



UNITED KINGDOM AND EIRE
MALAYSIAN LAW STUDENTS UNION

ANNUAL REPORT

2022/2023



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WE ARE KPUM

Officially established in 1979, the **United Kingdom and Eire Malaysian Law Students' Union**, known as **Kesatuan Penuntut Undang-undang Malaysia di United Kingdom dan Eire (KPUM)** in Bahasa Malaysia, has served as the overarching organisation for Malaysian students pursuing English law education for over four (4) decades. The Union's primary objective is to advocate for the welfare and interests of its Members hailing from various educational institutions across the United Kingdom & Eire and Malaysia.

Throughout our tenure in 2022/2023, the Executive Committee and Division Board have remained steadfast in their commitment to upholding the Union's fundamental mission and vision - **uniting law students, empowering future lawyers** and **upholding the Rule of Law**.

In adhering to these core principles, the Union has actively endeavored to advance the well-being of its Members. This has included initiatives dedicated to enhancing their career development and academic skills. Simultaneously, the Union has striven to foster awareness among its Members regarding pertinent social issues within the legal community.



PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD

I am delighted to present the Annual Report for the United Kingdom and Eire Malaysian Law Students' Union for the academic year 2022/2023. This Annual Report serves as both a commemoration of the conclusion of our term and an honest reflection of our time at the helm of the Union. Within these pages, we endeavour to offer a comprehensive overview of the events and initiatives undertaken by the Union throughout the tenure of 2022/2023, in service of our members in the United Kingdom & Eire and Malaysia. Our Executive Committee and Division Board have meticulously gathered and analysed data, as well as conducted in-depth assessments of the Union's performance, with the objective of providing a well-rounded perspective on our achievements.

Uniting Law Students

The Union remains unwavering in its commitment to foster a robust Malaysian law student community in both the United Kingdom & Eire and Malaysia. With the global recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, the Union eagerly anticipated the return of in-person events in both regions, aimed at expanding community engagement throughout our tenure in 2022/2023.

Empowering Future Lawyers

The Union is dedicated to advancing the interests of its Members through various means. In pursuit of this goal, the Union has diligently explored opportunities to create events and initiatives that cater to the specific needs of the Members and market demands. Throughout our tenure in 2022/2023, the Union successfully organised a range of events and initiatives that encompassed a comprehensive spectrum of offerings for law students. These endeavours included activities aimed at enhancing career development and academic skills, such as the Law Career Conventions, Internship Programmes, Mentoring Scheme, Moot Competitions, Contract Drafting Competition, and Arbitration Camp, among others.

PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD

Upholding the Rule of Law

The Union remains steadfast in its commitment to uphold the Rule of Law. In the words of our late Royal Patron, His Royal Highness Sultan Azlan Shah, the ninth Supreme Head of the Federation and the second Lord President of the Supreme Court, "it is your duty, having been trained as lawyers, to ensure that at all times the supremacy of the Malaysian Constitution is maintained". Throughout our tenure in 2022/2023, the Union worked diligently to uphold the fundamental rights granted to every Malaysian, including the Right to Vote, Freedom of Speech, Assembly and Association, and Freedom of Religion, among others.

On behalf of the Union, I extend my deepest gratitude to all our stakeholders, including the Union's sponsors, partners, affiliates, and most importantly the Members. I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to the committee members serving in the United Kingdom & Eire and Malaysia for their remarkable accomplishments during a challenging yet fruitful year.

In closing, I wish the incoming Executive Committee and Division Board the very best in their endeavours. There remains much work to be done to further advance the Union's core mission and vision, and I have every confidence that they will excel in this important role.

In service of the Union,

CHEW MINGYIH
President



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE TENURE OF 2022/2023



7th September 2022
Annual General Meeting 2022



15th - 19th November 2022
VoteMalaysia



11th - 12th February 2023
Arbitration Camp



24th March 2023
UK Moot Competition



25th March 2023
UK Law Career Convention



June - September 2023
Internship Programmes



14th - 25th June 2023
MY Moot Competition



July 2023
Contract Drafting Competition



29th July 2023
The Malaysian Law Students' Gala



25th August 2023
Annual General Meeting 2023



26th August 2023
MY Law Career Convention





PRESIDENT'S OFFICE & SECRETARIAT

DEPARTMENT REPORT





Chew Mingyih

President
LLB, Cardiff University



Lim Yu En

Deputy President
LLB, University of Liverpool



Lean Kai Ching

Vice President
LLB, Brickfields Asia College



Eugene Ong You Jun

General Secretary
LLB, King's College London



Tan Zhi Yi

Secretary
LLB, University of London (External)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the heart of the KPUM, the President's office and secretariat embodies leadership and vision. The role of the President and Secretary is instrumental in steering the organisation towards its goals, ensuring its smooth operation and empowering our members.

The President's office is chaired by the President alongside the Deputy President and the Vice President. The Presidents set the course, strategise the direction of the tenure and amplify the voices of our members.

The Secretariat consists of our General Secretary in the UK division and the Secretary in the Malaysia division. They ensure that the organisation's daily operations and database run seamlessly. The Secretariat also bridges the gap between the divisions and ensures that the committee's welfare is taken care of.

Together, the President's Office and Secretariat have come up with an Executive Programme, KPUM Newsletter, Shadow Programme, Merchandise and Annual General Meeting as well as wrapping the tenure with an Annual Dinner.

Prepared by:-

Chew Mingyih, President

Lim Yu En, Deputy President

Lean Kai Ching, Vice President

Eugene Ong You Jun, General Secretary

Tan Zhi Yi, Secretary

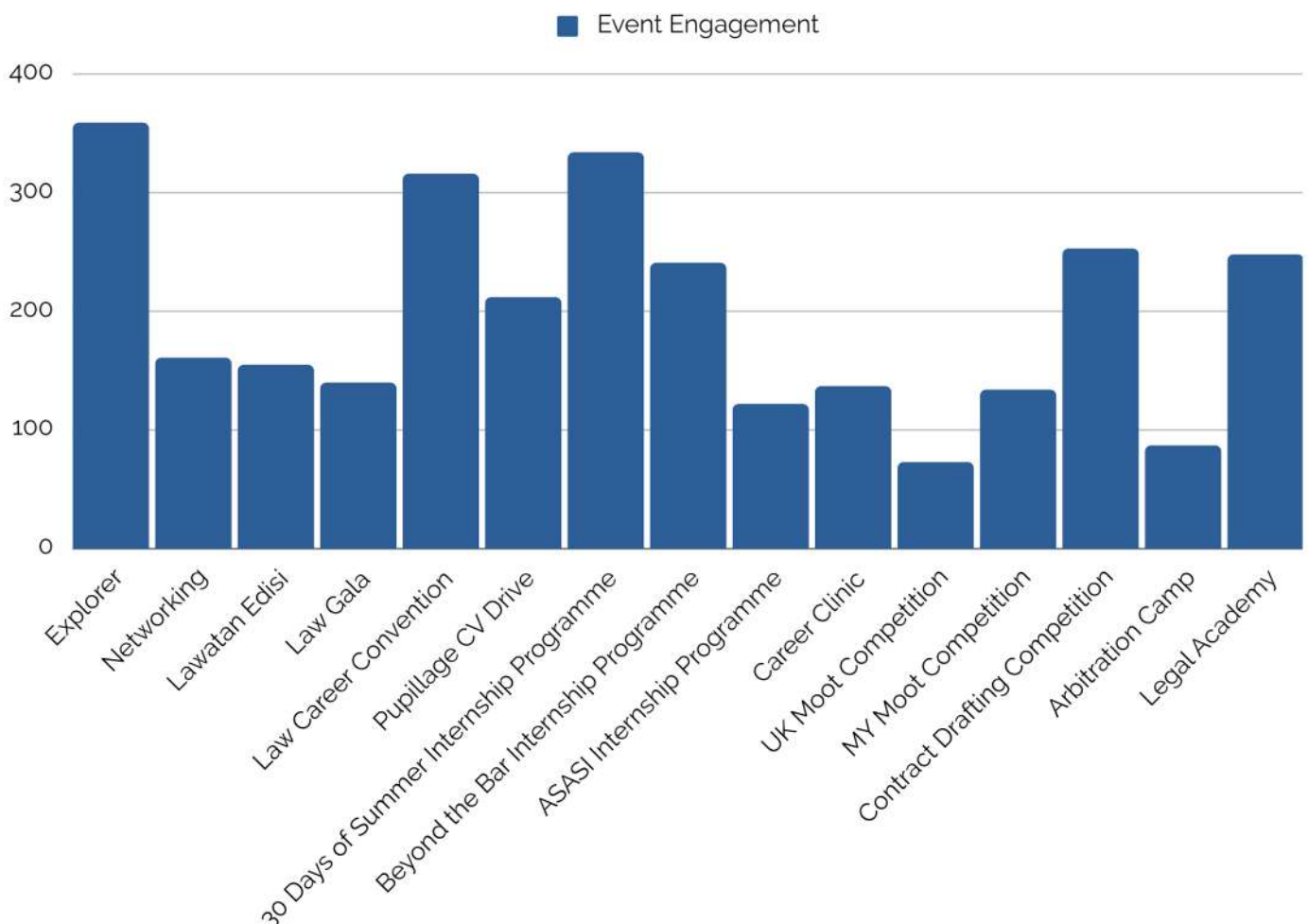


MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT

In our tenure of 2022/2023, it is proud to say that the membership engagement in both the United Kingdom & Eire and Malaysia has **increased significantly**.

Following the membership survey, we were able to gather the details of our Members and their suggestions for the improvement of the Union, for example information about the events they would be interested in to better cater to our members' preferences.

Besides, the President's Office has introduced a system to monitor and enhance the accountability of Members. Members who registered for events but failed to attend without a valid reason are subject to blacklisting. In our tenure of 2022/2023, **twelve (12) Members** were blacklisted.



GENERAL MEETINGS

In **September 2022**, an **Extraordinary General Meeting** was convened and held, for the purpose of electing the vacant position of the Executive Committee, i.e. the Deputy President.

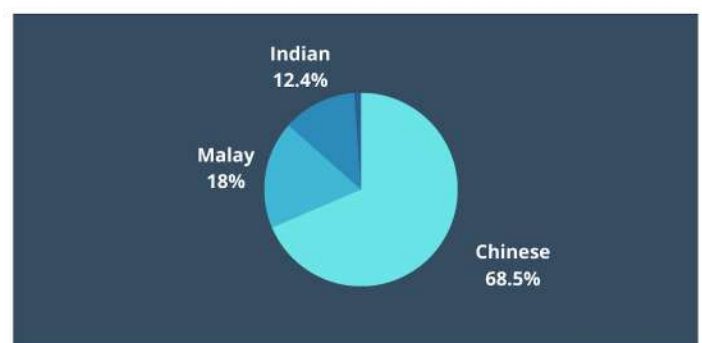
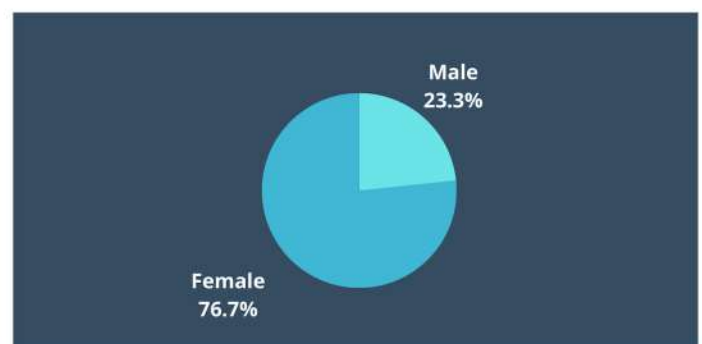
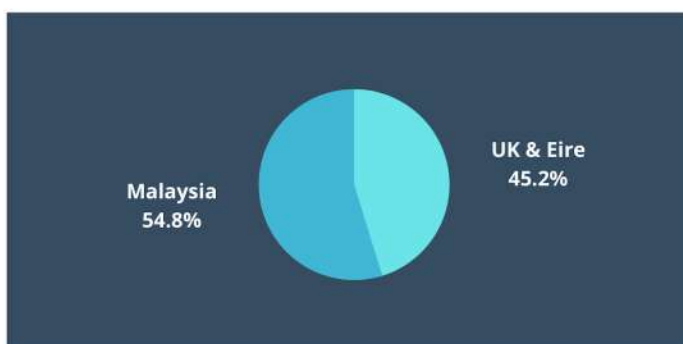
On **26th August 2023**, the **Annual General Meeting** was convened and held. The Annual General Meeting was conducted in two segments, i.e. the Presentations of the tenure of 2022/2023 and Election for the tenure of 2023/2024. This year, the Annual General Meeting was held physically at the Advance Tertiary College. We have also hosted an annual dinner where we invited our sponsors and our alumni to join us in celebrating the journey of our tenure.



EXECUTIVE PROGRAMME

Executive Programme is an initiative where the President's Office would recruit executives to be part of the committee members. Unlike AGM, the recruitment process is on a non-elect basis, but through an interview and screening process. The role of the President's Office is to oversee the whole process as well as to assist with the operations of the working committee. Particularly, the Secretariat would work closely together in handling the execution flow such as arranging interview sessions for candidates, liaising with Directors from each department, as well as sitting in during the interview sessions should the directors require more helping hands.

The executives play a significant role in executing all of the events that occur throughout the tenure, under the supervision of their respective Directors and Deputy Directors. Furthermore, executives also work closely together in contributing new ideas to the work of the Union as well as providing valuable opinions when conducting events and initiatives to the department heads of the Union. For our 2022/2023 tenure, we received a record number of interests in the Executive Programme totaling up to **108** applications - and we recruited **73** executives from the application pool.



EXECUTIVE PROGRAMME

In a bid to foster camaraderie among the newly recruited executives of the Union and establish a seamless and integrated committee team, we have organised an **Onboarding Session** spanning two primary locations: **London** and **Kuala Lumpur**, with a total of **93** committees joining. There was a series of team-building games set up i.e. Treasure Hunt, designed to challenge and promote collaboration among the committees. Several renowned places in London and Kuala Lumpur were also visited during the games session. At the end of the games session, a sumptuous lunch/dinner was also served. This was not just an opportunity to enjoy good food but also an avenue for informal conversations, helping the executives to bond over shared experiences and aspirations. The event successfully laid the foundation for a cohesive executive team, with members who are now more familiar with each other's strengths and personalities. Through fun, food, and fellowship, the union ensured that the new recruits felt welcomed, valued, and prepared to embark on their journey in the Union.



Furthermore, the President's Office places great emphasis on fostering a culture of responsibility and accountability. We firmly believe that the establishment of a thriving and efficient organisation hinges on the unwavering commitment of every committee member to their respective roles and obligations. In our pursuit of ensuring a high standard of accountability, we have implemented a systematic process for evaluating the performance of our committees. In cases where committee members may, on occasion, fall short of fulfilling their duties, we have instituted a structured protocol. This protocol involves the issuance of warning letters and subsequent meetings with the committee to address the root causes of any issues or shortcomings. It is noteworthy that to date, no committee have been suspended, despite the issuance of warning letters, as we remain dedicated to resolving issues collaboratively and constructively.

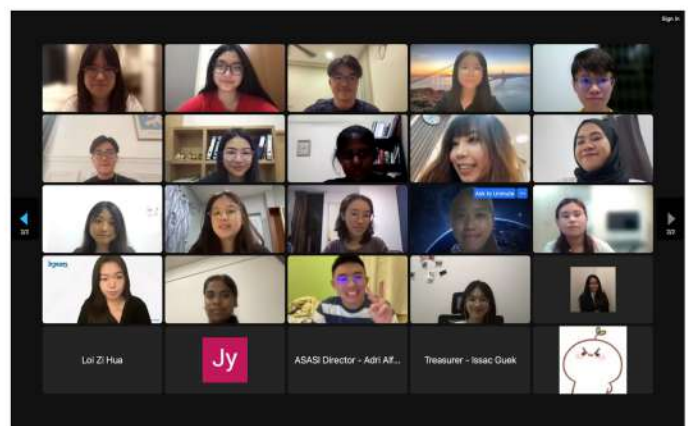
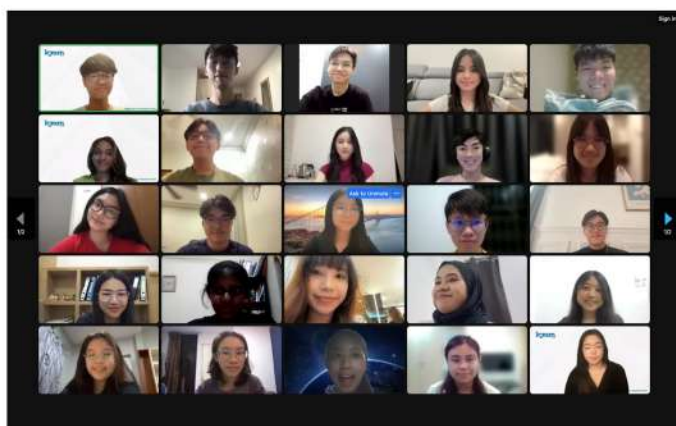
SHADOW PROGRAMME

The President's Office also initiates the Shadow Programme for potential nominees who are keen to run for the next election during the Annual General Meeting, by allowing the shadows to gain some insights into the work of the respective department and the Union as a whole. The purpose of the Programme is to ensure the handover process is a tad bit more seamless, regardless of the final pool of nominees during the election.

By joining this program, candidates would be able to think practically and come out with a pragmatic approach while tackling the potential issues that may arise during their tenure, should they wish to contest for the next election.

The duration of the program lasts for about 2 weeks, and the agenda of the program is given separately by different Directors from the respective departments. A virtual meeting has also been held on a weekly basis, which is a great opportunity for shadows to engage with the directors in a more direct manner. During the meeting, the Directors would share their knowledge and insights about the union, especially the reason why they wanted to join as Executive Committee or Division Board member.

Within one week after the launch of the registration of the program, KPUM has successfully received a total number of **41** candidates who are interested in different roles within the Union.

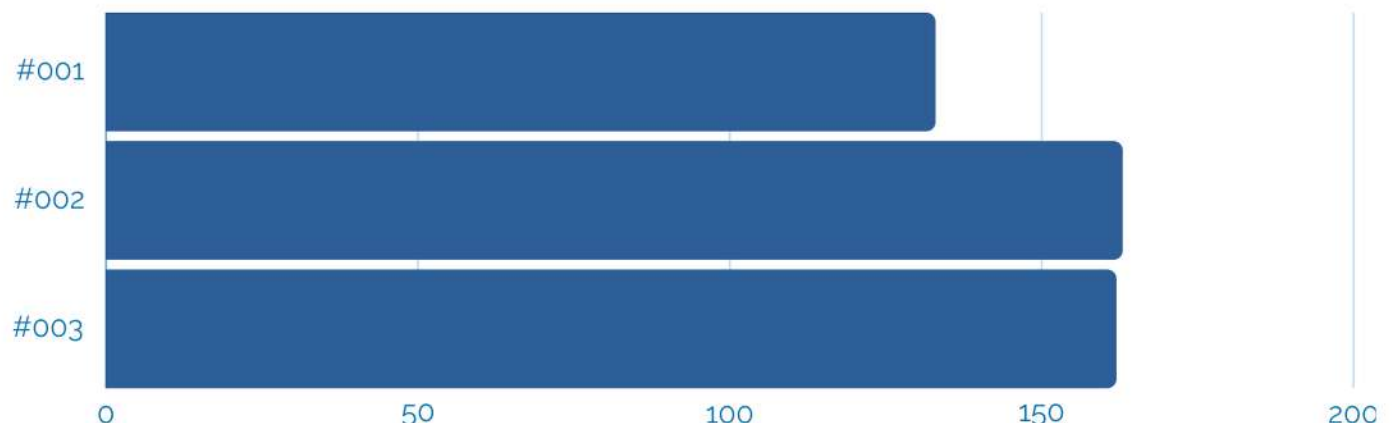


KPUM NEWSLETTER

In our tenure of 2022/2023, the Union has revamped the KPUM Newsletter. The KPUM Newsletter includes the Union's general information, upcoming events and initiatives, past events and initiatives, human rights events and initiatives, career vacancies, etc. Since the Newsletter was launched, the initiative has accumulated **223** subscribers to date. However, due to the Union's huge amount of commitment, there was only 3 newsletters have been published in our tenure of 2022/2023.



