



Pertubuhan Gabungan Wanita untuk
Institusi Famili dan Pendidikan Berkualiti

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STAKEHOLDER REPORT FOR
4TH CYCLE OF UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW ON MALAYSIA

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INTRODUCTION

The International Women's Alliance for Family Institution and Quality Education (WAFIQ) is a civil society organisation, registered with the Malaysian Registrar of Society PPM-015-10-23032018. It upholds the rights of women to be respected and valued, ensures the sanctity of the institution of families to be preserved for better functioning of society and strives for the better education for all. Since its establishment, WAFIQ engages with relevant governmental bodies and non-governmental organisations to bring women's issues to light and for proper actions to be taken. In 2021, WAFIQ established TeleWAFIQ as a public complaint mechanism on vital issues relating to women's rights.

In this Report, WAFIQ continues to highlight its recommendations of persisting issues, while providing an update on the development of the issues mentioned in the Cycle 3 of UPR.

A RIGHTS OF WOMEN

A1 Discrimination towards Obligatory Headscarves

Malaysia upholds human rights including the right to equality, freedom of religion and expression in Articles 8, 10 & 11 of the Federal Constitution. These provisions are aligned with Article 19 of the United Nation's Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Woman (CEDAW), which Malaysia has acceded to since 1995.

However, freedom to practice one's faith and religious expression is not being respected, in particular the freedom for Muslim women to wear religious-obligatory headscarves (*hijab*) during working hours.¹ WAFIQ had reported on this issue in Malaysia's 3rd UPR Cycle and recommended that the Government of Malaysia takes steps to fortify various legal frameworks to curb religious and gender-based discriminations, and prejudices in the private-sectors. Malaysia has recorded outright acceptance to recommendations in paragraphs 151.201, 151.204, 151.206, 151.207, 151.210, 151.211, 151.216, 151.220, 151.221, 151.222 & 151.223,² and further declared its commitment to empower women in job market,³ including by enacting a law on anti-discrimination against women.

Even though, Employment Act 1955 [Act 265] was amended in 2022 but the amendments did not touch on the rights of Muslim employees to practice their faith as aforementioned in the workplace. As such, the issue remains pervasive as WAFIQ continues to receive various complaints of Muslim women being barred from wearing religious headscarves in the workplace (for more details, vide [Annex A](#)).

Recommendations:

- i. Amend Employment Act 1955 [Act 265], Industrial Relations Act 1967 [Act 177], and Occupational Safety and Health Act 1994 [Act 514] by providing for the rights of employees to practice and expressed their beliefs, and for protections against discrimination based on religion, belief and faith.

- ii. Expedite the enactment of Anti-Discrimination Against Women Act to combat against all forms of discrimination against women.
- iii. Enact law that penalizes private sector for any discriminatory practices based on age, religion, race, gender and marital status.
- iv. Conduct campaigns on inter-religious relations and understanding aim towards tolerance and acceptance in line with paragraph 5(a) of the Human Rights Resolution 16/18.

A2 Domestic Abuse

Malaysian Government has recorded outright acceptance for recommendations 151.182, 151.207, 151.214 & 151.216 in the 3rd UPR Cycle,⁴ and pledged its commitment to combat gender-based violence.⁵

However, Royal Malaysia Police (PDRM) revealed that 30,346 reports on domestic violence were recorded for a period of five years since 2018.⁶ WAFIQ has compiled fatal abuses perpetuated by husbands onto their wives between 2019 to June 2023 (for more details, vide [Annex B](#)) to illustrate the urgency to effectively address the issue.

Recommendations:

- i. Set up comprehensive procedures to combat domestic violence.
- ii. Revise pre-marital courses to educate the public on domestic violence.
- iii. Increase the establishments of care centres and shelter homes for battered women.

A3 Sexualisation and Exploitation of Women and Girls

Malaysia recorded outright acceptance to recommendation 151.123 in line with traditional values of the Global South and the various religious values as embedded in Malaysia's multicultural landscape to be incorporated in the country's laws and policies,⁷ including modesty in social interaction between her people. There have been efforts to undermine these values including the exploitation of images of women as sexual objects in the public sphere.

While sexual exploitation of women continues to be a crime under Sections 2 and 12 of Anti-Trafficking in Persons and Anti-Smuggling of Migrants Act 2007 [Act 670], and prostitution is criminalized under Sections 372, 372A, 372B and 373 of Penal Code [Act 574]. However, sexualisation and exploitation of women persisted without much legal consequence (for more details, vide [Annex C](#)).

