

WEBINAR ON

Understanding Disability Issues in Malaysia Johore Bar Edition

13 Jan 2026 (Tuesday) | 3:00 pm to 5:30 pm

Online via  **zoom**



[Register Here](#)

This event is free of charge but advance registration is required

The Malaysian Bar remains committed to advancing legislative reforms that promote inclusivity and equality for all Malaysians. In particular, we continue to advocate the inclusion of the word “disability” in Articles 8(2) and 12(1) of the Federal Constitution, as well as significant amendments to the Persons with Disabilities Act 2008. These reforms are essential to strengthening legal protections and ensuring meaningful support for persons with disabilities.

In line with this commitment, the Bar Council Committee on Persons with Disabilities, in collaboration with Johore Bar, is organising a webinar titled “Understanding Disability Issues in Malaysia: Johore Bar Edition”. This webinar aims to provide an accessible and comprehensive platform for discussing key issues affecting the disability community in Malaysia.

This half-day webinar will feature four stakeholders — a policymaker, legal practitioner, disability advocate and an individual with lived experience — and will share on the challenges faced by persons with disabilities, examine systemic gaps and consider the way forward for the disabled.

Ultimately, this webinar intends to deepen collective understanding, encourage meaningful dialogue and strengthen efforts towards building a more inclusive and equitable society for all.

Programme

- 3:00 pm **Opening Remarks** by Meera Samanther, *Co-Chairperson, Committee on Persons with Disabilities*
- 3:05 pm **“Overview on Disability Rights”** by Shahareen Begum, *Co-Deputy Chairperson, Committee on Persons with Disabilities*
- 3:35 pm **“Hak Sebagai OKU Mengikut United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities”** by Ch'ng B'ao Zhong, *Invited Participant, Committee on Persons with Disabilities; Counsellor*
- 4:05 pm **“Kad OKU — Cara Memohon / Memperbaharui dan Kemudahan Sedia Ada”** by Pathmanathan R Nalasamy, *Director, Department for the Development of Persons with Disabilities, Department of Social Welfare*
- 4:35 pm **Question-and-Answer Session** moderated by Anit Kaur Randhawa, *Co-Chairperson, Committee on Persons with Disabilities*
- 5:20 pm **Closing Remarks** by Justice Tuan Atan Mustaffa Yussof Ahmad, *High Court Judge of Johor Bahru*
- 5:30 pm **End of Programme**

Speakers



Shahareen Begum was admitted as an advocate and solicitor of the High Court of Malaya on 5 Oct 1990. She is a senior Member of the Bar and the sole proprietor of Shahareen Begum in Batu Pahat, Johor. From the outset, Shahareen has been an active litigator, appearing in courts at all levels. She was the Chairman of the Johore Bar Committee for the terms 2020/21 and 2021/22 and has served in subcommittees in the Johore Bar in various capacities since 2010. She served as Secretary of the Malaysian Bar for the 2021/22 term and is currently Chairperson of the Bar Council Advocacy Training Committee and Co-Deputy Chairperson of the Bar Council Committee on Persons with Disabilities. As an advocacy trainer, she has trained widely in Malaysia since 2011 and also trains internationally.



Ch'ng B'ao Zhong (Bao) practises as a counsellor at REN Counselling Centre and previously served for nearly five years at a government health clinic. He was diagnosed with autism at the age of 27 and holds a Master's degree in Counselling and a Bachelor's degree in Psychology.

Bao advocates for mental health and disability rights, with a focus on patient empowerment and improving public understanding of autism. His work received national recognition after he successfully challenged employment discrimination in a landmark case against the Public Services Commission and the Government of Malaysia in *Ch'ng B'ao Zhong v Public Service Commission*.



With over 20 years of experience in social welfare, **Pathmanathan R Nalasamy** specialises in services for children and persons with disabilities. He is currently the Director of the Department for the Development of Persons with Disabilities (Jabatan Pembangunan Orang Kurang Upaya) at the Department of Social Welfare (Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat, "JKM"). He has previously served as Principle of Tunas Bakti, Deputy Director and most recently as Director of JKM Johor in 2024. Pathmanathan holds an Ijazah Sarjana Muda Sastera dan Sains Sosial (BA Honours) (1998) in Pengkhususan Antropologi dan Sosiologi; and an Ijazah Sarjana Sastera (MA) (2011) in Kebajikan Sosial (Kajian — Hak Kanak-Kanak); both obtained from Universiti Malaya.

In addition, he has co-authored the book titled *Hak Kanak-Kanak dalam Jagaan Institusi Awam*, represented JKM at the United Nations and ASEAN forums, and advised international agencies including the United Nations Children's Fund and United Nations Development Programme.

Terms and Conditions

Event Policy

Admission is free, but advance registration is required.

Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. The registration for this session will close on **9 Jan 2026 (Friday), at 12:00 pm.**

The organiser reserves the right to modify, cancel or postpone the event, should circumstances arise that make such action necessary.

Cancellation

Cancellations must be made in writing.

Substitutions are allowed. Kindly inform us in writing with the relevant details at least **three** days in advance.

If you have failed to inform the organiser on your cancellation for three consecutive times, you may be blacklisted for future events.

Transferral

You are allowed to transfer your place to another participant, but you must notify the organiser with the necessary details at least **three** days in advance.

Attendance

CPD points for CPD Scheme will not be awarded to lawyers and pupils in chambers from Peninsular Malaysia who arrive more than 15 minutes late, are not present throughout the event, or leave before its scheduled end.

Privacy

The personal information that you provide to the Malaysian Bar, whether now or in the future, may be used, recorded, stored, disclosed or otherwise processed by or on behalf of the Malaysian Bar for the purposes of facilitation and organisation of this event, research and audit, maintenance of a participant database for the promotion of this event, and such ancillary services as may be relevant.

Disclaimer

- ♦ Materials (if any) will be emailed only. No printed notes will be provided.
- ♦ No recording of the event is permitted via any means at any time.
- ♦ No part of the event content may be used/reproduced in any form without the written and explicit consent of the Malaysian Bar and speaker(s).



Organised by:
Bar Council Committee on Persons with Disabilities

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Issued by:
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