■ Number of Views



KPUM MERCHANDISE

in our tenure of 2022/2023, we are excited to introduce our new addition to the merchandise which embodies our values and comradeship.

Our exclusive KPUM Hoodie is available in both classic white and stylish grey. The hoodie is designed to encapsulate the essence of our mission and the spirit of KPUM, as well as to bring a sense of belonging and comradeship among the committee. Emblazoned at the back of our hoodie is our missionary statement, reminding us of the KPUM's mission. Embroidered at the chest area of the hoodie is the KPUM logo which symbolises our pride as part of the KPUM family.

The hoodie is open for sale for our committee as well as our alumni.





FINANCE

DEPARTMENT REPORT

**Goviintha Krishnan**

Finance Director

LLB, University College London

**Guek Yee Yun (Issac)**

Treasurer

LLB, University of London (External)



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In our tenure of 2022/2023, the Union's financial activity has increased as compared to the last tenure of 2021/2022 as a result of full recovery from the Covid-19 Global Pandemic.

First of all, the Sponsorship received has increased **269.21.%** from the last tenure of 2021/2022, which is **GBP 20,200.00 / RM 108,760.00**.

With the other incomes amounting to RM 4,398.59, the Union has a total income of **RM 113.158.59** for our tenure.

However, the expenditure for this tenure has also increased by **320.55%** from the last tenure, which is **GBP 16,450.00 / RM 88,571.00**.

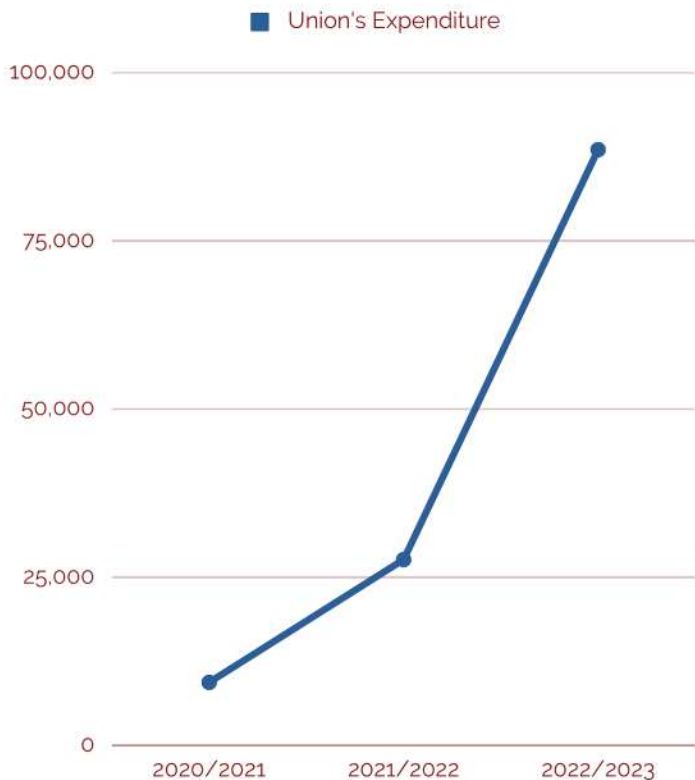
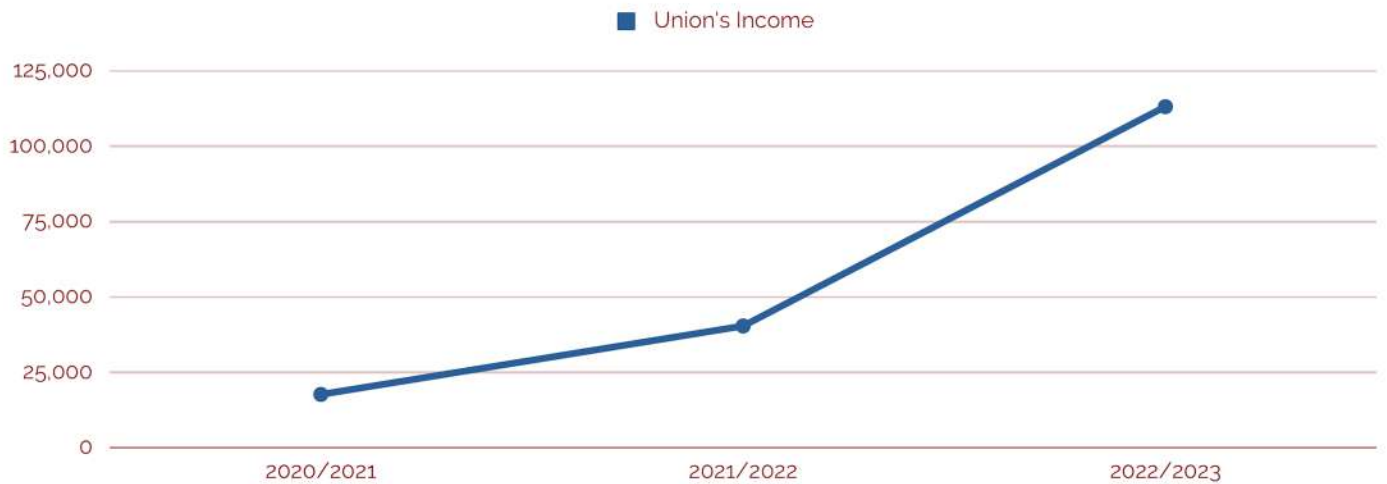
Overall, the Union financially performed well in our tenure. of 2022/2023.

Prepared by:-

Goviintha Krishnan, Finance Director

Guek Yee Yun (Issac), Treasurer

FINANCIAL ANALYTICS



Events & Initiatives

75

Union's Operation

25

STUDENT BURSARIES

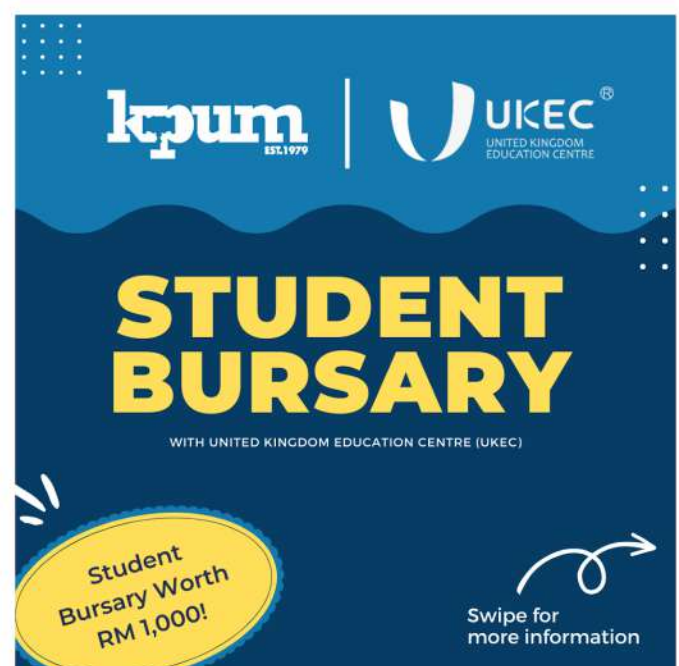
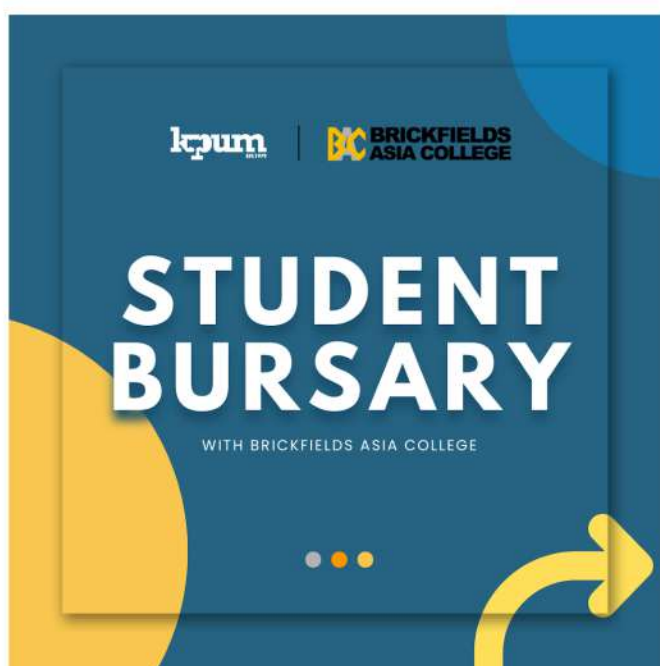
The Student Bursary is a helpful opportunity in collaboration with our Education Sponsors. The Bursaries provide our Members with financial assistance.

KPUM x UKEC Bursary

Bursary Members who applied for a law degree or professional legal qualification course (e.g. BAR or SQE) will be getting a bursary amounting to RM1,000.00. In our tenure of 2022/2023, **23 Members** were disbursed amounting to **RM 23,000.00**.

KPUM x BAC Bursary

Members who are alumni of Brickfields Asia College and based in the United Kingdom (& Ireland) are reimbursed for travel expenses for attending the Union's in-person events. In our tenure of 2022/2023, we have received **21 applications** from the Members.





MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS

DEPARTMENT REPORT



Chian Yan Tong (Janice)

Director

BPC LLM, University of Law



Sarah Janessa Chong

Deputy Director

LLB, University of London (External)



Phoebe Yong

Executive

LLB, Brickfields Asia College



Wong Zhi Yee

Executive

LLB, Brickfields Asia College



Loi Zi Hua

Executive

LLB, University of London (External)



Divya Naottuna

Executive

LLB, Brickfields Asia College



Teh Jensen

Executive

LLB, Queen's University Belfast



Angus Go

Executive

LLB, University of Leeds



Tharini A/P Hariharan

Executive

FIL, Brickfields Asia College



Freya Teoh

Executive

LLB, University of London (External)



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In our tenure of 2022/2023, the Department undertook strategic initiatives to reinforce the organisation's identity and enhance engagement. Recognising the diverse skill sets within our team, the department was divided into two sub-groups: graphic design and social media. This arrangement allowed our executives to align their expertise and interests and also facilitated rotation between the sub-groups, allowing each executive to experience both roles. We also implemented a partner rotation system, ensuring executives work with different team members regularly, fostering a collaborative and adaptable team dynamic.

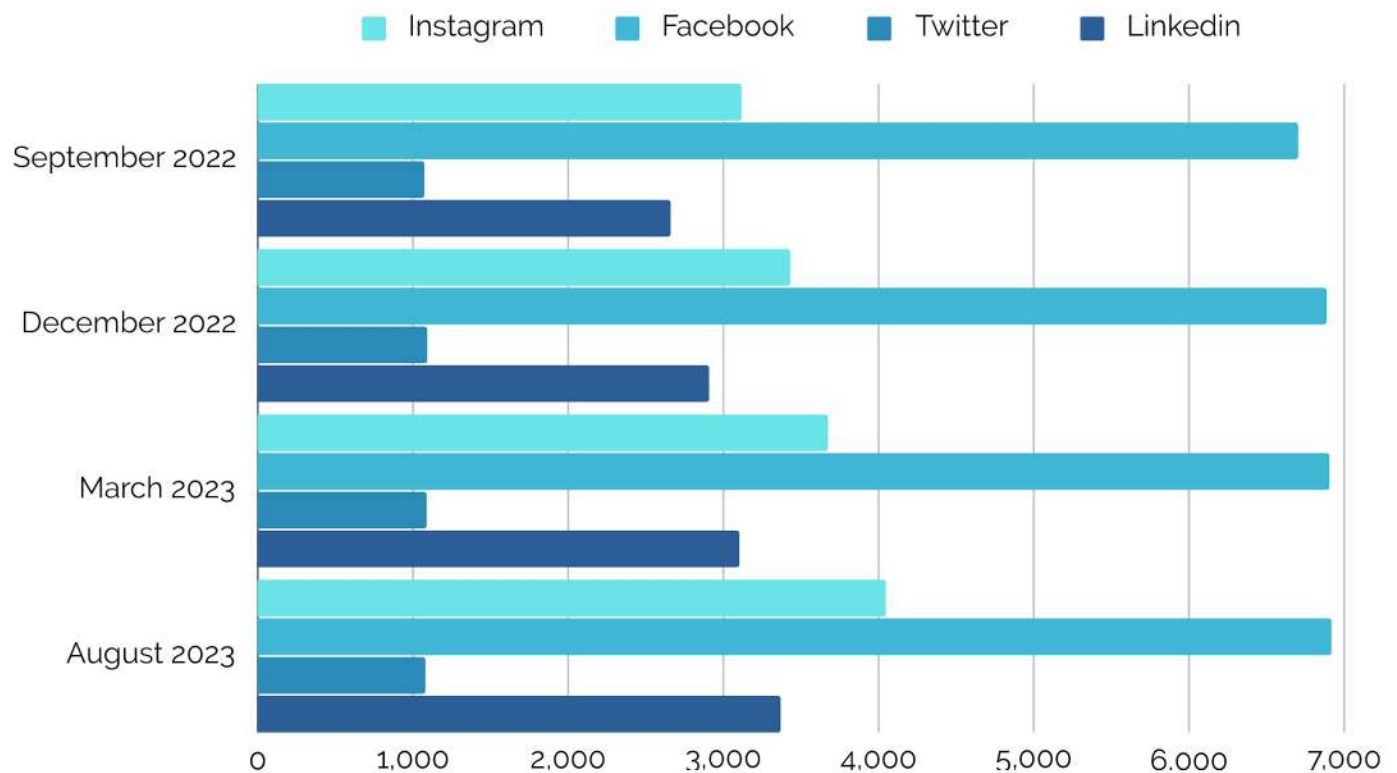
By adhering to the Union's colour scheme of **blue** and **white**, our consistent application of colours reinforced the organisation's brand and established a recognizable and cohesive visual across all platforms. For events collaborating with esteemed law firms, the Media & Communications department integrated the colour schemes of the respective law firms' logos into our designs. We are proud to inform you that the department has created more than **150 posters and 40 videos** this year.

Prepared by:-

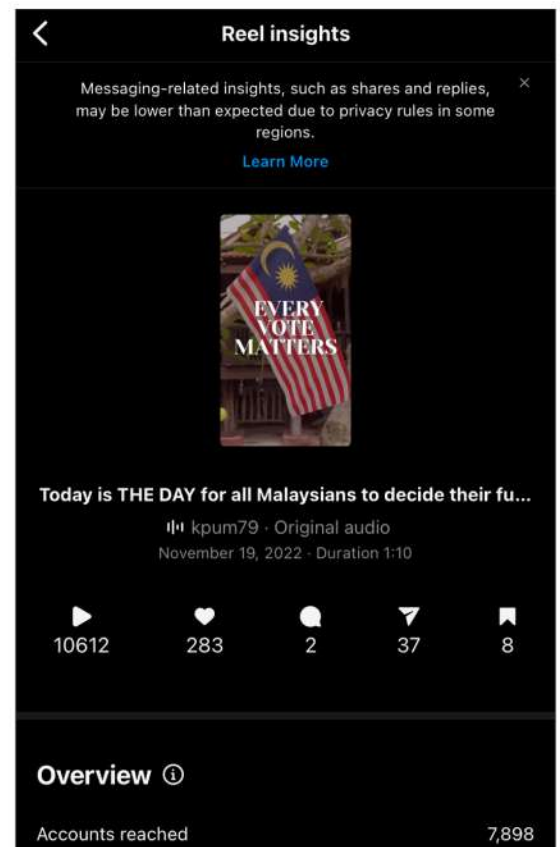
Chian Yan Tong (Janice), Director of Media and Communications

Sarah Janessa Chong, Deputy Director of Media and Communications

SOCIAL MEDIA ANALYTICS



On a notable note, our engagement on our major social media Platform: Instagram has soared to new heights. On 17th August 2023, we celebrated a significant milestone as our follower count surged to an impressive **4,000**. Our dedication to innovative content creation was further evident through the new Instagram functions IG reels, where we achieved a remarkable milestone of **10.5k views** on our highest-performing reel. Expanding our outreach strategies, the department further ventured into using Instagram Guides. This offered our members a simple way to consume a compilation of Instagram posts presented in a readily understandable layout.





CORPORATE RELATIONS AND OUTREACH

DEPARTMENT REPORT

**Zoe Richard**

Director

LLB, Queen's University Belfast

**Nicholas Preston Dinesh**

Deputy Director

LLB, Brickfields Asia College

**Chin Yee Leng**

Executive

LLB, Brickfields Asia College

**Lee Xin Min**

Executive

LLB, Brickfields Asia College



Ng Jou Yan

Executive

LLB, Taylor's University



Huee Jia En

Executive

LLB, Brickfields Asia College



Jasmita Pillai

Executive

LLB, University of London (External)



Mahanoor Binti Badrul Zaman

Executive

LLB, University of London (External)

**Low Ke Shing**

Executive

LLB, Brickfields Asia College

**Ong Cheng Cheng**

Executive

LLB, University of London (External)

**Alicia Bong Jing Ru**

Executive

LLB, University of Manchester

**Shweta Rajkumar**

Executive

BTC , Cardiff University

**Yu Ru En**

Executive

LLB, Queen Mary University of London

**Lim Fay Sue (Erika)**

Executive

LLB, Queen's University Belfast

**Albert Dahlan**

Executive

LLB, University of Exeter

**Chong Zheng Yang**

Executive

LLB, Queen's University Belfast

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In our tenure of 2022/2023, the Department focuses on its commitment to enhancing the Union's corporate relations, namely sponsorship, partnership and affiliation. Besides, the Department works to expand its membership outreach in both the United Kingdom (& Ireland) and Malaysia.

The Department takes pride in curating a series of events that cater to connecting a diverse range of interests and aspirations among law students and legal practitioners. The KPUM Roadshow offers a unique platform for our members to understand what KPUM does and to be informed about our upcoming events throughout the tenure.

The KPUM Explorer and Lawatan Edisi are visitation initiatives whereby our members get to explore the law firms at the Explorer and civil services institutions at the Lawatan Edisi.

We have also came up with a new event - The Malaysian Law Students' Gala where we celebrate our members' legal journey on a glamorous evening.

We are proud to announce that the Union has secured 18 sponsors this year, hitting the highest number of sponsorships in the history of KPUM.

Prepared by:-

Zoe Richard, Director of Corporate Relations and Outreach

Nicholas Preston Dinesh, Deputy Director of Corporate Relations and Outreach



SPONSORSHIP

For our tenure of 2022/2023, the Union has successfully obtained **16 Corporate Sponsors** and **2 Education Sponsors** - the most sponsorships obtained since the past tenures. We hereby extend our sincerest gratitude to all sponsors. Their support is instrumental for the Union to unite law students, empower future lawyers and uphold the Rule of Law.

PLATINUM CORPORATE SPONSOR

Shearn Delamore & Co.

GOLD CORPORATE SPONSOR



SILVER CORPORATE SPONSOR



BRONZE CORPORATE SPONSOR



GENERAL CORPORATE SPONSOR



EDUCATION SPONSOR



PARTNERSHIP

For the tenure of 2022/2023, the Union maintained and established relationships with a few Malaysian legal professional bodies.

Since its establishment, the Union has been recognised by the **Malaysian Bar Council**, which has always shown tremendous interest and support in our events and initiatives, and more importantly, in our Members. In our tenure of 2022/2023, the Union is honoured to continue our close relationship partnership with the Malaysian Bar Council, with an official partnership formed.



Further, the Union has established an official partnership with the **Inns of Court Malaysia**. Inns of Court Malaysia is a society of legal professionals from all levels and backgrounds with a united mission for professional legal excellence.

INNS of COURT MALAYSIA



AFFILIATION

For affiliation, the Department has amended the policy of annual renewal affiliation to permanent affiliation upon termination. With that, the Union has formed official affiliations with **22 reputable student organisations** in both the United Kingdom & Eire and Malaysia.



ROADSHOW

In order to expand the membership outreach and engagement in the United Kingdom & Eire, the Department organised Roadshows in several universities and participated in the Malaysian Societies' UK Pre-Departure Session. Some of them were organised in collaboration with our esteemed affiliates. These sessions served as a warm welcome to our members and an introduction to the dynamic world of KPUM.

During these events, our dedicated team shared valuable insights about the Union and offered a sneak peek into our upcoming initiatives. It was an opportunity for our members to connect, network and forge bonds.