In December 2020, local authorities were found to be slow in monitoring obscene billboards.⁸

In February 2021, the creator of a mobile application called SugarBook, that matches interested sugar daddies with young women, was detained for 10 days but no charge was brought against him.⁹

In September 2021, feminine hygiene product, Libresse launched advertising campaigns that portrayed vulva on the packaging labels of the product. The company ceased the campaign after strong objections from public.¹⁰ No action against the company was ever taken in spite of its violation against the provisions of Indecent Advertisements Act 1953 [Act 259].

In January 2023, a film called 'Pulau' starring a former OnlyFans model released its trailer via social media.¹¹ The trailer which included lewd scenes was defended by the Film Censorship Board (under Ministry of Home Affairs),¹² even though another government agency under Ministry of Communications and Digital declared its trailer as unsuitable for viewing.¹³

Recommendations:

- i. Amend Indecent Advertisements Act 1953 [Act 259], Printing Presses and Publications Act 1984 [Act 301], Communications and Multimedia Act 1998 [Act 588], and Film Censorship Act 2002 [Act 620], to ensure a comprehensive system to promote inter-ministerial cooperation in combating lewd and obscene materials against public morality and the wellbeing of the whole of society.
- ii. Establish geo-block rights to restrict Over-The-Top streaming services subscribed by Malaysian IP addresses.
- iii. Set up a comprehensive procedure to combat against promotion of hypersexual materials to the public.

B RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

B1 Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

Malaysia has recorded outright acceptance to recommendation 151.230.¹⁴ However, it has yet to report effective initiative taken to combat against commercial sexual exploitation of children. The statistics involving exposure to pornographic materials amongst children is alarming,¹⁵ with UNICEF studies showing more than 100,000 children in Malaysia faced sexual exploitation online.¹⁶

In early 2023, the Government pledged allocation for the establishment of a new Department of Children as well as adding personnel under D11 (a unit in PDRM working specifically on offences relation to sexual, women and children) to combat pornography.¹⁷

In March 2023, Sexual Offences Against Children Act 2017 [Act 792] and Evidence of Child Witness Act 2007 [Act 676] were amended to fortify the existing statutes in combating sexual exploitation of children.

However, the Sexual, Women and Children Investigation Division (D11) of Royal Malaysia Police (PDRM) reported that in 2022, there were 2,826 offences which include sexual perversion, rape, obscene acts (portrayal or description of sexual matters) and incest crimes involving children from the ages of below 6up to 18.¹⁸

Further, TeleWAFIQ received public complaints on lack of control to combat excessive hypersexual materials available openly in the public spheres, which have exploited children and young women (for more details, vide [Annex C](#)).

Recommendations:

- i. Amend Indecent Advertisements Act 1953 [Act 259], Printing Presses and Publications Act 1984 [Act 301], Communications and Multimedia Act 1998 [Act 588], and Film Censorship Act 2002 [Act 620], to combat against commercial sexual exploitation of children.
- ii. Strictly enforce Section 377C of Penal Code [Act 574] and Sexual Offences Against Children Act 2017 [Act 792].
- iii. Set up comprehensive procedures to combat against obscene and pornographic materials on all media including via online and social media platforms.
- iv. Enforce stricter age-restriction on social media and digital platforms.
- v. Emulate practices from other countries such as Indonesia, Pakistan, India, Lebanon, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates in banning harmful social and dating apps.
- vi. Introduce a standard curriculum for sexual protective behaviours in all childcare facilities.

B2 Protection of Children against Neglect and Abuses

In the 3rd UPR Cycle, the Malaysian Government has recorded Outright Acceptance for recommendations in paragraphs 151.226, 151.229, 151.230, 151.231 & 151.244.¹⁹

The country recorded increment in the cases of fatal child abuse in the five-year period between 2018 and 2022.²⁰ The situation is more perilous for adopted children or children placed under foster care as the existing legal frameworks to monitor the care of these children are not comprehensive.²¹

In July 2021, the abuse of a down-syndrome teenager by her foster mother was discovered. The discovery sparked a nation-wide cry for the Department of Social Welfare Malaysia (JKM) to relook at the procedures in monitoring children placed under its care as well as in managing complaints of abuses. It was further discovered that the welfare home operated by the foster mother was operating without licence even though JKM was made aware of its status. Lawyers from WAFIQ, who conducted watching brief in the trial against the foster mother, also noted the testimony of witnesses which testified that the procedures for the foster-care were not followed, which then resulted in minimal supervision from JKM.

In July 2022, a couple was each sentenced with RM20,000.00 fine for abusing their adopted daughter.²²

In August 2022, a sexagenarian was arrested for allegation of abuse on her adopted child.²³

In October 2022, a security guard was arrested for abusing his adopted son.²⁴

In December 2022, a four-year old boy died after being abused by his guardian and sister.²⁵

Recommendations:

- i. Strictly enforce the provisions under Penal Code [Act 574] and Child Act 2001 [Act 611].
- ii. Amend Child Care Centre Act 1984 (Act 308) and Care Centres Act 1993 [Act 506] to ensure strict compliance of registration and monitoring procedures.
- iii. Empower public reporting on crimes against children.
- iv. Take all the possible measures to support and strengthen protection of child's rights.

