

# Empowering Domestic Violence Survivors: The Role of Courts and Law Enforcement

**20 Nov 2021 (Saturday) | 10:00 am to 1:00 pm**  
**This webinar carries 3 CPD points.**

Various movement control orders were implemented since March 2020 with the intention to prevent widespread infection as the COVID-19 cases surged. As a result of limited movement, people were confined to their homes. This included victims of domestic violence who were left trapped in the same space as their abusers. Though movement restrictions have now been lifted in most states, the pandemic and its effects continue to adversely affect domestic violence victims. While statistics show an increase of reported cases in urban areas, the opposite or rather a decline of reported cases is seen in rural areas.

Advocates against domestic violence know that the rate of domestic abuse has not decreased, but rather that victims have been unable to safely connect with the relevant authorities. This dialogue session, organised by the Bar Council Family Law Committee ("FLC"), shall discuss and evaluate the prevention mechanism in place to curtail the problems faced by the victims of domestic violence in gaining access to justice, and discuss the challenges faced by the courts and law enforcement in responding to cases of domestic violence.

[Register online here](#)

## Speakers

**Prema Arivananthan**, *Advocate and Solicitor, Chambers of Ari*

Prema graduated from the University of London (External) in 2000. She obtained her Certificate in Legal Practice and was admitted as an advocate and solicitor of the High Court of Malaya in 2014. Since then, her primary area of practice expanded to family law, particularly domestic violence, divorce, custody, and adoption. She has given several talks on domestic violence, with an emphasis on current law practices in Malaysia. With the increase in domestic violence at home during the various Movement Control Orders ("MCOs"), these awareness talks have provided some solutions for victims and their loved ones. She is currently the President of the All Women's Action Society ("AWAM"), and is a strong advocate for women's rights. She is also a member of FLC.



Force Committee. She is also in a special task force committee spearheaded by the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development in drafting the Sexual Harassment Bill.

**Zahida Zakaria**, *Deputy Public Prosecutor, Prosecution Division, Sexual Crimes and Domestic Violence Unit, Attorney General's Chambers ("AGC")*

Zahida Zakaria has been a Legal Officer in the Legal and Judicial Service since 2001.

She has served in the Advisory Division, Legal Division of the AGC; Legal Adviser at the Malaysia Co-Operative Societies Commission; Ministry of Finance; Ministry of Health; and Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development.



She is currently the Deputy Public Prosecutor in the Prosecution Division, Sexual Crimes and Domestic Violence Unit in the AGC since 2017.

**Nisha Sabanayagam**, *Executive Director, AWAM*

Prior to joining civil society organisations, Nisha worked as a journalist with the *New Straits Times*. Since 2008, Nisha has been working with non-profit organisations ("NGOs"), such as with MERCY Malaysia and the World Wildlife Fund, among others. She is currently the Executive Director of AWAM, and she leads the NGO in spearheading programmes that focus on gender-based violence ("GBV") survivor support as well as training on sexual harassment awareness and prevention. She has spoken on issues of GBV in the national media, and has represented AWAM on various national government committees, such as the National Domestic Violence Task



**Supt Wong Pooi Lin**, *Assistant Director, Criminal Investigation Department, Royal Malaysia Police ("PDRM")*

Wong Pooi Lin is the Assistant Director of PDRM's Criminal Investigation Department. She holds a Bachelor of Jurisprudence (External) degree from the University of Malaya. Prior to her current appointment, she was a former Prosecuting Officer, Senior Commercial Crime Investigating Officer and a D11 Contingent Staff Officer.



This webinar is free of charge, but **advance registration is required**.

Upon successful registration, a link to the webinar will be emailed to registered participants only. Registration will close at **5:00 pm, 18 Nov 2021 (Thursday)**.

Please note that **no** additional registration will be accepted once the closing date has passed, or if the webinar is full (whichever comes first).

We may not permit future registration if you fail to attend the webinar after registering, unless you provide an acceptable and valid reason(s).

## A Step-By-Step Guide to Join a Webinar via Zoom

Webinar via Zoom is an initiative by the Bar Council during the Movement Control Order.

Continue learning even while at home. We're here to inspire you, connect with you and learn with you. This guide will show you how to join a webinar smoothly.

**01**

**For seamless streaming, download the Zoom app.**

You will be given a webinar ID and a password to join the webinar once your registration has been confirmed.



**02**

**Log in to Zoom, and provide your username.**

For Members of the Bar or pupils in chambers, use the format below for identification purposes when prompted: **Full name (as per NRIC) | Bar Council membership number or petition number.**

For non-Members, provide your full name only.

**03**

**Set up your space.**

Find a spot which is comfortable and free from background noises. You may use an earpiece with microphone for clarity. Having a strong internet connection is equally important.



**04**

**Please raise your questions only during the Question-and-Answer session.**

Please take note that no speaking is allowed when the webinar is taking place.

If you wish to raise a question, please type in the Q&A box and the speaker will respond accordingly.

**05**

**Please do not do these**

Sharing screen recording and webinar ID and password links, and reproducing the content of the webinar on any platform.

Any unregistered person may be removed without prior notice and no CPD point will be awarded. Failure to adhere to this may result in disciplinary action by the Bar Council.



Should you have any enquiries, please contact:  
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