- Roadshow at Brickfields Asia College on 1st February 2023
- Roadshow at University of Liverpool on 8th February 2023
- Roadshow at Queen's University of Belfast on 10th February 2023
- Roadshow at Cardiff University on 13th February 2023
- Pre-Departure Session of London School of Economics and Political Science on 2nd September 2023



EXPLORER



Explorer is the Union's unique version of an initiative directed to act as a platform for the Members to explore the legal industry with our legal partners. Our Members are given the opportunity to explore various work cultures and a snapshot of the people of the firm to facilitate our members' future career planning with in-depth insights into the legal industry in Malaysia.

A Day at Law Firm

An exclusive event that consists of a limited number of participants visiting the law firms in person. Our desire is to provide a great opportunity for law students to gain valuable legal insights into the operation of the firm. This aims to be an eye opener for participants to anticipate what their future holds as well as an intimate look at the firm's office, employees and culture. With it being an exclusive event, it is believed to build a relationship that is beneficial between both firms and participants. In our tenure 2022/2023, the Department organised **twelve (12) events** under A Day at Law Firm with **289 attendees** in total, they are:-

- Zul Rafique & Partners on 9th March 2023
- Lee Hishammuddin Allen & Gledhill on 15th March 2023
- Lim Chee Wee Partnership on 6th April 2023
- Halim, Hong & Quek on 26th May 2023
- Raja, Darryl & Loh on 31st May 2023
- Mah-Kamariyah & Philip Koh on 09th June 2023
- Wong & Partners on 5th July 2023
- David & Paulian on 14th July 2023
- Law Partnership on 21st July 2023
- Rosli Dahlan Saravana Partnership on 31st July 2023
- Zaid Ibrahim & Co. on 11th August 2023
- Skrine on 16th August 2023

EXPLORER



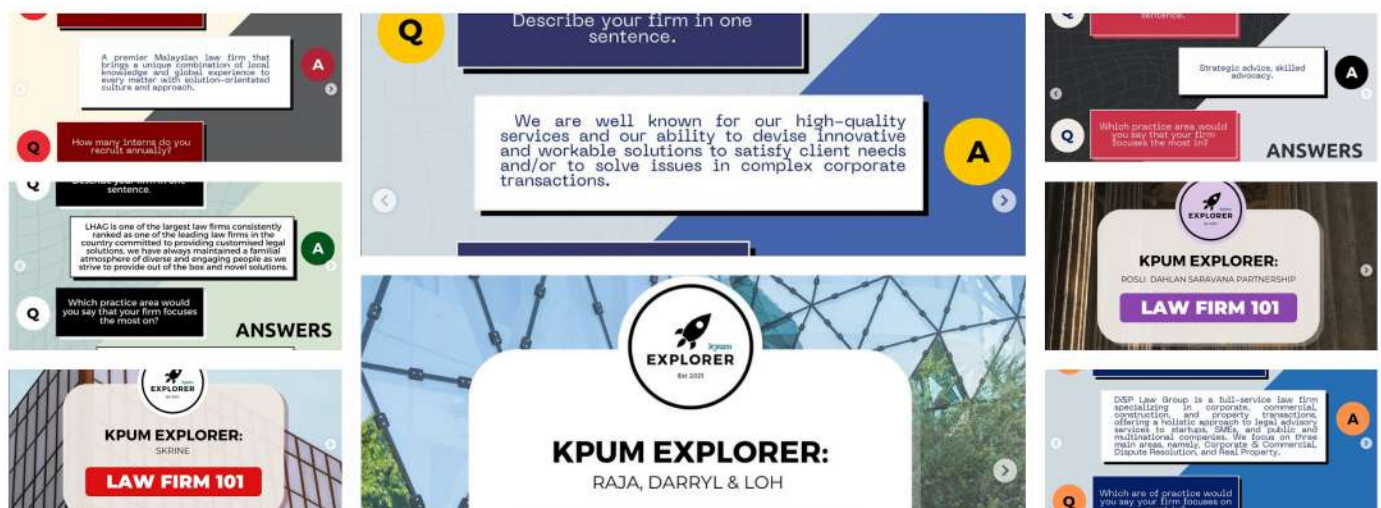
EXPLORER



Law Firm 101

An insight into the firm in infographics, aims to provide publicity for the firms by disclosing interesting and most-asked information from the audience. Furthermore, it allows law students to get in-depth and personal information about the firm that is not accessible from the firm's website. This aids the law students to understand the firms in a short and sweet manner. In our tenure of 2022/2023, the Department had made **twelve (12) publications** under Law Firm 101, they are:-

- Zul Rafique & Partners on 28th February 2023
- Lee Hishammuddin Allen & Gledhill on 5th March 2023
- Lim Chee Wee Partnership on 28th March 2023
- Halim, Hong & Quek on 18th May 2023
- Raja, Darryl & Loh on 23rd May 2023
- Mah-Kamariyah & Philip Koh on 10th June 2023
- Wong & Partners on 5th July 2023
- David & Paulian on 6th July 2023
- Law Partnership on 12th July 2023
- Rosli Dahlan Saravana Partnership on 27th July 2023
- Zaid Ibrahim & Co. on 2nd August 2023
- Skrine on 17th August 2023



NETWORKING EVENT

KPUM Networking Events are informal, relaxed and interactive sessions that provide opportunities for the Members to network and engage with the representatives from the industries. In the tenure of 2022/2023, the Department hosted **eight (8) networking events** in both the United Kingdom & Eire and Malaysia with **120 attendees** in total. They are:-

- Meet & Greet: Malaysian Bar Council in London on 5th October 2022
- LHAG London Reunion: Networking Luncheon in London on 24th October 2022
- Lim Chee Wee Partnership Social in London on 4th November 2022
- A Coffee Morning with Mr. Mathew Thomas Philip, Managing Partner of Thomas Philip Advocate & Solicitor in KL on 18th January 2023
- Networking Luncheon with Halim, Hong & Quek in Liverpool on 9th April 2023
- Afternoon Tea with D&P Law Group in KL on 28th April 2023
- Unlocking Opportunities: Networking Social with Mr. Saravana Kumar, Managing Partner at Rosli Dahlan Saravana Partnership in London on 3rd July 2023
- Lunch with Mr. Munir Abdul Aziz, Managing Partner at Wong & Partners in London on 27th July 2023



LAWATAN EDISI

Lawatan Edisi is an initiative that gives law students the opportunity to visit various civil services institutions in Malaysia and across the United Kingdom. In our tenure of 2022/2023, the Department has organised **five (5) events** under Lawatan Edisi in both the United Kingdom & Eire and Malaysia with **95 attendees** in total. They are:-

- Royal Courts of Justice, Laganside Courts, Inns of Court and the Bar Library in Northern Ireland, on 10th February 2023
- Welsh Parliament (Senedd) in Cardiff, On 14th April 2023
- The Honourable Society of Gray's Inn and The Honourable Society of the Middle Temple in London, on 18th April 2023
- The Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn and The Honourable Society of the Inner Temple in London, on 19th April 2023
- Palace of Justice Malaysia in Putrajaya, 15th June 2023. During the visit, the Union is honoured to have a Panel Discussion with Yang Arif Dato' Mary Lim



THE MALAYSIAN LAW STUDENTS GALA

On **29th July 2023**, KPUM organised the Malaysian Law Students Gala, themed **"Sparkling Justice: A Glamorous Night of Legal Brilliance"**, in partnership with various student organisations from Malaysian public and private universities. They are the Malaysian Law Students' Network, Asian Law Students' Association Malaysia, Brickfields Asia College Law Society, Taylor's University Law Society, University of Reading (Malaysia) Law Society, Advance Tertiary College Moot Society, University of Malaya Law Society, Multimedia University Law Society, Northern University of Malaysia Advocacy & Mooting Unit and the University of Malaya Constitutional Team.

The black-tie formal dinner hosted at Eastin Hotel, Kuala Lumpur was attended by **140 Malaysian law students**. Attendees were able to network at ease, grabbing the mics and heading to the dance floor as the night wore on – it was a great time for all!



ALUMNI NETWORK



Since its establishment in 1979, the Union has cultivated a rich and enduring legacy and at the heart of this legacy lies our esteemed alumni community. Over the years, we have maintained and nurtured these vital connections between the onboard committee and the alumni, ensuring that our alumni remain an integral part of the KPUM family. Through these, we aim to bridge the temporal gap between the past and the present. Our alumni network now boasts a number of individuals from a plethora of industries. This year, we have upheld the duty of maintaining the database, making certain that it remains up-to-date and accessible. This ensures that reaching out to our alumni would be a seamless process.

As we launch our merchandise line - the KPUM Hoodie, we have extended these to our alumni. These tangible merchandise serve as a reminder of the moments shared with KPUM, and foster a sense of camaraderie and a sense of belonging to a shared history. We have created LinkedIn and Facebook groups to provide a virtual space where our alumni can connect, share experiences and stay updated on KPUM developments. It serves as a platform for engagement and knowledge exchange. Our commitment to nurturing alumni relationships also extends to our annual dinner where we reunite the alumni. It provides an opportunity for them to reconnect with old friends and build new connections with the tenure's committee and the sponsors.





CAREERS DEVELOPMENT

DEPARTMENT REPORT

**Megat Anaqi Shahrman**

Director

LLB, Queen Mary University of London

**Chai Jia Yang (Jerrad)**

Deputy Director

LLB, Brickfields Asia College

**Lim Le Ying**

Executive

LLB, Queen Mary University of London

**Lee Yue Jia**

Executive

LLB, Brickfields Asia College

**Trixie Chong**

Executive

LLB, Brickfields Asia College

**Lee Zia Yang**

Executive

LLB, Brickfields Asia College

**Mavvin Gobi Krishnan**

Executive

LLB, University of Hertfordshire

**Wong Chia Wei**

Executive

LLB, Brickfields Asia College

**Quek Siao Xuan**

Executive

LLB, Brickfields Asia College

**Siri Suhageini Murugan**

Executive

LLB, King's College London

**Najla Rania**

Executive

LLB, Queen Mary University of London

**Chong Wen Hui**

Executive

LLB, University of Liverpool

**Tan Yee Xuan**

Executive

LLB, University of Leeds

**Ng Wan En**

Executive

LLB, University of Liverpool

**Javier Junior Sim**

Executive

LLB, London School of Economics and
Political Science

**Cecilia Yeap**

Executive

LLB, London School of Economics and
Political Science

**Seraphina Soh**

Executive

LLB, Brickfields Asia College

**Teh Chooi Ling (Krystal)**

Executive

LLB, University of Liverpool

**Chia Yun Thon**

Executive

The Honorable Society of King's Inns

**Divyabharthi Baradhan**

Executive

LLB, University of London (External)



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Union has observed that the Members have a variety of career aspirations. Therefore, in our tenure of 2022/2023, the Department focuses on exploring career opportunities for the Members in both the United Kingdom (& Ireland) and Malaysia for different career paths. The Careers Development (CDD) Department is at the forefront of shaping the futures of our members by creating various career-centric initiatives to provide our Members with different career opportunities across industries..

The flagship event, Law Career Convention was hosted in both the UK and Malaysia, providing a platform for students to gain legal insights from law firms and explore various career paths. We have also hosted a Pupillage CV Drive to facilitate the talent recruitment process for participating firms.

We have continued the flagship internship programme for both 30 Days of Summer Internship and Beyond the Bar programme. These programmes offer a valuable glimpse into the daily workings of legal practice. Aside, we came up with a new mentoring scheme where members are able to pair up with experienced solicitors in the UK.

Our CDD is dedicated to shaping the futures of aspiring legal professionals and guiding them towards success across the industry.

Prepared by:-

Megat Anaqi Shahrman, Director of Careers Development

Chai Jia Yang (Jerrad), Deputy Director of Careers Development

LAW CAREER CONVENTION



Law Career Convention (LCC) is a large-scale one-day event that takes place traditionally in London around March every year. However, since the Covid-19 Global Pandemic, the LCC took place online in 2020, 2021 and 2022 with more than 450 attendees. In our tenure of 2022/2023, the LCC was held in person in both **London on 25th March 2023 at The Law Society** and **Kuala Lumpur on 27th August 2023 at Menara BAC**. History has shown that with catastrophe also comes an opportunity for the human race to innovate and improve itself. As such, this year's theme seeks to reflect the unprecedented changes undertaken within the legal industry and how law students can use its' adaptation and evolution to thrive in the search for their future careers. With this in mind, KPUM has 're- birthed' the LCC in full force this 2023 - celebrates and marks the revival of the LCC, centered around the theme of "**Legal Renaissance**".

The Convention aims to provide a platform that bridges the gap within the legal sphere between university students and law firms, legal education bodies, and professional bodies. It also serves to connect law students with participating organisations and is the most effective conduit for firms to acquire talent. This year, there are **19** participating organisations in the LCC. They are **Shearn Delamore & Co., Skrine, Lee Hishammuddiin Allen & Gledhill, Raja, Darryl & Loh, Halim, Hong & Quek, Rosli Dahlan Saravana Partnership, Thomas Philip Advocates & Solicitors, Zul Rafique & Partners, Lim Chee Wee Partnership, Mah-Kamariyah & Philip Koh, Harold & Lam Partnership, Herbert Smith Freehills, Allen & Overy Society of East Asian Lawyers, Brickfields Asia College, United Kingdom Education Centre, The City Law School, Malaysian Bar Council, Inns of Court Malaysia and CIArb Malaysia Young Members Group.**

LAW CAREER CONVENTION



The department created an agenda of **plenary panel discussions, interactive breakout room sessions, career opportunities exhibition, post-graduate course info sharing sessions, corporate luncheons** and **social networking** during the LCC. These sessions will provide substantial knowledge about interesting topics in the legal field, allowing students to greatly benefit from it. Remarkably, we are honoured to have **YA Datuk Seri Mohd Firuz bin Jaffril, High Court Judge and Vice President of Inns of Court Malaysia** as our opening keynote speaker in Kuala Lumpur. The LCC garnered **316 attendees**.



PUPILLAGE CV DRIVE

In conjunction with the Law Career Conventions, we hosted a Pupillage CV Drive to facilitate the talent recruitment process for participating firms. In our tenure of 2022/2023, there are **seven (7) participating law firms** for the Pupillage CV Drive, they are **Shearn Delamore & Co., Skrine, Lee Hishammuddin Allen & Gledhill, Raja, Darryl & Loh, Halim, Hong & Quek, Rosli Dahlan Saravana Partnership, and Wong & Partners.**

Shearn Delamore & Co.

SKRINE

LHAG
ADVOCATES AND SOLICITORS | Lee Hishammuddin Allen & Gledhill

rdl RAJA, DARRYL & LOH
advocates and solicitors

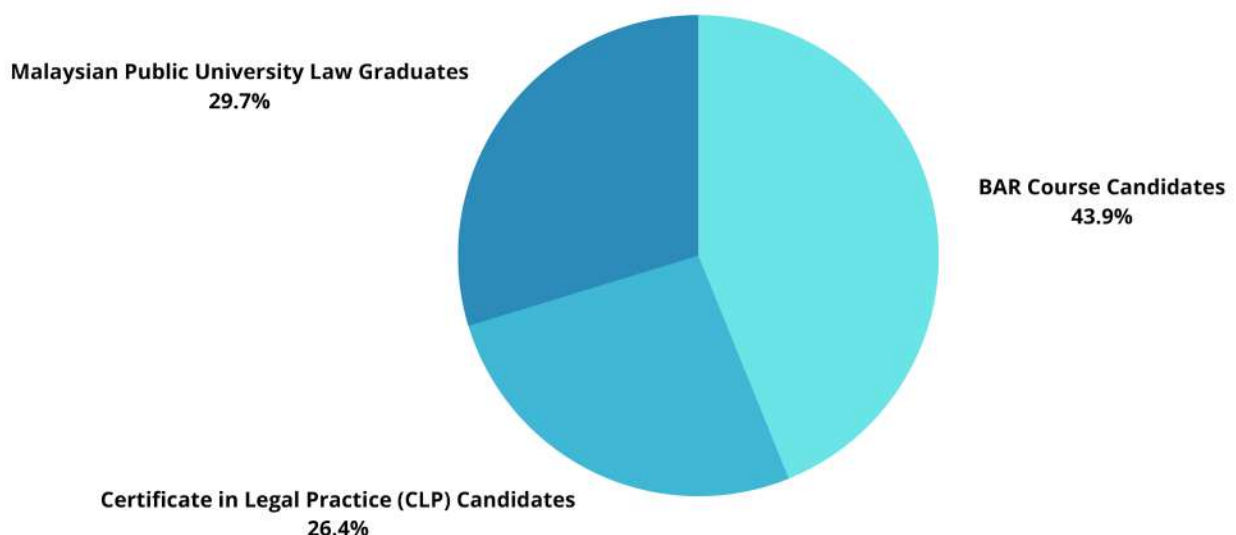
HHQ
ADVOCATES & SOLICITORS
A member firm of ANDERSENGLOBAL

RDS
ADVOCATES & SOLICITORS
ROS LI DAHLAN SARAVANA PARTNERSHIP

Wong & Partners.
Member Firm of
Baker & McKenzie International

Throughout the application period, the Department has released **Pupillage Information, Pupil Experience Sharing** and **Application Tips** for respective participating law firms.

As a result, the drive was successful and received **212 applications.**





30 DAYS OF SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

30 Days of Summer Internship Programme is the Union's structured internship programme directed to act as a platform for law students studying law to secure internships with our legal partners, organised annually from July to August. Participants are given the opportunity to partake in one-month-long internships through the Programme. In our tenure of 2022/2023, the Department noticed the Members have different academic timetables. To broaden opportunities for the Members, the programme was extended to four (4) months, spanning from **June to September 2023**.

This year, we are honoured to have **29 participating law firms** on board for the Programme. They are **Shearn Delamore & Co., Skrine, Lee Hishammuddiin Allen & Gledhill, Raja, Darryl & Loh, Halim, Hong & Quek, Rosli Dahlan Saravana Partnership, Thomas Philip Advocates & Solicitors, Zul Rafique & Partners, Lim Chee Wee Partnership, Mah-Kamariyah & Philip Koh, David & Paulian Advocates & Solicitors, Law Partnership, Herbert Smith Freehills, Wong & Partners, Zaid Ibrahim & Co., Christopher & Lee Ong, Trowers & Hamlins, Zain & Co., Shook Lin & Bok, Harold & Lam Partnership, Cecil Abraham & Partners, Steven Thiru & Sudhar Partnership, Sivananthan Advocates & Solicitors, Kee, Sern, Siu & Huey, Belden, Richard Wee Chambers, Chong & Partners, Izad Kazran & Co. and JC Legal.**



30 DAYS OF SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

To simplify the application process for students, the Department collaborated with the Human Rights and Activism Department, aligning the Beyond the Bar Internship Programme and ASASI Internship Programme. This marked the first cross-department internship collaboration since its inception. Furthermore, we hosted a Virtual Info Session on 12th February 2023. This session provided a comprehensive overview of the programs, application procedures, helpful tips, and insights from past successful applicants.

From the **334** applications received, we managed to provide more than **one hundred and twenty (120) internship opportunities** for Malaysian law students.

Shearn Delamore & Co.

HHQ ADVOCATES & SOLICITORS
A member firm of ANDERSENGLOBAL

KSH
KEE SERN, SIU & HUEY
其其, 秀珍及王惠律師事務所

LCWP
LIM CHEE WEE PARTNERSHIP

LH AG
ADVOCATES AND SOLICITORS | Lee Hishammuddin Allen & Gledhill

rdl RAJA, DARRYL & LOH
advocates and solicitors

sivananthan
Advocates & Solicitors

je legal
 bespoke solutions

SKRINE

ZUL RAFIQUE & partners

Wong & Partners.
Member Firm of
Baker & McKenzie International

Zaid Ibrahim & Co
In association with KPMG Law

Chiong
[what makes us Different
makes us Better]

LAW PARTNERSHIP

ZAIN & CO.
MEMBER OF DENTONS

SHOOK LIN & BOK
EST 1918
KUALA LUMPUR

ST

STEVEN THIRU & SUDHAR
PARTNERSHIP
ADVOCATES & SOLICITORS

RDS ROSLI DAHLAN
SARAVANA
PARTNERSHIP
ADVOCATES & SOLICITORS

CHRISTOPHER & LEE ONG

belden

mkp MAH-KAMARIYAH & PHILIP KOH
ADVOCATES & SOLICITORS • NOTARY PUBLIC

IK & C

th trowers & hamlins

HERBERT SMITH FREEHILLS

DP DAVID & PAULIAN
advocates & solicitors

THOMAS PHILIP
ADVOCATES & SOLICITORS
Litigation Arbitration Mediation

CECIL ABRAHAM & PARTNERS
ADVOCATES & SOLICITORS

rwc richard wee
chambers



BEYOND THE BAR INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

Beyond the Bar Internship Programme is a unique non-law internship designed for law students, fostering diversity in response to changing demographics and globalization. It provides law students with opportunities to work outside the legal field, showcasing their value in various professions. In our tenure of 2022/2023, the Department noted a preference among partners for internships lasting a minimum of two months. To broaden opportunities for the Members, the programme was extended to four (4) months, spanning from **June to September 2023**.

