment in any sitting. We stand in solidarity with AWAM and urge the Malaysian Parliament and the Cabinet of Malaysia to take serious and grave action to end sexual harassment through the tabling of the long awaited and much needed Sexual Harassment Bill during the Parliament sitting in this November. KPUM makes this request not only on behalf of victims and survivors of sexual harassment in the past and present, but also in hopes that these offences will be mitigated and perhaps eradicated for all the youth who may come to work and live in a safer and more vigilant Malaysia.

If you would like to show your support for the Sexual Harassment Bill proposed this November 2020, add your voice to the petition [here](#).

On behalf of the Union,

Sammy Chen  
President 2020/2021

Wong Jun Ting  
Deputy President 2020/2021



# Official Statement: Table the Sexual Harassment Bill



Ng Sze Fung  
**Vice President (Malaysia) 2020/21**

Chong Zhu Ann  
**Human Rights & Activism Officer 2020/2021**

Chong Zhi Shin  
**Deputy Human Rights & Activism Officer 2020/21**

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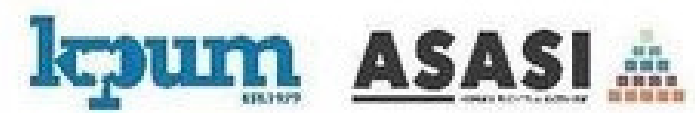
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