B3 Malnutrition among Children Living in Low Cost Housing

In the 3rd UPR Cycle, Malaysia received recommendation in paragraph 151.156 in relation to the issue of malnutrition among children and the Government has recorded Outright Acceptance to the recommendation.²⁶

Majority of households experienced a decline in income after COVID19 pandemic, whereby many households from higher income decile group shifted to lower income group.²⁷ This has exacerbated the issue of malnutrition among children living in public housing community with more than 20.7% of children under five suffer from stunting,²⁸ and 12.7% of children between the ages of 5 and 19 are obese.²⁹

While the Government has reaffirmed its commitment to combat the issue of malnutrition among children,³⁰ no concrete initiatives however have been announced.

Recommendations:

- i. Address stunting and malnutrition among children by inviting various stakeholders to develop holistic, long-term solutions.
- ii. Provide child care grants to parents from low-income households.
- iii. Ensure a holistic approach towards calculating poverty indicators by including nutritional status of children in the households.
- iv. Implement policies that ensure access to nutritious food, especially for children in the vulnerable groups.

C RIGHTS OF FAMILY LIFE AND PROTECTION OF FAMILY UNITY**C1 Decline of Birth Rate**

The fertility rate in Malaysia has dropped sharply from 6.7 births per woman in 1957 to 4.0 in 1980, 3.0 in 2000, 2.1 in 2010 and 1.7 in 2021.³¹ The total fertility rate (TFR) for all ethnic groups is below replacement level with the lowest TFR recorded for births by Chinese women at 0.8 babies per woman aged 15 to 49 years old.³²

This decline of birth rate will create an aging population which puts pressure on the economy and healthcare systems globally.³³ There is a correlation recorded between the declines in the TFR with the education level of women in specific countries, stemming from the fact that many women are forced to prioritize careers in the midst of poor social

supports from the Government.³⁴ Other factors include increased costs in child care.³⁵

Recommendations:

- i. Mandate a flexible working hour for working-mothers in the private or public sectors.
- ii. Enhance and increase child care policies through incentives making.
- iii. Review the childcare scheme to reflect the rising cost of living.

C2 Lack of Monitoring Mechanism in Adoption Processes

Malaysian legal system differentiates between the adoption of a Non-Muslim child (which requires a court order) and the adoption of a Muslim child (which does not require court order). This has caused an imbalance in the monitoring mechanisms under the adoption processes. WAFIQ has received numerous reports against the Department of Social Welfare Malaysia (JKM) endorsing adoption applications even though the applicants are unfit or unsuitable to adopt (for more details, vide *Annex D*) and allegations of prevalence baby-selling syndicates operating in the country,³⁶ even though baby-selling is a crime under Sections 2 and 14 of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons and Anti-Smuggling of Migrants Act 2007 [Act 670] and Section 4(1)(b) of the Anti-Money Laundering, Anti-Terrorism Financing and Proceeds of Unlawful Activities Act 2001 [Act 613].

Recommendations:

- i. Review the requirement and criteria of 'proper and fit person' registered under the Department of Social Welfare Malaysia (JKM).
- ii. Amend the Registration of Adoptions Act 1952 [Act 253] and Adoption Act 1952 [Act 257] to standardize the procedures for Muslim and Non-Muslim adoptions and to ensure systematic and consistent requirement for adoption of children.
- iii. Strengthen efforts to promote and protect the rights of children.
- iv. Intensify efforts to combat disparities commercial exploitation of children.

D LGBT's Right to Religious Support

Since 2011, WAFIQ has worked closely with LGBT people who wish to practice their faith in line with Islamic teachings and precepts. To this end, WAFIQ has formed a peer-support group for lesbian community, called Muhajirah WAFIQ which addresses their sexuality through religious teachings.³⁷ They received help and support from professional counsellors, psychiatrists, and religious scholars to understand themselves and their sexuality in a non-judgemental way. Similar approaches are also found in *Mukhayyam* (meaning 'camping') programme organised by the Department of Islamic Development.