This year, we are honoured to have **ten (10) participating companies** on board for the Programme. They are **PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, Klynveld Peat Marwick Goerdeler (KPMG), United Overseas Bank (Malaysia), Securities Commission Malaysia, Lexis Nexis, Current Law Journal Malaysia, United Kingdom Education Centre, eLawyer and Learnabee.**

From the **241** applications received, we managed to provide more than **twenty (20) internship opportunities** for Malaysian law students.



CAREER PRIMER: SOLICITOR MENTORING SCHEME

Career Primer: Solicitor Mentoring Scheme is a newly established initiative. As the Union actively observed the Members have been inspired to pursue a solicitor career path, hence the Department seeks to assist Malaysian law students studying in the United Kingdom & Eire in pursuing the solicitor pathway, by matching mentors from the legal industry with successful applicants for a period of three months, spanning **from March to July 2023**.

The Scheme was designed with each fortnightly session tailored to different levels of a typical vacation scheme or training contract application. For instance, This opportunity has also helped the Members in figuring out their next steps post-graduation through consulting with their respective mentors.

In our tenure of 2022/2023, we invited **eight (8) solicitors / trainee solicitors** to this Scheme and **nineteen (19) law students** out of forty (40) shortlisted for the mentorship.



Anmar Al Ghadhanfari
Sidley Austin



Chloe Barclay
Clifford Chance



Sean Jia
Allen & Overy



Shereen Minn Yee Goh
Herbert Smith Freehills



Swaathi Balajawahar
Norton Rose Fulbright



Mustaqim Iqbal
Linklaters LLP



Winson Chow
Clifford Chance



Zhu Ann Chong
Allen & Overy

CAREER CLINIC



The Career Clinic is a variation of career progression initiatives directed to equip future legal prospects and professionals in the industry with vast knowledge and skills in the diverse areas of law and other industries providing an advantage for participants to excel in the workplace. This series of events further aids participants, especially those joining industry-specific forums accompanied by our interactive activities fine-tuning their leadership presence alongside knowledge-sharing sessions exploring options for learning and development. In our tenure of 2022/2023, the Department has conducted **three (3) events** under Career Clinic, consisting of:-

- Insight Day with Trowers & Hamlin on 25th January 2023
- Info Session with Herbert Smith Freehills on 9th March 2023
- 'Navigating Cross-Border Legal Matters: LHAG's Collaboration with International Counsel' on 25th April 2023



POSTGRADUATE LAW FAIR

The UK Postgraduate Law Fair is a collaboration between the Union and **United Kingdom Education Centre** to showcase training courses for the Bar of England and Wales and other postgraduate law programmes. The law fair was conducted in hybrid mode.

On the **3rd of December 2022**, the physical session of the fair was held at the Asian International Arbitration Centre (AIAC), Kuala Lumpur. The session gathered legal education providers in the United Kingdom. It provided a unique platform for in-person consultation where students are able to get advice to make an informed decision on their postgraduate law programme.

On the **10th of December 2022**, we ventured into the digital realm by having a virtual session through Zoom. This session ensured that students who were unable to attend the physical session could still access valuable guidance and advice.





SKILLS ENHANCEMENT

DEPARTMENT REPORT

**Tan Ying Han (Natasha)**

Director

LLB, King's College London

**Siti Nazatul Nadia**

Deputy Director

LLB, University of London (External)

**Raajwant Singh Cheema**

Executive

LLB, University of Hertfordshire

**Carmen Ho**

Executive

LLB, University of London (External)

**Fenny Veralyn Leong**

Executive

LLB, University of London (External)

**Nikkita Koh**

Executive

FIL, Brickfields Asia College

**Tharneesya Arumainathan**

Executive

LLB, Brickfields Asia College

**Michell Chong**

Executive

LLB, City, University of London

**Pua Sin Yi**

Executive

LLB, University of Liverpool

**Lynette Ong**

Executive

LLB, Durham University

**Nurnisa Athirah**

Executive

LLB, University of London (External)

**Dakshina A/P Panneer Selvam**

Executive

LLB, University of London (External)

**Jaden Ngooi**

Executive

LLB, Brickfields Asia College

**Lim Yi Ling**

Executive

LLB, Queen's University Belfast



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Following the full recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, the Union noticed that there should be a bak of full-fledged in-person academic curriculum events, and initiatives. Therefore, in our tenure of 2022/2023, the Skills Enhancement Department (SED) is dedicated to honing the legal skills of our members. We believe that legal education extends beyond textbooks and lectures, thus the SED department is committed to providing practical experiences that sharpen our members' abilities.

Our signature event, the Mooting Competition was held physically in both the UK and Malaysia this year. Through mooting, participants learn the art of persuasive argument and gain first-hand experience in courtroom proceedings. In Malaysia, we have hosted a new initiative - Arbitration Camp where we offer a 2-days-1-night camp filled with arbitration training. Participants were able to experience an arbitration simulation at the end of the camp. We also provided a platform for aspiring solicitors to learn how to draft a contract by hosting the Contract Drafting Competition. Lastly, the Legal Academy is another avenue where we invite speakers to speak about various legal skills, from research to legal writing and advocacy.

Our SED department is dedicated to ensuring our members not only excel in theory but also in practice.

Prepared by:-

Tan Ying Han (Natasha), Director of Skills Enhancement

Siti Nazatul Nadia, Deputy Director of Skills Enhancement

UK MOOT COMPETITION

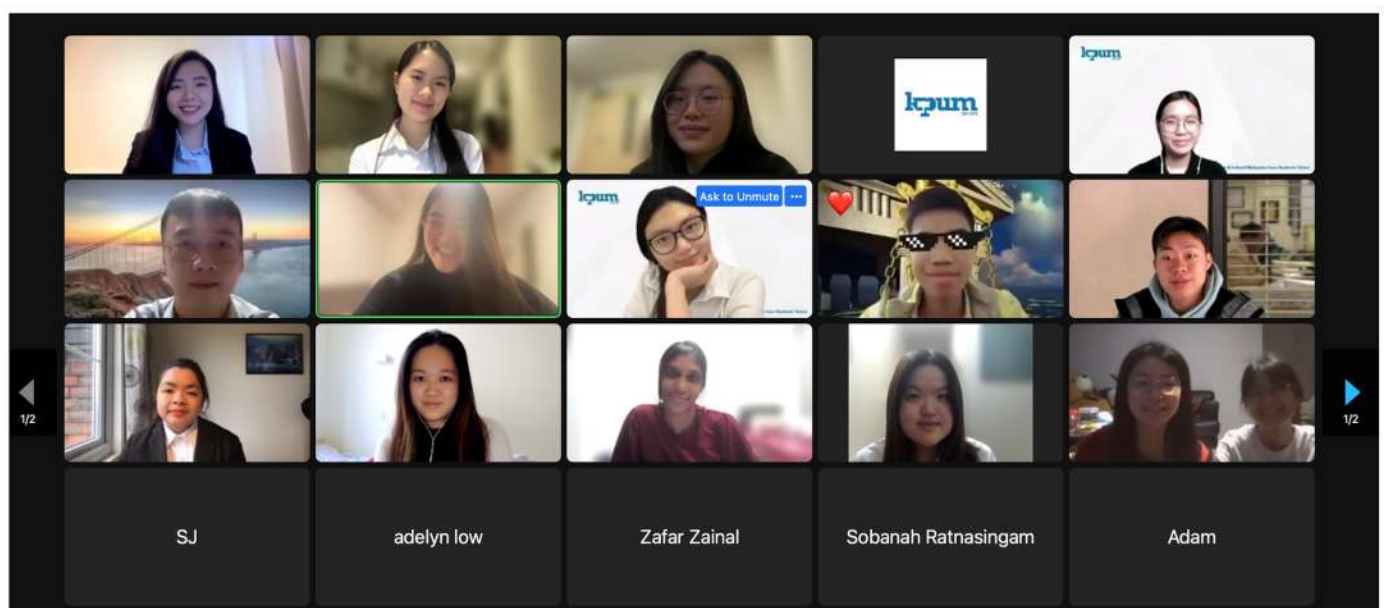
The Union has always believed that moot is a platform where legal issues are raised through hypothetical cases in a courtroom simulation. It allows law students to grasp what being an advocate entails and obtain relevant skills, aligning with the Union and Department's belief that preparing for lawyering skills are crucial to law students. The UK Moot Competition was traditionally held in person in the United Kingdom prior to the Covid-19 Global Pandemic. During the Covid-19 Global Pandemic, the Moot Competition has been successfully held virtually multiple times, receiving enthusiastic responses from our Members with **36 registrations**. In our tenure of 2022/2023, the UK Moot Competition was reinforced in hybrid form, in collaboration with **Shearn Delamore & Co.**

With a total of **thirty-two (32) participants**, the Preliminaries were conducted on the **15th of March 2023** through Zoom and judged by twelve (12) legal associates from the Firm. The Semi-Finals and Finals were conducted on the **24th of March 2023**, with the venue supported by the **City, University of London**. The semi-finals were judged by **Mr. Indran Shanmuganathan** (Partner) and **Datin Anita Balakrishnan** (Partner), while the Final was judged by **Mr. Anand Raj** (Partner), **Mr. Indran Shanmuganathan** and **Professor Peter Hungerford-Welch** (Lecturer at City Law School). The eight (8) semi-finalists were invited to exclusive networking dinners after the competitions and awarded internships with the Firm.



UK MOOT COMPETITION

In conjunction with the Competition, the Department has conducted an Info Session and Workshop on the 26th of February 2023, inviting **Mr. Jimmy Liew** (Partner at Shearn Delamore & Co.), **Emilia Lye** (Experienced Mooter) and **Michelle Wong** (Experienced Mooter). During the Workshop, the **thirty-seven (37) attendees** learned from experienced experts on what moot is, how to go about preparing and competing in a moot, tips for succeeding at mooting, addressing moot court etiquette and more about the Competition.



MY MOOT COMPETITION

The Department proudly presents the MY Moot Competition, in collaboration with **Lee Hishammuddin Allen and Gledhill**. It took place on **24th and 25th June 2023**. This competition is crucial for developing aspiring litigators, and enhancing their legal acumen and soft skills through real courtroom experiences.

With a total of **fifty-three (53) participants**, the Preliminaries and Quater Rounds occurred on **24th June 2023** at Brickfields Asia College, with evaluation by **forty-eight (48) legal associates** from the Firm. The Quater Rounds were judged by **12 Senior Associates**. The Semi-Finals and Finals took place on **25th June 2023**, at the Firm's office. The semi-finals were evaluated by **6 Partners**, while the Final was assessed by a panel including **Mr. Lambert Rasa-Ratnam** (Senior Partner), **Mr. Andrew Chiew Ean Vooi**, and **Mr. Hoi Jack S'ng**. A networking session followed the closing ceremony, inviting all Semi-Finalists and spectators.

Alongside the competition, the Department organised an insightful workshop with the Firm on **15th April 2023**, titled "**The Art of Mooting**." Led by **Mr. Hoi Jack S'ng** (Partner) and **Mr. Andrew Chiew Ean Vooi** (Partner), this workshop had **81 participants** and provided in-depth training in mooting, covering legal research, drafting, and oral advocacy.

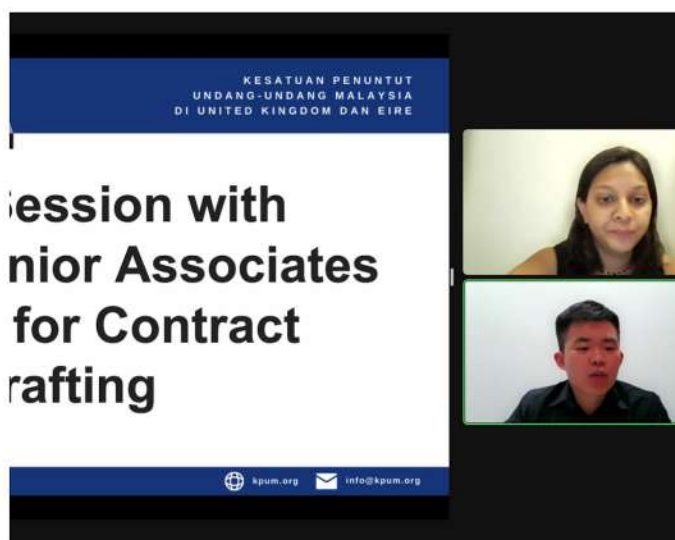


CONTRACT DRAFTING COMPETITION

The Contract Drafting Competition, was introduced in our tenure. of 2022/2023, in collaboration with **Skrine**, offers Malaysian law students a practical platform to enhance their commercial law skills. It focuses on contract drafting and review, providing a real-world experience that goes beyond theory, sharpening participants' legal writing, research, and commercial awareness.

This submissions-based competition accommodates participants from both the United Kingdom & Eire and Malaysia, eliminating time zone constraints and welcoming law students regardless of their study year or prior experience in similar competitions. With **forty-seven (47) submissions** from **sixty (60) registrations**, the Best Teams were awarded cash prizes and an exclusive 'makan' session with the Firm's representatives.

In parallel, an Info Session and Workshop were held on **2nd July 2023**, featuring **Ms. Francine Ariel Paul** and **Mr. Tan Wei Liang**, Senior Associates from the Firm. This session, with **one hundred and ninety-three (193) registrations** and over **70% attendance**, offered beginners insights into contract drafting and competition details.



ARBITRATION CAMP

In our tenure of 2022/2023, the Department embarked on an exciting venture by introducing a new flagship event, the Arbitration Camp. In collaboration with esteemed partners, including the **Asian International Arbitration Center (AIAC)**, **Lim Chee Wee Partnership**, **Zul Rafique & Partners**, and **Thomas Philip Advocates & Solicitors**, we aimed to fill a significant gap in legal education.

Arbitration, often left untaught in classrooms, became the focus of the event. The Arbitration Camp was designed to provide law students with a unique opportunity to delve into the world of arbitration, gaining practical insights that go beyond theoretical knowledge. The Department received **eighty-seven (87) registrations** and **thirty-two (32)** of them were shortlisted for the Camp. The event ended with an arbitration simulation where the moot problem was given earlier for the participants to prepare beforehand, giving the participants hands-on experience in arbitrating and maximum exposure to the area.

To ensure our participants gained the best experience, we incorporated a physical overnight stay **from 11th to 12th of February 2023**. The Arbitration Camp allowed the participants to expand their horizons, connect with industry experts, and develop practical skills that will serve them well in their future legal careers.



LEGAL ACADEMY

With the motto of 'Embracing Technology, Transforming Legal Workshops', Legal Academy is legal knowledge enhancement initiative that established to seek to bring the highest quality of academic learning. In our tenure of 2022/2023, the Department has conducted several sessions under Legal Academy through Zoom, consisting of:-

- 'Calm Before the Storm: Prepping for the Bar and CLP' with Amitaesh Theva (CLP top scorer) and Katherine Nisha (Bar school scholar) on 26th November 2022
- 'Alternative Dispute Resolution: An Introduction to Mediation' in collaboration with Lim Chee Wee Partnership on 2nd April 2023
- 'Finding Your Niche in Law: Exploring Different Practice Areas' in collaboration with Zul Rafique & Partners on 2nd August 202
- Certificate in Legal Practice (CLP) Information session with Brickfields Asia College on 16th April 2023

CERTIFICATE IN LEGAL PRACTICE
INFORMATION SESSION WITH BAC

DATE
16th April 2023

TIME
2:00 - 22:30 MYT / 14:00 - 15:30 UKT

PLATFORM
ZOOM (Link in Bio)

SPEAKER
Ms. Sapna Kaur



Ms. Sapna Kaur
Head of Postgraduate (Law) and
Lecturer - conducting the CLP
Introduction.

SPEAKER PROFILE

Katherine is a full scholar and graduate of the Bar Training Course and LLM from Northumbria University. After successfully obtaining a Distinction on the Bar Course, Katherine will be called to the Bar of England and Wales by the Honourable Society of Middle Temple this month. In completion of her Masters, she undertook practical legal experience with the Student Law Office in addition to writing a dissertation.

Katherine is also a First Class Honours graduate from University of Liverpool under the UK Transfer Program at Brickfields Asia College (BAC). During the undergraduate course, she received the BAC Top Achiever Award 2020 and Vice Chancellor Scholarship to complete her final year at the university. As an active moot competition participant, she represented the University of Liverpool in the Philip C. Jessup International Moot Court Competition as lead counsel in the UK and Global Rounds.

Katherine is also passionate in sharing her student experience on media platforms to assist other students in their legal education journey.



Katherine Nisha de Rozario

SPEAKER 1

Our first speaker, Lynn is a corporate and commercial litigator. She has been active in restructuring and insolvency work, fraud and asset recovery matters and corporate disputes.

In the field of restructuring and insolvency, she has acted in schemes of arrangement and assisted with securing restraining orders. She has acted for the judicial managers of the subsidiaries of a public listed company. She also acts for liquidators.

She was the junior counsel in obtaining Malaysia's first-ever 'persons unknown' injunction in a matter involving a push payment fraud.

She obtained her BA Law from the University of Cambridge and is a Barrister-at-Law (Lincoln's Inn).



Pang Huey Lynn

IN COLLABORATION WITH **ZUL RAFIQUE & PARTNERS**

FINDING YOUR NICHE IN LAW:
EXPLORING DIFFERENT PRACTICE AREAS

DATE
WEDNESDAY 2, AUGUST 2023

TIME
5 PM TO 7 PM MYT
10 AM TO 12 PM UKT

PLATFORM
VIA ZOOM

SIGN UP NOW!
Link in bio!





PANELLISTS:
IDZA HAJAR AHMAD IDZAM, CHIN LIT FWU &

SPEAKER PROFILE

Amitaesh is currently a Pupil-in-Chambers at Lavenia & Balan Chambers. He practices mainly in civil litigation dealing primarily with corporate and commercial disputes. He completed his CLP Examinations in April 2022 and received an award for being the Top Scorer in Professional Practice.

During his time in university, Amitaesh was the President of Taylor's Law Society and the Founder of Taylor's Mooting Society. In 2018, he emerged as winner of Malaysia's Next Advocate. He was named Runner-Up Best Mooter at the 13th LAWASIA Mooting Competition (National Rounds) and represented Taylor's at the International Rounds that year, reaching semi-finals.

In 2020, Amitaesh and his team were the Top Ranked team of the General Rounds of the 15th LAWASIA Mooting Competition (National Rounds).



Amitaesh Theva

SPEAKER 2

Our next speaker, Geraldine is a commercial litigator who is also active in both domestic and international arbitration. She has been involved in litigation and arbitration proceedings in the arena of oil and gas matters representing major Malaysian market players.

Her work also encompasses company and shareholder-related disputes, restructuring and insolvency, shareholder oppression, arbitration-related litigation, Fortuna injunctions, the arrest of an aircraft, contentious winding-up petitions, removal of liquidators as well as general corporate matters such as court sanctioned capital reduction.

Geraldine graduated with an LL.B (Hons) from University College London and holds a Masters in Law from King's College London. She joined Lim Chee Wee Partnership when the firm was established.



Geraldine Goon



HUMAN RIGHTS AND ACTIVISIM (ASASI)

DEPARTMENT REPORT



**Bernard Siow Terng Fong**

Officer

LLB, University College London

**Adrianna Eva Alfred Tais**

Deputy Officer

LLB, University of London (External)

**Joey Chee**

Executive

BA Tripos, University of Cambridge

**Kelly Sam**

Executive

LLB, University of Leeds

**Aina Syahirah Binti Sazali**

Executive

LLB, Oxford Brookes University



Zaynab Ahmed N Elhawat

Executive

LLB, Taylor's University



Chiang Xian Ni

Executive

LLB, Brickfields Asia College



Naomi Khoo

Executive

LLB, London School of Economics and Political Science



Natasya Binti Iskandar Rajan

Executive

LLB, Advance Tertiary College



Kavinash Nair

Executive

FIL, Brickfields Asia College

**Jason Lee Poh Hong**

Executive

LLB, University of London (External)

**How Jia Yi**

Executive

LLB, Brickfields Asia College

**Rebecca Lim Xin Yi**

Executive

LLB, Taylor's University

**Hiew Wen Tian**

Executive

LLB, University of London (External)



Sarvena Reddy A/P Geeva

Executive

LLB, University of London (External)



Herma Pravina

Executive

LLB, Brickfields Asia College



Haemarubini A/P Pushpa Rajah

Executive

LLB, Brickfields Asia College



Jane Lim

Executive

LLB, University of London (External)



Nur Aneesa Binti Mohammad Nizam

Executive

LLB, Cardiff University



Mindy Liew

Executive

LLB, University of Bristol



Lim Zhi Ying

Executive

LLB, Queen's University Belfast



Soraya Binti Amir

Executive

LLM BTC, Nottingham Trent University



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the heart of KPUM's mission to effect positive change stands the Human Rights and Activism (ASASI) Department. The ASASI department champions human rights issues in Malaysia by taking a proactive stance to inform, engage and empower our members and the wider community.

We were able to inform the public about the ASASI initiatives at the Human Rights Festival hosted by the Malaysian Bar Council Human Rights Committee. It was an opportunity for us to spread awareness and engage in meaningful conversations with the experts in this field. Our General Election Campaign has been a pivotal initiative where we educate our members about their voting rights and guidance on how to exercise these rights. As part of the campaign, KPUM was involved in the VoteMalaysia coalition where we have been at the forefront to bring back postal ballots of Malaysians for the 15th General Election. Our Grassroot Boot Camp is a whole-day workshop designed to equip participants with the knowledge and skills to conduct a human rights campaign. Apart from that, MyArticle 10 was designed for members to express their perspectives on human rights issues by submitting their articles.

At ASASI, we believe that every voice matters, and through our efforts, we aim to make those voices heard in a world where we are able to openly express our views and opinions.

Prepared by:-

Bernard Siow Terng Fong, Human Rights and Activism Officer

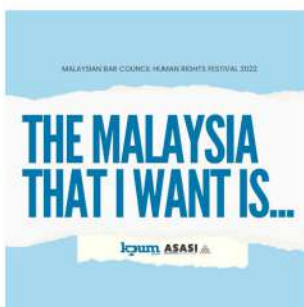
Adrianna Eva Alfred Tais, Deputy Human Rights and Activism Officer

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY 2022

In conjunction with International Human Rights Day, the Malaysian Bar Council Human Rights Committee organised a Human Rights Festival at Lalaport on the **10th December 2022**. As part of our active engagement in human rights advocacy, the Union has set up an exhibition booth at the Festival where we gathered diverse thoughts of Malaysian citizens regarding their ideal vision of Malaysia, titled **"The Malaysia that I want is"**.

The Department also took the opportunity to promote and advocate for human rights and activism, where the Union is actively engaged in campaigns and advocacy for human rights issues within the nation. We are committed to educating our members about their rights and fostering awareness about these crucial matters.

During the event, our committee members had the opportunity to engage in insightful discussions and exchange perspectives on pressing human rights issues with individuals who are deeply involved in the field. These interactions allowed our committee to establish connections and gain valuable insights.



ASASI CAMPAIGN: GENERAL ELECTION

In the historic 15 years of the Malaysia General Election, the inclusion of 18-year-old voters in the latest 15th Malaysian General Election signified a pivotal moment in our democratic journey. Empowering our youth through the right to vote is not merely a legal milestone but a powerful recognition of their role in shaping the nation's future. Recognising the pivotal role of the youth in shaping our nation's future, we have spearheaded comprehensive efforts to advocate and educate our members on the importance of voting.

Through engaging mediums such as infographics and informative videos, the Department has delivered valuable insights into the voting process. We have demystified the complexities of postal voter registration, the steps to make a valid vote, illuminated the significance of each ballot cast and the importance of youth participation in the election.

By providing our members with these information, ASASI seeks to empower them to be informed, engaged, and impactful voters, shaping the Malaysia they envision.



ASASI INTERNSHIP

The ASASI Internship Programme offers legal opportunities in the field of human rights and activism to our members. In our tenure of 2022/2023, the Department noted a preference among partners for internships lasting a minimum of two months. To broaden opportunities for our members, we extended the program to four months, spanning **from June to September 2023**.

This year, we proudly welcomed **seven (7) organizations** to the program: **Malik Imtiaz Sarwar Advocates & Solicitors, Malaysian Centre for Constitutionalism and Human Rights (MCCHR), Anti Death Penalty Asia Network (ADPAN), Centre for Independent Journalism, Family Frontiers, The Center to Combat Corruption and Cronyism (C4 Center), and HaKita.**

To simplify the application process for students, the Department collaborated with the Careers Development Department, aligning the 30 Days of Summer Internship Programme and Beyond the Bar Internship Programme. This marked the first cross-department internship collaboration since its inception. Furthermore, we hosted a Virtual Info Session on 12th February 2023. This session provided a comprehensive overview of the programs, application procedures, helpful tips, and insights from past successful applicants.

Out of the **one hundred and twenty-two (122) applications** received, we were able to provide more than **fifteen (15) internship opportunities** to Malaysian law students.



GRASSROOT ADVOCACY BOOTCAMP

The 'ASASI Grassroots Advocacy Bootcamp' in collaboration with **Yayasan Tunku Abdul Rahman (YTAR)** which unfolded on the **2nd of September 2023**, was an event aimed at nurturing future human rights advocates. With a focus on human rights awareness and advocacy, this boot camp was strategically designed to empower participants who are passionate about igniting positive change but may be uncertain about where to start.

The boot camp was divided into 4 sessions, each with a specific focus and goal. The first session **"Power Structure Analysis: Knowing the 'Key Players' Involved with an Issue"** explores the intricate dynamics of political, social and economic power in Malaysia, uncovering key players and their influence on the nation's development and policies. The second session **"Power & Privilege: What is Diversity?"** delves into the concepts of authority and societal advantages. The third session **"Crafting a Campaign Strategy: The Design Thinking Framework"** was designed to educate participants on how to utilise Design Thinking Framework to craft effective advocacy campaigns. Lastly, the fourth session **"Planning a Campaign: Delving into Details"** covered the essential steps and techniques in devising strategic campaigns for impactful outcomes.



ASASI X MCCHR STRATEGIC LITIGATION TRAINING

The Department is thrilled to continue its collaboration with the **Malaysian Centre for Constitutionalism and Human Rights (MCCHR)** on a strategic litigation training program. This significant initiative took place **from 17th to 20th of August 2023**, focusing on the theme of '**Exploring Freedom of Thought, Conscience, and Religion**'.

The primary goal of this collaborative effort was to delve into the intricate intersection of Malaysian law with the diverse religious practices in Malaysia. Participants engaged in active discussions and legal analysis to explore the balanced approach that respects the different cultures and beliefs of religious communities. The discussion also reflected the potential efforts to foster religious harmony and tolerance within our multicultural society.

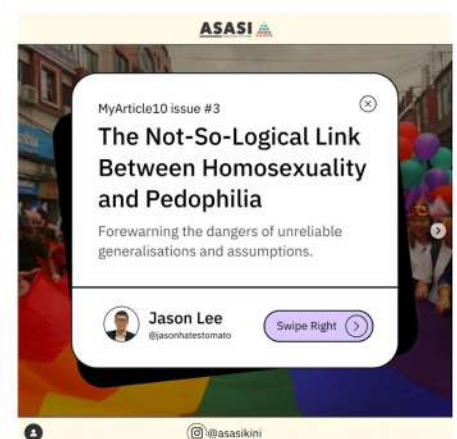
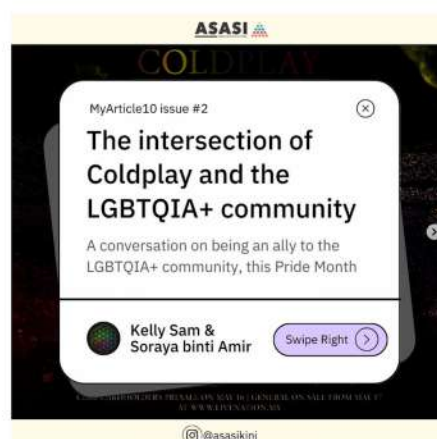
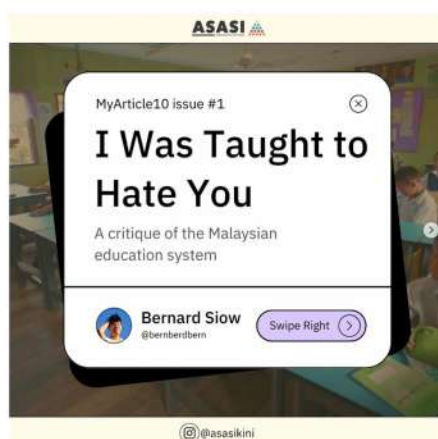
The Strategic Litigation Training provided a unique platform for participants to sharpen their legal acumen and broaden their understanding of constitutional rights, particularly **Article 10 on the Freedom of Speech, Assembly and Association** and **Article 11 of the Constitution on Freedom of Religion**.

MY ARTICLE 10

A newly established initiative by the Department, My Article 10 aims to serve as a platform to boost youth voices through open pieces submitted. The Department aims to diversify community representation and encourage the youth. to speak up on issues that matter to them.

My Article 10 is derived from the **Freedom of Expression** clause enshrined in the Malaysian Federal Constitution. The Department wished to provide a forum to protect this fundamental liberty and strongly believes that the right to freedom of expression has to be complemented by the right to be heard. In our tenure of 2022/2023, the Department has released **three (3)** articles, namely:-

- **'I Was Taught to Hate You: A Critique of the Malaysian Education System'** by Bernard Siow Terng Fong on 25th June 2023 (*for the full article, please refer to Page 82 -86*)
- **'The Intersection of Coldplay and The LGBTQIA+ Community: A Conversation On Being An Ally to The LGBTQIA+ Community, This Pride Month'** by Kelly Sam and Soraya binti Amir on 30th June 2023 (*for the full article, please refer to Page 87 - 93*)
- **'The Not-So-Logical Link Between Homosexuality and Pedophilia: Forewarning The Dangers of Unreliable Generalisations and Assumptions'** by Jason Lee Poh Hong on 14th July 2023 (*for the full article, please refer to Page 94 - 102*)



MY ARTICLE 10

I Was Taught to Hate You: A Critique of the Malaysian Education System

Bernard Siow Terng Fong

If you happen to be a glass-half-full kind of person, the urge to label Malaysia as a multicultural, melting-pot paradise is irresistible. After all, how could it be any other way? Our cuisine, our landmarks, our art, our language - all of it is the beautiful fruit that comes from our multicultural roots.

This is the Malaysia I presented to my friends here in the United Kingdom. As a bustling first-year, every new conversation I had went the same way. We'd exchange names, our degrees, some pleasantries, then:

"Hey, where are you from by the way? Are you from China?"

"No, I'm Malaysian..."

And then I'd proceed to paint that exact picture of Malaysia I adored. Oh, the food! The beautiful beaches! How cheap it was compared to exorbitant, extravagant London!

It wasn't long until a friend pointed out that my descriptions of Malaysian food sounded like descriptions of three different cuisines. My adored *char kuey teow* sounded like Chinese stir-fried noodles, the kind you could get at 3AM in Chinatown. The *roti prata* with *daal* I had every other morning was standard Indian fare; even the *nasi kerabu* I loved was dubbed "Malay" food, not "Malaysian" food.

This happened not once, but multiple times. From the viewpoint of other international students, whether from Asia, the Middle East, or Europe, Malaysia had little unified cultural identity - it seemed to just be a few different cultural groups in the same place with separate cultures, cuisines, even separate languages.

The glass is half-empty. What at first glance seems like the world's example of a melting pot is in reality a fragile peace, with separate communities co-existing in mutual tolerance.

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What follows here is an honest attempt to persuade you that our education system is the root of this division.

Following the Razak Report (1956), our education system is uniquely divided not just on the source of funding (private/public), but on *linguistic* (and to an extent, religious) grounds. The town of Klang is an interesting case study of this. Within a 20-minute drive of each other, any child has the choice of:

1. Tamil-medium, government school i.e., SJK(T)
2. Chinese-medium, government school i.e., SJK(C), SMJK
3. Standard government school, taught mostly in Malay i.e., SK, SMK
4. Private Chinese-medium school i.e., UEC
5. Private English-medium international school i.e., Cambridge IGCSEs, etc.
6. Islamic religious schools i.e., IPA

The specifics are debatable, and there is merit in the argument that every family has the right to an education of their choosing. From a societal standpoint however, the consequences of this are disastrous. Inevitably, language-specific schools attract school-goers of specific ethnic groups. While all schools admit students regardless of racial and language background, this does not in practice stop most schools from being ethnically homogeneous (of one racial group).

This has one staggering result: My entire generation of Malaysians has spent our youth divided.

I've always joked that if you take a Malay, a Chinese and an Indian uncle, put them in an escape room and make them solve it together, we can solve their racism overnight. Unfortunately, most children will never get to test that hypothesis. We rarely form friendships with those different from us, never attempt to make a connection, truly understand their language, their customs, their faith, or their beliefs. Most importantly, we have never made an effort to find *common ground* during childhood, where the veneer of innocence and childlike curiosity gives us common humanity *despite* our differences. Absent the opportunity to mingle, these groups remain separate by ethnic, linguistic and religious lines, reinforced by an

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education system that enforces this division until they get their SPM and leave - at the ripe old age of 17.

We grew up divided. That is the reality of the situation. And this reality was impressed on all of us in our formative years. These children grew up not with a Malaysian mindset, but a Chinese/Malay/Indian mindset - in some cases, we have learned to antagonize the other group, the segregated education system serving as the echo chamber of such false rhetoric. Then, as we left school and entered society as adults with political and economic power, we shaped our nation accordingly.

Which brings us to today. Most of the Malaysian economy today is fundamentally stratified on racial lines - the biggest Malay stake is in large state-owned enterprises, while the Chinese and Indians stay in private businesses within their own bubbles. Outside of the cities, entire new developments have "gentrified" on racial grounds. Just drive from Setia Alam (built in 2004) to Shah Alam (expanded largely in the 1990s) and watch bustling temples suddenly give way to busy mosques.

Overshadowing all of this is the subsequent polarization of Malaysian society. As we grew up divided, we have never managed to form a natural unity between our communities. Instead, our differences strengthen and the common ground that would stop division is never there. The moment we allow a politician to dictate what we think of the other race - as opposed to our friendships and interactions - it is all over. We view the nuanced differences we have on a single dimension of "us" and "them". Every dispute becomes "their" fault, every stereotype becomes increasingly toxic - and by remaining apart, we never see the humanity in each other... the fundamental truth that we are all "us".

No one will seek to change this, as we stay ignorantly comfortable in our own little circles. For a second every day, we cheer meaninglessly that we are united under one banner and one nation; then we go to our separate eateries, eat our separate cuisines, work in our separated businesses, and vote for any politician that will gladly keep us separate for our votes. We increasingly have less in common, and more in opposition.

And why change, when we can keep the "other race" distant? When we can relegate the "other" from our fellow flesh and blood to a simple idea we can shape to our will? When we

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can stay in comfortable little bubbles, ignorant of the reality that the biggest problems can only be solved together?

Let me be clear - I do not mean to ignore the nuance of the problems I've mentioned. As a point of responsibility, I acknowledge that Malaysian education does not actively seek to segregate. Indeed, the linguistic separation of these schools likely arose from good intentions; I can sympathize with the worry that we stand to lose important cultural practices, for example. We should not blame education for all of our problems either, as tempting as it is. Racial segregation is a multifaceted issue, rooted both in a colonial legacy, the New Economic Policy, inherent cultural and religious differences, and the like. I have no intention of oversimplifying the issue to just *pendidikan buruk*.

Yet, I argue nonetheless that a painful reform to desegregate our education system is necessary. Ideally, "technical" subjects (e.g., physics, economics) are taught in English, whereas each student must learn at least two or three languages - this has the dual advantage of preserving some cultural autonomy whilst arming Malaysian students to be technically proficient in the *lingua franca* of the world (a concern the MOE has already noted by teaching technical SPM subjects in both English and Malay).

Important compromises must be made on both sides as well. In return for giving up language-based systems, the "integrated" school must present a place for all Malaysians from all walks of life. It is a valid concern that integration will create a majoritarian environment where ethnic minorities are overshadowed by the Malay majority - active steps must be taken to ensure all voices have equal footing. Should old tensions arise, the classroom is the best place to discuss, tackle, and engage critically the complex issue of race. By not just preaching, but practicing equality, we may learn to be a better society and a better friend to those different from us.

And is that not, in the end, the Malaysian dream? A humble schoolyard that glows flame red on Chinese New Year, vivid magenta on Deepavali, gold and black on Kaamatan, and forest green on Hari Raya? Where there is a place for children to pray together, regardless of faith? Where everyone can grow up, reflecting dearly on a childhood that is not Chinese, or Malay, or Indian, but Malaysian?

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To me, that is not just ideal, but *necessary*. We are getting too comfortable with race rhetoric, increasingly polarized and increasingly hateful. And the more we are driven apart, the more we lose sight of the issues that we have in common.

Poverty drowns us *all*.

Corruption robs us *all*.

A broken Malaysia breaks us *all*.

So, how do we break the cycle, and heal the divisions that plague us? How do we put our differences aside for good?

Start young.

MY ARTICLE 10

The intersection of Coldplay and the LGBTQIA+ community: A Conversation On Being An Ally to The LGBTQIA+ Community, This Pride Month

Soraya Amir, Kelly Sam

A. Summary

Coldplay's upcoming concert this November¹ has created a buzz, not only because it'll be the band's first performance in Malaysia but also because of Coldplay's allyship with the LGBTQIA+ community. The LGBTQIA+ community encompasses people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual as broad as the community itself.

In Malaysia, there are no LGBTQIA+ rights, same-sex sexual activities and gender non-conformity are illegal and criminalised. Due to societal and legal restrictions, discrimination, stigma, hostility and even violence against individuals based on their sexual orientation or gender identity are prevalent.

B. Coldplay & LGBTQIA+ Allyship

Coldplay's Allyship

Coldplay has been famous for its strong advocacy of LGBTQIA+ rights and inclusion, often expressing their support through their lyrics, which resonated with individuals who seek empowerment and self-acceptance as well as providing solace and a sense of belonging.

For instance, "People of the Pride" — the message of the song is that everybody has a right to be themselves, regardless of their race, sexuality, or anywhere in between. Coldplay frontman, Chris Martin, called this track 'a big angry gay metal anthem'.

¹ <https://www.thepinknews.com/2023/05/22/coldplay-malaysia-gig-lgbtq-rights/>

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Lyrics:

"We'll all be free to fall in love,
With who we want and say,
Yeah, yeah, yeah"²

What is an LGBTQIA+ ally?

Over time, society's understanding of various sexual orientations and identifications has grown more inclusive. Being an LGBTQIA+ ally means supporting and fighting for equality for the LGBTQIA+ community. An ally stays informed on LGBTQIA+ issues around the world, fights for policies that protect LGBTQIA+ community from discrimination, and calls out homophobia, transphobia, and queerphobia who do not show kindness to another's life experiences. Such allyship is important as it forms one of the most influential voices to help create a platform to advocate for equal treatment for all individuals regardless of their sexual orientation and identification.

[Please note that the 'A' in LGBTQIA+ does not stand for 'Ally', it is for 'Asexual']

Famous Celebrity LGBTQIA+ Allies³⁴⁵.

Miley Cyrus, Chris Evans, Rihanna, ASAP Rocky, Charli XCX, Eugene Levy, Michelle Visage.

C. Different Views on Coldplay Concert

As many around the world are celebrating Pride Month in June, it has not been the case in Malaysia following the Coldplay Concert incident.

² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q4nFTEsez5c>

³ <https://www.usmagazine.com/entertainment/pictures/celebrity-lgbt-allies-2011216/>

⁴ <https://www.bet.com/photo-gallery/vrm6cp/29-celebs-who-support-the-lgbtq-community/4248mg>

⁵ <https://britishlgbtawards.com/top-10-celebrity-allies-2021/>

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Against:

Nasruddin Hassan, the leader of the Malaysian Islamic Party (PAS), calls for the band to cancel their National Stadium Bukit Jalil concert on Nov 22, 2023. He expressed, by allowing this concert to be hosted, the government will nurture a culture of 'hedonism and perversion' which brings nothing good to religion, race and Malaysia as a country⁶.

The Coldplay concert is not the first incident. Prior to this, Blackpink's concert was called to be cancelled as well. In March this year (2023), Padang Terap Member of Parliament Nurul Amin Hamid was against Blackpink as it was believed the band's values are against Malaysia's Muslim-majority population⁷. In addition to this, PAS also called for a ban on international concerns with a treaty to protest Billie Eilish's concert last year⁸. In October 2018, Malaysia's former Prime Minister, Mahathir Mohammad, further expressed that Malaysia will not follow the Western approach towards LGBTQIA+ rights as they are going against the traditional family and marriage values⁹.

Support:

Current Prime Minister, Anwar Ibrahim shows a different attitude. On 9 May 2023, Anwar tweeted a post showing his support for Coldplay ("Welcome to Kuala Lumpur!")¹⁰.

Member of Parliament, Nga Kor Ming, too emphasised to the local media that hosting concerts in Malaysia will be good for the country's economic growth¹¹.

⁶ <https://www.nme.com/news/music/chris-martin-responds-to-calls-for-coldplay-to-cancel-concert-in-malaysia-a-3446051>

⁷ <https://www.nst.com.my/news/politics/2023/03/886905/pas-mp-wants-govt-control-blackpink-other-foreign-artists-nsttv>

⁸ <https://worldofbuzz.com/fans-queued-as-early-as-5am-for-billie-eilishs-concert-preacher-wants-the-show-cancelled/>

⁹ <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-10-25/malaysia-s-mahathir-says-asia-won-t-follow-west-on-lgbt-rights>

¹⁰ <https://sea.mashable.com/entertainment/23571/anwar-says-welcome-to-kuala-lumpur-as-coldplay-announces-first-malaysian-concert>

¹¹ <https://worldofbuzz.com/nga-kor-ming-defends-coldplay-concert-by-telling-pas-to-not-buy-tickets-if-they-dont-like-the-band/>

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D. Which laws criminalise LGBTQIA+ in Malaysia?

The Syariah Courts (Criminal Jurisdiction) Act 1965 persecutes lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex people (LGBTQIA+) in Malaysia. Under this Act, LGBTQIA+ people are subject to penalties of up to three imprisonment, six lashes, and a fine.

Under the Penal Code 1936, same-sex sexual activity is also prohibited. It provides punishment for individuals convicted of 'gross indecency'. The Code carries a maximum penalty of twenty years imprisonment with whipping. It applies to both men and women.

Also, Section 28 of the Syariah Criminal Offences (Selangor) Enactment 1995 makes it a Shariah offence for 'any person' performing "sexual intercourse against the order of nature with any man, woman, or animal", with punishment being a maximum fine of RM 5,000.00 or a maximum three-year imprisonment, or a maximum whipping of six strokes or any combination.

In fact, Malaysian society's attitudes towards the LGBTQIA+ community are largely developed and shaped by religious beliefs. For instance, Islam, the official state religion of Malaysia, is strictly against LGBTQIA+ attitudes. Accompanied by other religions such as Christianity, many argued it holds a strong homophobic view which is a heavily debated subject. Some feel that the Bible is negative about homosexuality as there are only a few Bible verses directly mentioning homosexuality. *Bible verses that are used in debate include Generis 19:1-11, Leviticus 18:22, Romans 1:16-32, 1 Corinthians 6:9-12, etc)¹². However, Christians principles are not forced. The understanding of Bible verses are often based on our interpretation, assumption, and experiences that society went through. Religions form the greatest factor influencing public policies and as a result, even liberal political parties are reluctant to advocate for LGBTQIA+ rights in Malaysia.

On 19 January 2021, the Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department of Religious Affairs, Ahmad Marzuk Shaary, stated the government needs to strengthen penalties imposed on the LGBTQIA+ community to prevent individuals from exercising or committing

¹² <https://freshstreams.net/wp-content/uploads/Gay-Marriage-why-the-debate.pdf>

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more offences which directly led to many states religious agencies taking action against members of LGBTQIA+ community that violate this law¹³.

E. Freedom of Expression and the LGBTQIA+ Community

For many years, the LGBTQIA+ community has been deemed 'abnormal' and 'sinful'. It has always been a debate on whether freedom of expression should be unrestrainedly exercised by the LGBTQIA+ community in Malaysia. Joseph N. Goh pointed out, as much as he believed the LGBTQIA+ community deserves a free form of expression, nonetheless, there should have some limits imposed on freedom of expression to prevent anarchy and to preserve national cohesiveness¹⁴. Although, with this approach, many question if freedom of expression is still 'freedom of expression' if there are restraints and conditions.

In Malaysia, where Islam becomes the state religion, its prohibition of homosexual acts is categorical. Its teaching of gender relations and sexual norms is foundational and cannot be separated from the belief in Allah and His revelation¹⁵. There is no tolerance in Islam for new liberal culture as in the West. The increasing influence of conservative Islam has largely shaped the politics and culture in Malaysia. Freedom of speech for the LGBTQIA+ community is very much a luxury.

This article is not suggesting which one of these prevails. However, it is important for Malaysians to engage in critical thinking and thoughtful consideration regarding the inclusion of the LGBTQIA+ community in various aspects of our society and granting them a platform for their voices to be heard. Freedom of expression is a fundamental right for all individuals, including the LGBTQIA+ community, and should be an imperative matter to reflect upon. It cannot truly be freedom of expression if it comes with boundaries, challenges, or criticisms. National unity forms regardless of race, age, gender, or religious beliefs, and that is what makes Malaysia special.

¹³ <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/malaysia-human-rights-watch-lgbt-penalties-b1792986.html>

¹⁴ <https://kyotoreview.org/yav/gender-sexuality-songsang-freedom-of-expression-lgbt-malaysians/>

¹⁵ <https://yaqeeninstitute.org/read/paper/islam-and-the-lgbt-question-reframing-the-narrative>

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F. Concluding message

Despite the challenges and risks, the LGBTQIA+ community and the local activists should remain strong and unequivocal:

“If online platforms are the latest battleground for LGBTQ rights, that is exactly where they’ll make their stand.”¹⁶

List of Malaysian LGBTQIA+ organisations¹⁷:

- People Like Us Hang Out (PLUHO)
- Pelangi Campaign
- SEED Foundation
- Queer Lapis
- JEJAKA
- Knowledge and Rights with Young People through Safer Spaces (KRYSS Network)
- Justice for Sisters

In this context, Coldplay’s music, with its messages of love, acceptance and unity, becomes even more important. As Chris Martin said:

“Everybody is welcome to our show. We love all people, all kinds of people, all religions, all leaders, all followers — nobody is excluded. We really want you to come to our show and feel free to be yourself and feel free to let everybody be themselves. Anyone not happy that we’re coming, we’re so sorry but we love you, too.”¹⁸

Rather than catastrophizing and exaggerating concerns about the intersection of Coldplay’s music and LGBTQIA+ activism, which those who are against will not prioritise for their own reasons, it would be more productive for Malaysia to concentrate on tackling more significant issues.

¹⁶ <https://www.technologyreview.com/2022/06/08/1053212/lgbtq-activists-online-in-malaysia/>

¹⁷ <https://www.wikiimpact.com/7-changemakers-helping-the-lgbtq-community-in-malaysia/>

¹⁸ <https://youtu.be/izrun2nVE0U>

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As Hip-hop singer, Ariz Ramli / Caprice, said:

"To those who say that they [Coldplay] are a bad influence, please protest our very own social ills such as bullying, gangsterism, gambling, bigotry and corruption first."¹⁹

Likewise, Arwind Kumar, an activist and one of Malaysia's biggest social media stars expressed:

"There are much more important issues in this country which need to be addressed... paedophile, molester, murderer, kidnapper, people who actually endanger the lives of others. How the hell does a gay person endanger your life?"²⁰

¹⁹ <https://www.nst.com.my/lifestyle/groove/2023/05/910062/showbiz-nothing-wrong-having-coldplay-long-they-dont-fly-rainbow>

²⁰ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/feb/12/malaysian-newspaper-sinar-harian-publishes-how-to-spot-a-gay-lgbt-checklist>

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The Not-So-Logical Link Between Homosexuality and Pedophilia: Forewarning The Dangers of Unreliable Generalisations and Assumptions

Jason Lee Poh Hong

Generalisations are dangerous, they say, for it is closer to what you believe to be true than what is actually proven to be true. Assumptions are dangerous, they say, as one focuses more on justifying what is *their* truth instead of uncovering what is actually *the* truth. Yet, the menace of over-generalisations coupled with false stereotypes and polarising 'gut-feelings' are commonplace in contemporary discourses against acceptance of LGBTQ+ community. This cognitive tendency is distorting and has no boundaries, to the extremity where acceptance of homosexuality in general (or anything different from heteronormativity) is now being seen correlatively as accepting pedophilia. This assumed relevance between homosexuality and pedophilia is fallacious, not fully based on facts and heavily based on prejudicial assumptions. Indeed, fighting misconceptions is no easy task but never impossible. The focus should be internal: you must ponder on whether you are capable of arriving at a personal conclusion with sufficient awareness of the internalised influences and prejudices.

This article does not purport to convince anyone to believe anything. It requires you to challenge your cognitive thinking process of the reader especially when you are exposed to certain information and statements inclining towards and/or against a proposition. I beg you to ask yourself a few argumentative questions (this is non-exhaustive as this is what works for me and I accept that the readers have a different thinking process, but more or less this is what I find most illuminating):

1. Do you agree/disagree simply because it is expedient for you to believe it as true/false? Or is it really objectively true/false?
2. Are you consciously aware of the biases, privileges and prejudices that affect your thinking process? Are you then able to explain and evaluate it?

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3. Even if you rely on the “proof” which supports your position, do you genuinely consider that to be reliable and genuine or was it just a convenient justification for what you already took a stance on? Even if you find it to be genuine, are you really sure that its veracity is objectively able to withstand arguments to the contrary?

Of course, there are no right-or-wrong answers, but it is suggested for you to think inclusively, to think more neutrally, and to think holistically. I concede that one cannot absolutely avoid making generalisations but one can definitely make an active effort to tackle your own biases, at least not to be enslaved unconsciously by it. Generalisations and assumptions defeat our capacity to understand, to accept, and to empathise. If humans as rational beings are predominated disproportionately by what they feel is true, to the extent where they can no longer practise empathy and basic respect for each other as humans, then one begs the question of whether there is practical significance to democracy, liberty, autonomy, justice and equality, especially in a pluralist society where everyone cannot virtually be said to share all of the same characteristics and features. This is uncompromisingly important yet more difficult in reality to reach any possible consensus. The longer we fail to address these fundamental questions as a community will leave our rights and its protection in very precarious conditions. Should we condone majoritarian rule to effortlessly trump basic rights of minorities without repercussions, then we are virtually no different from the kind of social tyranny to which democracy so repulsively condemns. Democracy which oppresses the weak in favour of the strong is not true democracy at all.

There are numerous scientific studies that seem to draw some logical basis to convince the public that paedophiles are mostly homosexuals¹. This portrays the LGBTQ+ community as social threats to the most vulnerable parts of society, children. I would like to emphasise that I do not and cannot not dispute the veracity of the research for I am not qualified nor well-versed in the statistics. Nonetheless I want the reader to contemplate overarching, context-specific questions I have listed below (the list is non-exhaustive, thus the need to have more awareness on the matter):

1. Is it true/false because it is held out as a scientific study alone?

¹ See Baptist Press' Report. *Pedophilia more common among homosexuals*, May 8 2002: <https://www.baptistpress.com/resource-library/news/report-pedophilia-more-common-among-homosexual-s/>

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2. Are you sure that the research is ultimately reliable, based and defensible solely on salient facts and appropriate criterias? Have you equally considered any dissenting research?
3. Are you certain that there were no biases behind the whole motive of the research?
4. Are you believing those studies because it resembles or relates to you and your personal values?
5. Is it easier for you to agree because you refuse or are unable to think of a different conclusion?
6. Do you pick a side because it is widely believed by the public or by those you have connections with to be true/false?

Once considering such questions you will soon realise that it is impossible to think “individually” or “freely” from any external and/or internal influences that colour/darken our cognitive processes. In essence, do you believe something because you genuinely do upon the findings or is it because you feel or are told to believe it? Or is it because it seems true and genuine to you then it ought to be so? If you cannot personally explain on a rational basis as to why you support a particular proposition, then how can you convince others and yourself that you were actually acting with logic and common sense? What is truly problematic here does not really concern rectitude (i.e. is it right or is it wrong?), for this simply misses the point. The real elephant in the room is that the process of reaching that particular conclusion is so overwhelmingly prejudicial it cannot be reliably trusted, no matter how correct the outcome actually turns out to be. In other words, it simply lacks the persuasive and logical basis to be believed. Drawing an analogy from the legal maxim that ‘justice must not only be done but must be seen to be done’, can you really say that your statement regarding a certain issue is truly a fair and objective one to be made? (do note the use of ‘statement’ over ‘opinion’ here. Of course everyone is free to have whatever opinion they wish to have. However, one ought to be more careful in expressing that opinion (now a ‘statement’) to the world at large,, especially with the purpose of influencing and externally incite others to think the same. This balance is not easy to strike, but at the same time, I do caution that freedom itself is no excuse for you to act recklessly and viciously with intent to harm others and to jeopardise other’s right to be equally respected, which all human beings rightfully deserves. One should be particularly aware that whenever you feel entitled and empowered to dictate other’s entitlement and their enjoyment of liberty, you are doing no more than setting a bad example that others can do the

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same back to you. What makes you think that what you have now cannot be taken away from you in the distant future? Protection of liberty is - and must be - for all, and *only* for all; anything less is in reality not true protection.). Consequently, it seems ironic that we treat our individual autonomy and freedom as sacrosanct when we ourselves do not always think as freely as we proclaim ourselves to be. Healthy scepticism and strong self-awareness in this make-believe world is necessary and indispensable, for it opens more intellectual boundaries than it actually closes.

Consider that in this day and age, information is easily disseminated, but unfortunately not everyone is able to distinguish true and false information by following the steps above. There is a Chinese idiom that is very apt for this particular context: the more convincing the facade, the greater the lie it purports to conceal. What apparently seems convincing can be just as false as it can be true. What seems to be right can be as wrong as it can be right. Then, what makes you think that whatever you believe is the absolutely invulnerable truth if you cannot first justify it with concrete logic and reason? Is the ultimate truth pluralistic and human-diverse or only selectively determinable by you or a certain group/specific persons to conclusively decide for the entire society as a whole? Can there really be true justice and righteousness when it only suits most of you but to the exclusion of others who are similarly entitled to anything that society has to offer - from rights, equal opportunity, basic human respect and freedom of expression? How truly right is your sense of 'right' when it is built on the corpse and suffering of those you questionably labelled as 'wrong'?

After discussing the general dangers of generalisations, I also want to talk about how it specifically influences the belief that homosexuality and pedophilia is related. This all stems from a fundamental misunderstanding of the definitional distinctions between them. I shall talk about the respective terminologies briefly. Homosexuality is controversial because it deviates from heteronormativity, that is, men are attracted to men/women are attracted to women. Pedophilia has nothing logically to do with heteronormativity, but is actually about abuse, violence and unacceptable harm inflicted to one vulnerable non-consenting party, which is the children².

² For more discussions about factual and terminological distinctions between homosexuality and pedophilia, see: https://lgbpsychology.org/html/facts_molestation.html

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Discourse regarding this area can be very muddled and assumptions-based, because dissenters are generally those who are accustomed to traditional, conventional - and in this context - heteronormative portraits of a human sexual relationship. When we deal with something we do not understand, we tend to fear or reject it, not because we dislike it, but because we do not know enough to pick a side. Building on that, when we are dealing with something we are unfamiliar with, we tend to relate it with something we are familiar with to grasp the unknown. Examples for the former is that when being asked on whether you support LGBTQ community, many do not even understand the full extent and latitude of the issue to give a solid response or are perhaps unwilling to understand something so 'unordinary' to what they know, hence they rather dismiss than engage. For the latter, people tend to compare homosexual relationships with their heterosexual counterparts: how do they consummate? Are they apt to raise children and to create a healthy family dynamic? Who will be the "man" and who will be the "woman"? Although not in itself faulty, it is not certainly reflective of the real dynamics of a homosexual relationship. Since it is too unconventional - at least in the heteronormative sense - support can be rather minimal or even if so, heavily conditional (eg. I'm okay with it because it doesn't concern me; I don't hate them but I can't say I accept them; It's just a phase, you'll change over time and go back to 'normal'). But most importantly, people fail to realise that homosexual relationships are in one aspect very similar with heterosexual relationships: there are two adults consenting and willing to be in a loving relationship together with each other, and understand the substance of their union. For example, in heterosexual relationships, having children is not necessarily the main objective - at least not always the only purpose of marriage/union - it could be only incidental. What defines a family is not necessarily set in stone, and its definition can vary across different individuals. If family is all about unconditional loving and caring for each other, clearly homosexual relationships are included. I would therefore beg the reader to reconsider and challenge your personal thoughts about what *actually* makes a family "family".

Particularly, you must tread carefully in doing so and ask yourself if you have committed the mistake of 'naturalistic fallacy'. In essence, this fallacy is done when people draw 'ought' propositions from 'is' facts. For example, since women *have* the biological capability to become pregnant, then women *must* get married and give birth. More specifically, women are traditionally *thought to be* domestic (hence private) and nurturing beings, therefore women *must not* work (should not have public social life, or should not be entitled to social participation), they must stay at home and take care of the household, the children, cook dinners

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for the husbands to eat once they return home from work. Just because something *is like this* does not necessarily mean it *ought to be* like this (emphasis added). We now should relate it back to homosexuality: traditionally marriage or sexual relationship *is* between a man and a woman, but *does it necessarily have to be* only this way? Then think: is your opinion based more on logic and reason or based on your bias, values, and feelings? Moreover, just because something is habitually done in a particular way does not necessarily mean it is the only way or the only correct way of doing it. There should be a logical and practical reason behind why it should be habitually done and why it is correct in doing so, otherwise it simply lacks justification or coercion. Let's say the correlation between marriage and procreation. Since people often do have children after marriage, then does it automatically invalidate your union when you and your partner for whatever reasons do not or cannot have any children after marriage? The problem with drawing 'ought' proposition from 'is' facts is simply this: it is virtually impossible to question the truthfulness or accuracy. Let's say murder. We all know that unlawfully taking away another's life is wrong, but why? Is it because some omnipotent God or some divine deity which we cannot point at told us that it is wrong? If so, how can we truly tell if God was correct (and to what extent)? This is important because one cannot assume that your truth represents all truth. Some people simply do not believe in your religion, or do not believe in any religion whatsoever. How convincing are you to reply that "my God said it's wrong so it must be wrong" when posed with the question on a particular societal issue? Furthermore, this is nothing more than mere assumptions. You assumed your answer to be correct and this in no way explains how it is actually true. The same applies if you say that "everyone knows murder is wrong so it must be wrong". You assumed that your answer is correct simply because people do not dispute it or find it controversial. Just because everyone steals does not mean that you can steal from others. There must be a reason behind a proposition, you must be able to try and understand why.

Similarly, returning to scientific studies purporting to establish relevance between homosexuality and pedophilia suggests that majority of convicted pedophiles claim themselves to be homosexual or *similar to the sexual attraction of homosexuals* have between one man with another man. Does this not commit the naturalistic fallacy on the face of it: is it just because the majority of the paedophiles are homosexuals leads to the conclusion that homosexuals are paedophiles? Is this really based primarily on logic and common sense, or because the researcher felt convenient for whatever reason and basis, to relate homosexuality with pedophilia? The reason (if any) for this conclusion is defective too; many of the studies

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talk about respondent paedophiles conceding themselves to be homosexuals or *similar to what they think* homosexuals sexually feel towards people of their same sex³. If the research is based solely on what the paedophiles think or claim by analogy to what they believe is homosexuality itself is sufficient then this is extremely weak in authority⁴. Are you really sure that the paedophiles clearly understand the dynamic of sexual attraction and affection between homosexuals? If the researchers or any persons willing to believe such studies find that such analogy alone is sufficient then this is not fully based on any logic whatsoever. I contend that this is overwhelmingly biased and prejudicial. If we cannot objectively ascertain the basic understanding of the respondents of the questions asked and the criteria used by the researchers to evaluate the responses then there is something deeply unconvincing as to the plausibility of the research itself.

The true distinction, in my opinion, between pedophilia and homosexuality is the true “gravaman” (i.e. the essence) and to fully explore the real distinction, I must first clear out the common confusion by stating the definitions of the two. Homosexuality is already dealt with in the preceding paragraphs, but to be absolutely clear, homosexuality is strongly opposed because it deviates or contravenes the traditional and conventional understandings of what makes a union of two persons and what constitutes a family. Pedophilia on the other hand, is undoubtedly wrong but its essence of culpability is nowhere related conceptually and doctrinally with homosexuality. Instead, pedophilia is wrong not only because a fully grown adult is sexually attracted to a vulnerable minor, but that minor may not - by reason of age and development - fully understand and is incapable of giving fully informed consent to the sexual acts being done upon him/her. To emphasise, the true elephant-in-the-room for pedophilia is where the adult person takes culpable and objectionable advantage of the children’s unequal cognition and consent. A child (depending on age, features, characteristics, upbringing, etc.) may or may not be able to consent fully, to understand the surrounding facts, the sexual innuendos, the consequences and implications as a fully grown and sound adult could. Pedophilia is all about abusing the adult’s vulnerable position and taking detestable advantage of the children sexually, inflicting violence and harm onto the child to which the child is unable to protect himself/herself from the advances of the offending adult. Pedophilia is ultimately

³ See the survey citations mentioned in Baptist Press’ Report, *supra* Note 1.

⁴ See Washington Post for expert’s disagreement that pedophilia is linked with homosexuality:: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/opinions/2002/06/29/pedophilia-and-homosexuality/b385cfb3-8b58-449d-8af9-0cfdcd278978/>

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wrong because of accessibility: the aspect of abuse of power and position between adult and children, the complete absence and inability of equal ability to make fully informed consent. Then how does homosexuality relate to pedophilia? If one really wants to relate one with the other, it is perhaps only that both concerns sexual attraction that deviates from 'normal' or 'normative' standards. But for homosexuality, it relates to same-sex attraction, not particularly the obsession over the adolescent feature of the children stemming from unequal mental and psychological capacity. If you say that the correlation between homosexuality and pedophilia is merely because one is sexually attracted to another albeit in an unconventional manner, then heterosexual are clearly not immune from pedophilic accusations either, for there is nothing preventing male adults from being sexually attracted to female children and vice versa. If you want to say that the correlation is because both are not heteronormative, or deviates from traditional standards, then you are illogically relating two sexually and fully consensual adults to be indistinguishably objectionable from an adult taking advantage of a non-fully consenting child. Apart from generalisations and assumptions in reaching such beliefs, I do not see any possible relevance based on logic or common sense.

This article, I re-emphasise, is not to make the reader believe what I say, but to remind yourself to be argumentative and prevent yourself from falling into fallacious traps of generalisations and assumptions. This article wants you to think, to think like humans we believe ourselves to be. To think wisely, and with wisdom come with immense grace and emotion. A virtuous human is not emotionless. Rather, he/she is uncontrolled or at least not held captive by his own emotions. He/She uses that emotion and vulnerability to transform it into strength, strength that unites more than segregates; empower more than dehumanise. Any sort of division between humans will only take humanity away from us more than it ever gives. Humans claim to be gifted with reason and logic making them unique from any other animal species. Yet this reason and logic too, can be manipulated by humans of their own kind. What for are humans to claim as bestowed with incomparable wisdom compounded with endless fruitful curiosity and argumentative capacity but they themselves cannot practically reason at all, falling victim to their own dangerous beliefs and assumptions?

As a final note, I will conclude that there is no logical relevance between homosexuality and pedophilia, especially where there is overwhelming misunderstandings in defining and hence distinguishing what those two claims actually are. Particularly, I urge the readers to be more careful when making certain statements and propositions after reading this article, for

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you must appreciate the dangers of making generalisations and assumptions, or at least enable them to overpower your rational thinking process. The only way out of the mist is through it. Lack of conscious effort to defog cognitive haze will only leave you exposed to dogmatism which robs you of true freedom of will and free thought which significantly affects your freedom to express yourself for who you truly are.

One personal note from me as the writer is that, we often get too heated and too defensive to give our two-cents on what is or ought to be right and wrong, and unfortunately we always tend to forget that people's lives, liberties, well-being, survivability and basic human dignity is at risk as we engage in these controversial discourses. Is your moral judgements really more important than their basic conditions in life, their fundamental right to be treated like a human just as much as you are? Suppose that you won the argument, you won the majority and settled this once and for all, for the good or the bad, then at what cost have you won? Being part of the society we live in, we owe each other responsibilities to respect each other's freedom and basic respect. To constantly arouse hostility, estranging and alienating one another is only going to add insult to injury. This culture of hate and intolerance will only become some innate war amongst mankind and within our own Malaysian neighbours. Ultimately, it is not about who is right or who is wrong, who is on the right side of morality and history; it is truly about whether we can truly treat one another as equal human beings.

VOTEMALAYSIA

The VoteMalaysia Coalition is a non-partisan global-scale initiative formed by Malaysian student and civic organisations for the 15th Malaysian General Election (GE-15) to facilitate the Postal Voting process, having noted the significant challenges within the postal voting process. Officially formed on 21st September 2021, the Union has been playing an integral role as the Compliance Commission within the Coalition in ensuring transparency by ensuring that the entire postal voting process was in compliance with Malaysian law and was conducted with utmost transparency and accountability, whilst actively assisting in logistics and advocacy matters. Remarkably, the Coalition has brought back **6,932 postal ballots** from the United Kingdom & Eire (*for all official statements, please refer to Page 104 - 119*).

Regrettably, due to the change in circumstances within the Coalition and the Union's commitments engaged post GE-15, the Union **withdrew from the Coalition** on 5th July 2023 (*for the Notice of Withdrawal, please refer to Page 120*).

Nevertheless, the Union continued to strive for the Right to Vote of all Malaysian citizens, whether local or abroad, to easily access different means of voting.



VOTEMALAYSIA



Malaysian Students in the United Kingdom and Ireland express regret over inefficiencies within postal voting system

The Johor State Elections was a historical moment for Malaysia as more than 749,731 new voters were registered via Automatic Voter Registration following the ruling of the Kuching High Court on the 21st of September 2021.

These developments were well received by the overseas Malaysian community as more than 1.7 million Malaysian citizens (students, civil servants and working professionals) are now automatically registered as voters in Malaysia.

However, the initial excitement quickly subsided as overseas voters were presented with unending challenges in exercising their right to vote in the previous Johor State Elections.

For example, although the total number of Malaysian Students, as reported by the United Kingdom and Eire Council of Malaysian Students (UKEC), currently exceeds 15,000, UNDI 18's demand for the Office of the Malaysian High Commission in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to be used as a polling station was not entertained by the Election Commission (EC). As a result, individuals had to post their ballots back to Malaysia individually. This costed them up to 30 pounds (RM 156.54) per individual.

To address this issue, Persatuan Pengundi Muda (UNDI 18) together with Badan Perhubungan Negara UK & Eire (BPN UKE) initiated a campaign to raise awareness and facilitate postal voting in the UK and Ireland in the previous Johor State Elections. We stress that the short timeframe given for postal ballot registrations and campaigning was the main constraint for postal voters. Because of the short timeframe, many overseas voters were not able to register as postal voters.

Besides that, the short campaigning period also meant that the duration allowed for the ballots to be posted from Malaysia to the UK and vice versa was extremely short and increased the risks of ballots not reaching Malaysia in time. In the state elections, the late arrival of postal ballots to voters in the UK meant that there was only 5 days for voters to post their ballots back to Malaysia. Voters had to resort to other means to ensure that their ballots arrived in time.

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Not only that, the courier service chosen by the EC was poorly managed and did not deliver what was promised. 46% of voters registered in BPN UKE's database either received their ballots later than the promised timeframe, or did not receive their ballots at all.

Among those that did not receive their ballots, some even reported that their ballots were sent to the wrong addresses. For example, Sarah, 24, was contacted by a Singaporean resident who later confirmed that her ballot was sent to Singapore. This was drastically off from her registered address in the UK.

We stress that this is not an isolated incident. According to the Malaysian Students Global Alliance (MSGA), another student organisation that facilitated postal voting for the Johor State Elections, a similar situation happened among Malaysian voters in Australia. Carol, 20, an undergraduate at the University of Sydney, reported that she only received her ballot four days after the elections had concluded.

The unsatisfactory postal voting system is in fact not new. In the previous 14th General Elections (GE14), many ballots arrived in the UK only either on the day of elections, or after the elections were concluded. This prompted Bersih and few other NGOs to initiate 'Projek Undi Rabu,' to collect and transport these ballots back to Malaysia themselves.

We do not wish to see a repeat of these incidents in future State Elections and General Elections. Else, we will continue to hear the same stories as we heard in the recent Johor State Elections, whereby out of 200,000 postal voters that were eligible to vote, only 7,814 overseas postal votes were released while the number of postal votes actually received on the polling day is still unknown to the public.

To address this issue, a coalition consisting of several Malaysian student organisations worldwide will be formed. Swift and immediate actions will be taken to ensure that our rights as overseas Malaysians to vote are not sidelined simply because of inefficiencies in the current system. Else, the rights of more than 1.7 Million Malaysian citizens overseas will continue to be stolen from us.

19 September 2022

Vote Malaysia Movement

consist of :

Persatuan Pengundi Muda (UNDI 18)

Malaysian Student Global Alliance (MSGA)

United Kingdom & Eire Council for Malaysian Students (UKEC)

Badan Perhubungan Negara United Kingdom dan Eire (BPN UKE)

Malaysian Democratic Alliance in UK (DEMOKRATIK)

Kesatuan Penuntut Undang-Undang Malaysia di United Kingdom & Eire (KPUM)

Institut Demokrasi & Emansipasi Anak Muda (IDEA Belia)

VOTEMALAYSIA

Source :

2022. [online] Available at :

<<https://www.hmetro.com.my/mutakhir/2022/03/819980/pengundi-muda-teruja-dapat-mengundi>>

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2022. [online] Available at:

<<https://www.benarnews.org/malay/berita/my-undi-luarnegara-211006-10062021152043.html>>

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2022. [online] Available at:

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[Accessed 18 September 2022].

VOTEMALAYSIA



Mahasiswa Malaysia di United Kingdom dan Ireland Kesal Hak Mereka untuk Mengundi Dinafikan oleh Kelemahan Sistem Undi Pos

Pilihanraya Negeri Johor menyaksikan detik bersejarah buat negara apabila lebih 749,731 pengundi baharu telah didaftarkan melalui sistem pendaftaran automatik yang mula berkuat kuasa sejurus selepas keputusan Mahkamah Tinggi Kuching pada 21 September 2021.

Perkembangan ini juga turut menerujakan rakyat Malaysia di luar negara apabila kini lebih 1.7 juta rakyat Malaysia yang menetap di luar negara sebagai mahasiswa mahupun penjawat awam telah didaftarkan secara automatik sebagai pengundi.

Namun begitu, keterujaan ini tidak bertahan lama apabila satu demi satu halangan terpaksa ditanggung oleh pengundi luar negara untuk menjalankan tanggungjawab mereka sebagaimana yang berlaku dalam PRN Johor yang lepas.

Misalnya, meskipun jumlah pengundi dalam kalangan mahasiswa di United Kingdom yang menurut United Kingdom & Eire Council for Malaysian Students (UKEC) kini mencecah lebih 15,000 orang. Namun, tuntutan UNDI 18 bagi menjadikan Pejabat Suruhanjaya Tinggi Malaysia di United Kingdom of Great Britain dan Ireland Utara sebagai pusat mengundi tidak dilayan oleh Suruhanjaya Pilihan Raya (SPR). Akibatnya, undi pos terpaksa diuruskan sendiri pengundi yang akan menelan belanja sehingga 30 pound per individu (RM 156.54).

Oleh sebab itu, dalam PRN Johor yang lepas, Persatuan Pengundi Muda (UNDI 18) bersama-sama Badan Perhubungan Negara UK & Eire (BPN UKE) telah mengambil inisiatif bagi membangkitkan kesedaran dan mempermudah urusan undi pos di UK dan Ireland. Tempoh pendaftaran undi pos dan tempoh berkempen yang pendek ternyata menjadi cabaran terbesar dalam menguruskan undi pos ini. Akibat daripada tempoh pendaftaran undi pos yang singkat, ramai daripada pengundi luar negara tidak berkesempatan mendaftar sebagai pengundi pos.

Selain itu, tempoh berkempen yang pendek bermakna tempoh untuk kertas undi diterima di UK dan dihantar semula ke Malaysia juga adalah sangat singkat sekaligus menyebabkan risiko untuk kertas undi tidak sempat sampai ke Malaysia juga meningkat. Kelewatan ketibaan undi pos di UK dalam tempoh berkempen yang singkat telah menyebabkan rata-rata pengundi di UK terpaksa mencari jalan agar kertas undi mereka dapat tiba ke Malaysia dalam tempoh hanya 5 hari daripada hari Pilihanraya.

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Tidak cukup dengan itu, sistem pengurusan kurier yang lemah oleh syarikat kurier yang dipilih oleh SPR juga telah mendatangkan pelbagai masalah. Ia dapat dilihat apabila lebih 46% pengundi berdaftar di dalam sistem BPN UKE telah samada menerima kertas undi lebih lewat daripada tempoh yang dianggarkan atau tidak langsung menerima kertas undi tersebut.

Bagi yang tidak langsung menerima kertas undi tersebut, ada daripada mereka yang mendapati kertas undi mereka telah dihantar ke alamat yang salah. Misalnya, menurut Sarah, 24 beliau telah dimaklumkan sendiri oleh seorang penduduk di Singapura bahawa kertas undi beliau kini berada di Singapura, jauh tersimpang daripada alamat sebenar kediaman beliau di London, UK.

Mengejutkan lagi, situasi ini bukanlah perkara yang terlalu aneh, Malaysian Students' Global Alliance, (MSGA) sebuah lagi organisasi yang turut sama menjalankan tugas advokasi bagi PRN Johor juga melaporkan situasi yang sama telah berlaku kepada pengundi di Australia. Carol, 20, mahasiswa University of Sydney, melaporkan bahawa kertas undi beliau hanya diterima 4 hari selepas tamat Pilihan Raya.

Kelemahan sistem Undi Pos ini bukanlah perkara baru, dalam PRU 14 yang lalu juga, kebanyakan kertas undi pos dimaklumkan akan tiba di UK pada hari pilihan raya itu sendiri atau selepas tarikh pilihan raya. Sekaligus menyebabkan Bersih bersama-sama beberapa NGO lain melancarkan Projek Undi Rabu bagi membantu memastikan kertas-kertas undi tersebut sempat sampai ke tanah air.

Kita tidak ingin melihat situasi yang sama seperti siri-siri Pilihan Raya Negeri yang lain atau Pilihan Raya Umum yang lepas berulang kembali. Jika tidak kita akan terus bergelumbang dengan masalah ini sebagaimana yang berlaku sewaktu PRN Johor yang lepas, daripada 200,000 jumlah pengundi pos yang telah layak untuk mengundi, tetapi hanya 7,814 undi pos luar negara yang dikeluarkan manakala jumlah undi pos yang diterima ketika hari pilihan raya masih menjadi tanda tanya.

Oleh hal yang demikian, sebuah jaringan gerakan mahasiswa oleh organisasi-organisasi mahasiswa Malaysia di seluruh dunia bakal dibentuk bagi mencari penyelesaian mengatasi kemelut ini. Inisiatif segera perlu diusahakan bagi memastikan hak rakyat Malaysia di luar negara untuk menjalankan tanggungjawab ini tidak dieksploitasi oleh kesulitan dan kelemahan sistem pada ketika ini. Jika tidak hak lebih 1.7 Juta rakyat Malaysia ini akan terus dirompak.

19 September 2022

Gerakan Undi Malaysia

VOTEMALAYSIA

terdiri daripada :

Persatuan Pengundi Muda (UNDI 18)

Malaysian Students' Global Alliance (MSGA)

United Kingdom & Eire Council for Malaysian Students (UKEC)

Badan Perhubungan Negara United Kingdom dan Eire (BPN UKE)

Malaysian Democratic Alliance in UK and Eire (DEMOKRATIK)

Kesatuan Penuntut Undang-Undang Malaysia di United Kingdom & Eire (KPUM)

Institut Demokrasi & Emansipasi Anak Muda (IDEA Belia)

Sumber :

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<<https://www.bharian.com.my/berita/nasional/2022/03/930081/spr-keluarkan-36729-kertas-undi-pos-pm-johor>> [Accessed 18 September 2022].

VOTEMALAYSIA



VoteMalaysia Coalition Formed to Demand for Better Postal Voting Services

The VoteMalaysia Coalition is a non-partisan initiative formed by Malaysian student movements across different parts of the world. Having noted major shortcomings in the postal voting process, this coalition was formed to facilitate postal voting on a global scale for the 15th General Election and bring forward the grievances of Malaysian postal voters to the Election Commission (EC).

Based on the experiences and feedback cumulated over the Johor state election held in 2022, as well as the previous General Election, the VoteMalaysia Coalition hereby present three key demands to the EC:

1. Longer Registration and 21-day Campaign Period.

In the previous state elections, only 10 days were given for overseas voters to register themselves. Postal voters found this period too short and a non-existent awareness campaign on postal voting led to minimal registrations. A 14-day campaign period is insufficient time for the postal ballots to be received at various parts across the world and have it returned to Malaysia. The VoteMalaysia Coalition demands that the registration period for postal voters be extended and exercise a minimum 21-day campaign period to allow postal votes to be casted in time.

2. Malaysian Embassies and High Commissions overseas must play an active role.

Malaysian Embassies and High Commissions must smoothen the process for all Malaysians to practice their constitutional right to vote. The EC must provide appropriate logistical arrangements to ship votes to Malaysia and create a system to update voters on the delivery status. It is crucial to create transparency in the process of voting to increase public trust in the system. Embassies, Malaysian Agencies and High Commissions should act as a polling station and be a centre point from which ballots will be received and delivered.

3. Take active steps to simplify the postal voting process.

The EC has demonstrated a limited capacity in processing and managing postal votes. As such we propose that active steps be taken to simplify the postal voting process. This includes, but is not limited to, studying the option of voting online, allowing postal voters to download and print out paper postal ballots as well as sanctioning reliable courier services to ensure votes are delivered promptly.

It is a fact that the application as a postal vote has several categories that qualifies a voter to apply as a postal voter. There is a lot of confusion that arises when many people think that

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Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) is implemented but it does not guarantee that they will automatically become a postal voter. Instead, they need to register a MySPR account so that they can apply for registration as a postal voter through their MySPR account. However, the EC has still not opened applications for postal voters in the MySPR platform until now. In connection with that, we would also like to call on Malaysians who are abroad to immediately open a MySPR account to avoid online traffic congestion when registering at the last minute. We would also like to urge the EC to immediately provide access to postal voter registration in the MySPR platform so that there are no technical problems like what happened during the registration of postal votes in conjunction with the Johor PRN.

These demands are not new. It is part of an ongoing movement to make voting accessible and transparent. There seems to be a lack of political will from the ruling coalition and the EC in reforming postal voting. The VoteMalaysia coalition will take up the effort to make postal voting accessible and convenient for all by:

- 1. Working with Malaysian student representative organisations worldwide to advance a postal voting drive.**
- 2. Organising awareness building and voter education workshops worldwide.**
- 3. Set up a donation drive to facilitate postal voting to alleviate the logistical cost to send the vote back to Malaysia on a voluntary basis.**

We urge all Malaysians overseas to join our Telegram group at <https://t.me/votemalaysia> to receive the latest updates on our initiative. Volunteers who are interested in supporting this initiative, donors who would like to contribute financially, as well as interested collaborators are welcomed to reach out to us at contact@undi18.org or diffan@undi18.org.

The lack of awareness for postal voting has been a dangerous trend. For context, 7,979 people applied to become overseas postal voters in GE14 out of at least one million Malaysians overseas – approximately 0.8%. With the implementation of Undi18 and Automatic Voters Registration (AVR), the electoral roll in Malaysia grew to 21.1 million voters, up from 14.9 million in GE14. If voting turnout does not grow especially among new voters, we will witness unprecedented low records as witnessed in the Johor election, where the turnout rate was only 55 per cent. As a youth-centric coalition, this is a great cause for concern and demands serious ratifications to be made.

We call upon the EC to recognise the gravity of this issue and heed our calls for reforms to be carried out on postal voting processes. The voices of Malaysians, however far from home, cannot be neglected in our democracy.

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Coalition members:

1. Persatuan Pengundi Muda (UNDI 18)
2. Malaysian Students' Global Alliance (MSGa)
3. Malaysian Students' Council of Australia (MASCA)
4. United Kingdom and Eire Council for Malaysian Students (UKEC)
5. National Assembly of Malaysian Students in America (NAMSA)
6. Majlis Perundingan Mahasiswa Malaysia Mesir (MP3M)
7. Malaysian Student Association in Türkiye (MASAT)
8. Malaysian Students' Association in Japan (MSAJ)
9. Persatuan Mahasiswa Malaysia Maghribi (PMMM)
10. Kesatuan Penuntut Undang-Undang di United Kingdom dan Ireland (KPUM)
11. Badan Perhubungan United Kingdom (BPN UK)
12. Badan Perhubungan Ireland (BPI)
13. Malaysian Democratic Alliance UK (DEMOKRATIK)
14. Institut Demokrasi & Emansipasi Anak Muda (IDEA Belia)

Endorsed by:

1. Malaysian German Students' Society (MGSS)
2. Malaysian and Singaporean Society (MASSOC) Sheffield
3. Malay Language and Culture Society (MALECS)
4. Durham University Malaysian Society (DUMAS)
5. Liverpool Malaysian Society (LMS)
6. University College London Malaysian Society (UCL MSoc)
7. Southampton Malaysian Student Association (Southampton MSA)
8. Heriot-Watt Malaysian Society (HMS)
9. Malaysian Student Society of University of South Wales (MSSUSW)
10. Malaysians Students' Society of Manchester (MSSM)
11. Sheffield Malaysian Students Association (SMSA)
12. Malaysian and Singaporean Students' Association (MSSA) Bristol
13. UWE Malaysian Students Association (UWE MSA)
14. Malaysian Cultural Society Bristol (MCS)
15. Kent Malaysian Society (KMS)
16. Birmingham City University Malaysian Student Association (BCUMSA)
17. Keele Malaysian Society (KMaS)
18. Warwick Malaysian Students' Association (WMSA)
19. Malaysian Students' Society of Northern Ireland (MSSNI)
20. Malaysian Students' Society Cardiff (MSSCF)
21. Malaysian Association of Swansea University (MASU)
22. Leeds Malaysian and Singaporean Society (LUMASSOC)
23. Imperial College Union Malaysian Society (ICUMS)
24. Oxford University Malaysia Club (OUMC)
25. Cambridge University Malaysian Society (CUMAS)

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26. Malaysian Society of Essex
27. Aberystwyth Malaysian Society
28. London School of Economics Student Union Malaysia Club (LSESUMC)
29. University of Exeter Malaysian Society
30. Leicester University Malaysian Society
31. Queen Mary Malaysian Society
32. Nottingham Malaysian Society
33. Newcastle Malaysian Society
34. Teeside Malaysian Students' Association (Teeside MSA)
35. Malaysian Surrey Society
36. Komuniti Malaysia Glasgow
37. UK Malaysian Association of Postgraduates and Professionals (MAPP)
38. The Malaysian Accounting and Finance Society (MACFIS)
39. Financial Literacy for Youths (FLY)
40. First Steps for Wildlife (FSW)
41. Higher Education Malaysia Association (HEYA)
42. Perdana Fellows Alumni Association (PFAA)
43. Universiti Malaya Students' Union (UMSU)
44. International Islamic University Malaysia Student Union (IIUMSU)
45. Mahasiswa Progresif Universiti Malaya
46. Angkatan Mahasiswa Universiti Malaya
47. Congress IIUM
48. Mahasiswa Keadilan Malaysia
49. Mahasiswa Roket
50. Mahasiswa United
51. Badan Perhubungan Wales (BP Wales)
52. Badan Perhubungan South West (BP South West)
53. Badan Perhubungan North West (BP North West)
54. Badan Perhubungan London (BP London)
55. Badan Perhubungan East Midlands (BP East Midlands)
56. Badan Perhubungan Yorkshire (BP Yorkshire)
57. Badan Perhubungan West Midlands (BP West Midlands)
58. Badan Perhubungan Scotland (BP Scotland)
59. Democratic Action Party UK (DAP UK)
60. Parliwomen
61. YPolitics
62. Ajar Demokrasi
63. Benar Betul
64. State of Banana
65. Yield.my
66. Malaysian Watchdog
67. KL & Selangor Chinese Hall (KLSCAH) Civil Rights Committee
68. Bersih Malaysia

VOTEMALAYSIA



Penubuhan Gerakan VoteMalaysia Untuk Menangani Kelemahan Pengundian Pos

Gerakan VoteMalaysia ialah inisiatif bukan partisan yang terdiri daripada gerakan pelajar Malaysia di seluruh dunia. Setelah menyedari kelemahan besar dalam proses pengundian pos terutamanya semasa Pilihan Raya Negeri Johor yang lepas, gabungan ini telah ditubuhkan untuk memudahkan pengundian pos pada skala global untuk Pilihan Raya Umum akan datang dan membawa rungutan pengundi pos Malaysia kepada Suruhanjaya Pilihan Raya (SPR).

Berdasarkan pengalaman dan maklum balas yang dikumpul sepanjang Pilihan Raya Negeri Johor yang diadakan pada awal tahun 2022, serta Pilihan Raya Umum sebelumnya, Gabungan VoteMalaysia dengan ini mengemukakan tiga tuntutan utama kepada SPR:

1. Tempoh pendaftaran dan kempen yang lebih panjang (tempoh untuk menghantar balik undi pos menjelang Hari Mengundi)

Pada pilihan raya negeri yang lalu, hanya 10 hari diberikan untuk pengundi luar negara mendaftarkan diri. Pengundi pos mendapati tempoh ini terlalu singkat dan kempen kesedaran mengenai pengundian pos yang lemah telah menyebabkan pendaftaran yang sangat mengecewakan. Tempoh kempen selama 14 hari adalah tidak mencukupi untuk menerima surat undi pos di pelbagai tempat di seluruh dunia dan sempat mengembalikannya ke Malaysia. Gabungan VoteMalaysia menuntut supaya tempoh pendaftaran pengundi pos dilanjutkan dan melaksanakan tempoh kempen minimum 21 hari bagi membolehkan undi pos dibuat tepat pada masanya.

2. Kedutaan Malaysia dan Suruhanjaya Tinggi di luar negara mesti memainkan peranan yang aktif.

Kedutaan Malaysia dan Suruhanjaya Tinggi mesti memudahkan proses pengundian supaya semua rakyat Malaysia boleh melaksanakan hak perlembagaan mereka untuk mengundi. SPR mesti menyediakan pengaturan logistik yang sesuai untuk menghantar kertas undi ke Malaysia dan mewujudkan sistem untuk mengemas kini pengundi mengenai status penghantaran. Kami ingin menegaskan kepentingan mewujudkan ketelusan dalam proses pengundian untuk meningkatkan kepercayaan orang ramai terhadap sistem. Kedutaan, Agensi Malaysia dan Suruhanjaya Tinggi harus berfungsi sebagai pusat mengundi dan menjadi titik pusat dari mana undi akan diterima dan dihantar.

3. Mengambil langkah aktif untuk memudahkan proses pengundian pos.

SPR telah menunjukkan kapasiti terhad dalam pengendalian pemprosesan dan pengurusan undi pos. Oleh itu, kami mencadangkan agar langkah aktif diambil untuk memudahkan proses pengundian pos. Ini termasuk, tetapi tidak terhad kepada, mengkaji pilihan mengundi dalam talian, membenarkan pengundi pos memuat turun dan mencetak kertas undi pos serta membenarkan perkhidmatan kurier yang boleh dipercayai untuk memastikan undian dihantar dengan segera.

Umum mengetahui bahawa permohonan sebagai undi pos terdapat beberapa kategori yang melayakkan seseorang pengundi boleh membuat permohonan sebagai pengundi pos. Terdapat

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banyak kekeliruan yang timbul apabila ramai yang bersangka apabila Pendaftaran Pengundi Automatik (AVR) dilaksanakan ia sama sekali tidak menjamin mereka menjadi pengundi pos secara automatik juga. Sebaliknya, mereka perlu membuat pendaftaran akaun MySPR secara atas talian dan setelah pendaftaran akaun barulah mereka boleh memohon pendaftaran sebagai pengundi pos menerusi akaun MySPR mereka. Namun, pihak SPR masih tidak membuka permohonan pengundi pos dalam MySPR sehingga kini. Sehubungan dengan itu, kami juga ingin menyeru rakyat Malaysia yang berada di luar negara untuk segera membuka akaun MySPR segera bagi mengelakkan kesesakan trafik atas talian apabila mendaftar saat-saat akhir. Kami juga ingin mendesak pihak SPR supaya segera memberikan akses pendaftaran undi pos dalam platform MySPR supaya tidak berlaku masalah teknikal seperti yang berlaku dalam pendaftaran undi pos sempena PRN Johor.

Kami ingin menegaskan bahawa ini bukan tuntutan baharu dan telah dikemukakan oleh ramai pihak sebelum ini. Adalah jelas bahawa pembaharuan proses pilihan raya undi pos bukanlah untuk kepentingan SPR dan oleh itu, Gerakan VoteMalaysia akan mengambil perkara yang tidak sepatutnya diserahkan kepada rakyat ke tangan kita sendiri dengan melaksanakan perkara berikut:

- 1. Bekerjasama dengan organisasi perwakilan pelajar Malaysia di seluruh dunia untuk melancarkan usaha mengundi secara pos.**
- 2. Mengadakan bengkel kesedaran dan pendidikan pengundi di negara yang berbeza**
- 3. Sediakan pemacu derma untuk memudahkan pengundian pos bagi menampung kos logistik yang besar untuk menghantar kertas undi kembali ke Malaysia secara sukarela.**

Kami menggesa semua rakyat Malaysia di luar negara untuk menyertai saluran Telegram kami di <https://t.me/votemalaysia> untuk menerima maklumat terkini mengenai inisiatif kami. Sukarelawan yang berminat untuk menyokong inisiatif ini, penderma yang ingin menyumbang daripada segi kewangan, serta rakan usaha sama yang berminat dialu-alukan untuk menghubungi kami melalui contact@undi18.org atau diffan@undi18.org.

Kurangnya kesedaran tentang pengundian pos telah menjadi trend yang berbahaya. Untuk konteks, 7,979 orang memohon untuk menjadi pengundi pos luar negara pada PRU14 daripada sekurang-kurangnya satu juta rakyat Malaysia di luar negara – kira-kira 0.8%. Dengan pelaksanaan Undi18 dan Pendaftaran Pengundi Automatik (AVR), daftar pemilih di Malaysia meningkat kepada 21.1 juta pengundi, meningkat daripada 14.9 juta pada PRU14. Sekiranya peratusan keluar mengundi tidak meningkat terutamanya dalam kalangan pengundi baharu, kita akan menyaksikan rekod rendah yang tidak pernah berlaku sebelum ini seperti yang disaksikan dalam pilihan raya Johor, di mana peratusan keluar mengundi hanya 55 peratus. Sebagai sebuah gerakan yang mengutamakan belia, ini adalah punca yang perlu dibimbangkan dan menuntut ratifikasi yang serius dibuat.

Kami menyeru SPR untuk mengiktiraf keseriusan isu ini dan menyahut seruan kami agar reformasi dilakukan ke atas proses pengundian pos. Suara rakyat Malaysia, walau bagaimanapun jauh dari tanah air, tidak boleh diabaikan dalam demokrasi kita.

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Rakan Gabungan:

1. Persatuan Pengundi Muda (UNDI 18)
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14. Institut Demokrasi & Emansipasi Anak Muda (IDEA Belia)

Disokong oleh:

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42. Perdana Fellows Alumni Association (PFAA)
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62. Ajar Demokrasi
63. Benar Betul
64. State of Banana
65. Yield.my
66. Malaysian Watchdog
67. KL & Selangor Chinese Hall (KLSCAH) Civil Rights Committee
68. Bersih Malaysia

VOTEMALAYSIA



VoteMalaysia Demands An Expedited Postal Ballots Dispensing Process

Following the announcement during the Live Session "Pengeluaran Kertas Undi Pos"¹, all Postal Ballots should be dispensed from the EC to Postal Voters on 07th November 2022², and Postal Voters overseas will be prioritised³. However, it has come to the VoteMalaysia Coalition's attention that many Postal Voters have yet to receive their Postal Ballots.

Based on the feedback and complaints received from the Postal Voters within the Coalition's existing Postal Voters Network, many of them have not received their Postal Ballots from the Election Commission (EC) until now, i.e. the 7-day after the Postal Ballots were dispensed by the EC.

JomUndi GE-15, VoteMalaysia's arm in Taiwan, reported that it had been informed that Postal Voters had contacted DHL Taiwan, but was told that Postal Ballots had not been dispatched from the EC to DHL Malaysia. According to a survey done by JomUndi Ge-15, there is 96.70% out of 339 Postal Voters have yet to receive their Postal Ballot until 12th November 2022⁴. Furthermore, News outlet Sin Chew Daily also reported that a voter in Saudi Arabia has successfully tracked the delivery of his ballot on FedEx and found out that it will be delivered on the 19th November 2022, Election Day itself⁵.

VoteMalaysia is extremely disappointed with this development as we have urged the EC to address the issue of late delivery of ballots even before the dissolution of Parliament. At the time of writing, there is less than a week for postal voters to deliver back their ballots. As such, we demand the EC expedites the **Postal Ballots Dispensing Process by ensuring all mailing companies including DHL Express dispatch the Postal Ballots on time**. Therefore, it can provide sufficient time for the Postal Voters to send back the Postal Ballots to the respective Returning Officers before 17:00 MYT on Election Day.

The VoteMalaysia Coalition is a non-partisan initiative formed by Malaysian student organisations and civic organisations across different parts of the world after having noted significant shortcomings in the Postal Voting Process. This Coalition was formed to facilitate Postal Voting on a global scale for the 15th Malaysian General Election and bring forward the grievances of Malaysian Postal Voters to the EC.

VoteMalaysia Coalition
13th November 2022

¹ Live Session "Pengeluaran Kertas Undi Pos" <<https://fb.watch/gLD1aEcDsz/>>

² Live Session "Pengeluaran Kertas Undi Pos" <<https://fb.watch/gLD1aEcDsz/>> 4:38

³ Live Session "Pengeluaran Kertas Undi Pos" <<https://fb.watch/gLD1aEcDsz/>> 6:03

⁴ [Survey on The 15th Malaysian General Election Postal Ballots Dispensing Process in Taiwan](#)

⁵ [News of Sin Chew Daily Regarding Postal Ballot will only be arrived on 19th November 2022](#)

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VoteMalaysia has collected 6,932 Ballots in the United Kingdom and Ireland

On 21st September 2022, VoteMalaysia held its first Press Conference in Kuala Lumpur to announce the formation of the Coalition and present our demands to the Malaysia Election Commission.

Over the past three months, VoteMalaysia has shouldered the daunting responsibility of ensuring that all Malaysians in the United Kingdom and Ireland are fully aware of their democratic right to vote and are able to cast their ballots in an accessible manner.

The coalition has opened booths to help individuals register as postal voters, conducted postal voting workshops and as of the last 48 hours, we have opened 58 Ballots Collection Points in 51 cities across the United Kingdom and Ireland.

With great humility, we are proud to announce that we managed to collect **6,932** ballots as of 01:00 UKT, 16th November 2022. All the Ballots Collection Points across the United Kingdom and Ireland are now closed.

Two representatives from the VoteMalaysia, Akif Jamal of UKEC and Jonathan Lee of MSGA will be flying the votes back on a flight scheduled to depart London Heathrow Airport at 10:25 UKT on the same day. Upon arrival in Malaysia, the votes will be handed over to UNDI 18, KPUM and the volunteers for it to be sorted at KLSCAH and distributed to all parliamentary and state seats.

VoteMalaysia was built on three fundamental ideals: cost saving, transparent and accessible voting. We have delivered on our promise to bring home our votes. In order to ensure that our procedures are transparent, clean and in compliance with Malaysian election regulations, we have presented several compliance measures throughout the process. The initiative was built by students, driven by students and delivered by students for Malaysia and its *rakyat*.

We would like to extend our greatest gratitude to all Malaysian Student Societies in the United Kingdom and Ireland. We would also like to thank the Malaysian student community and the Malaysian diaspora here for exercising their right to vote, ensuring that Malaysian voices are heard regardless of where we are.

To fellow Malaysians at home and on every corner of the globe, selamat mengundi.

VoteMalaysia Coalition in the United Kingdom and Ireland
17th November 2022

VOTEMALAYSIA



NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL FROM VOTEMALAYSIA COALITION

The VoteMalaysia Coalition ('the Coalition') is a non-partisan global-scale initiative formed by Malaysian student and civic organisations for the 15th Malaysian General Election ('GE-15') to facilitate the Postal Voting process. Officially formed on 21st September 2022¹, the United Kingdom and Eire Malaysian Law Students' Union ('the Union') has been playing a substantial role as the Compliance Commission within the Coalition, whilst actively assisting in logistics and advocacy matters.

With regret, please take notice that **the United Kingdom and Eire Malaysian Law Students' Union hereby withdraw as a Coalition Member from the VoteMalaysia Coalition, with immediate effect.**

The decision is made due to the change in circumstances within the Coalition and the Union's commitments engaged post GE-15. As the Union maintains its non-partisan stance, the Union respectfully urges the Coalition to also maintain its alleged non-partisan status when working collectively, particularly in relation to the involvement of organisations affiliated with prominent political parties that have collectively formed the current Malaysian Unity Government² within the Coalition. The Union wishes to highlight that it places great emphasis on inclusivity and equal representation in relation to the Right to Vote for Malaysian Citizens and remains committed to ensuring a non-discriminatory and equal approach to all postal voters in conducting the logistics of the Coalition's initiatives.

Upon this withdrawal, the Union is no longer officially part of the Coalition and will thus not work on Postal Voting Initiatives in a coalition capacity. Therefore, all inquiries regarding the Coalition's initiatives, particularly for the upcoming State Elections³, should be directed to the Coalition itself⁴. Notwithstanding the Union's withdrawal from the Coalition, the Union will continue its effort on Postal Voting Initiatives independently, primarily through advocacy work⁵. The Union remains committed to uphold the Right to Vote for Malaysian citizens, whether local or abroad, to easily access different means of voting, and will continue to strive for this cause.

Dated: 05th July 2023

In Service of the Union,

Chew Mingyih
President of KPUM 2022/2023

Kesatuan Penuntut Undang-Undang Malaysia di United Kingdom dan Eire
United Kingdom and Eire Malaysian Law Students' Union

UNITING LAW STUDENTS | EMPOWERING FUTURE LAWYERS | UPHOLDING THE RULE OF LAW

¹ VoteMalaysia Coalition Formed to Demand for Better Postal Voting Services.pdf

² Badan Perhubungan Negara UK & Eire is an affiliated member of United Malays National Organisation; Democratic Action Party in the UK and Ireland is an affiliated member of Democratic Action Party; Malaysian Democratic Alliance UK & Eire Malaysian is an affiliated member of United Democratic Alliance

³ State Elections for Kedah, Kelantan, Negeri Sembilan, Penang, Selangor, Terengganu in 2023.

⁴ Email (VoteMalaysia UK/EI); Instagram (VoteMalaysia UK/EI); Telegram Community (VoteMalaysia UK/EI); Telegram Community (VoteMalaysia Global)

⁵ KPUM's Advocacy Platforms (Website, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn)

KPUM Human Rights Arm - ASASI's Advocacy Platforms (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter)

LOOKING AHEAD

*Thank you for being a part of our journey.
We look forward to another year of growth and progress,
as we continue to strive for excellence.*

In Service of the Union,
Executive Committee & Division Board 2022/2023