There are unfounded allegations against *Mukhayyam* programme by attempting to juxtapose the programme with a certain type of 'conversion therapy' that includes electric shock therapy, forced marriage, and corrective rape.³⁸ Such practices are never part of *Mukhayyam* programme as attested to by 12 local LGBT communities and 57 CSOs.³⁹

These local LGBT communities and CSOs had participated in the programme and found that it is neither violent nor forced upon. The participants at the programme were never pressured or compelled to attend,⁴⁰ and it was completely voluntary with no elements of coercion.⁴¹ All affirmed the programmes are educational and aimed at educating Muslim LGBTQ persons on the basic tenets of Islam.⁴²

WAFIQ reiterate its position that all persons including the LGBT people have the freedom to practice and manifest their religious beliefs. It includes the right to receive religious instructions and spiritual help through professional counselling, psychiatrist assistance, the building of relationships and mutual trust, affirmation and acceptance and any other spiritual activities as permitted by law. Such backings are never forced upon, coerced and/or rendered through undue influence.

Recommendations:

- i. Educate the Malaysian communities to respect and uphold the rights of LGBT persons to freedom of religion and belief.
- ii. Protect and promote LGBT persons' right to profess, practice and manifest their religious beliefs, choice, and conscientious conviction pursuant to the right of freedom of religion under Article 11 of Federal Constitution.
- iii. Enact law to address and counter prejudices against the right of LGBT persons to freedom of religion and belief.

E RESOLVED ISSUES

E1 Dissolution of Marriage by Abused Wives (Fasakh)

Since UPR3 report, the issue revolving delays at Syariah Court has significantly improved. In May 2021, a 5-week pregnant woman was battered by her husband and she fell into a coma due to the complications from her injuries. Her next-of-kin applied for fasakh on her behalf against the incarcerated husband and the application was heard and allowed.⁴³

E2 Discrimination against Pregnant Women in the Workplace

In 2022, the Government amended the Employment Act 1955 [Act 265] to extend maternity and paternity leaves.⁴⁴

E3 Sexual Harassment

In September 2019, WAFIQ was engaged by KPWPKM as part of its Special Project Team for the Drafting of Anti-Sexual Harassment Act. In Jul 2022, Anti-Sexual Harassment Act 2022 [Act 840] was enacted to combat sexual harassment by establishing i) a special tribunal and ii) administrator of sexual harassment.⁴⁵

E4 Underage Marriages

Many state governments have agreed to further enhance the restrictions against underage marriage.⁴⁶

¹ Ku Seman, K.A.F. (26 July 2020), *Ketahui Hak Pekerja*. Kuseman.com. <https://kuseman.com/2020/07/26/ketahui-hak-pekerja-muslim/> [26 March 2023]; Ali Mohamed, A. A & Ahmad, M. H. (2021) Headscarf (Hijab) at Work and Dismissal: Whether a Workplace Discrimination? *Malayan Law Journal*, 3 (1-9).

² Recommendations from the 3rd UPR Cycle on **Discrimination towards Obligatory Headscarves**:

151.201 Adopt gender equality legislation to reduce inequalities between men and women (Albania);

151.204 Further improve and advance women's rights, in particular for those in disadvantaged circumstances, and ensure gender equality (Sri Lanka);

151.206 Expedite efforts for the adoption of a Gender Equality Bill to balance the roles of men and women in the nation's development (Pakistan);

151.207 Continue with its initiatives to ensure equality for women in law and in practice, in addition to combating all forms of gender-based violence (Ecuador);

151.210 Define discrimination against women in national legislation in conformity with the provision in article 1 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Mexico);

151.211 Step up efforts towards the adoption of a law on gender equality (Mexico);

151.216 Continue efforts to combat discrimination and violence against women (Cuba);

151.220 Continue the efforts to guarantee the increase of the labour participation rate of women to 59 per cent in 2020, as stated in paragraph 89 of the national report (United Arab Emirates);

151.221 Intensify its efforts to ensure a better representation of women in political and public positions of high responsibility (Gabon);

151.222 Strengthen efforts to promote empowerment of women and gender equality, with the objective of increasing their participation in decision-making (Pakistan);

151.223 Continue efforts in promoting women's capacity to participate in all aspects of life as well as the nation's development (Lao People's Democratic Republic);

³ Anon. (16 January 2023). Nancy Shukri: Ministry intensifies efforts to empower women in job market. Malay Mail Online <https://www.malaymail.com/news/malaysia/2023/01/16/nancy-shukri-ministry-intensifies-efforts-to-empower-women-in-job-market/50582> [20 March 2023].

⁴ Recommendations from the 3rd UPR Cycle on **Domestic Abuse**:

151.182 Update the current reproductive health and social education syllabus to include, inter alia, education on healthy and respectful family life and interpersonal relationships, human rights, violence and gender-based violence, consent and bodily integrity, in line with United Nations technical guidelines on education (Slovenia);

151.207 Continue with its initiatives to ensure equality for women in law and in practice, in addition to combating all forms of gender-based violence (Ecuador);

151.214 Build on its efforts since its last review to better protect women from domestic and sexual violence by strengthening the relevant legal frameworks and policies (Singapore);

151.216 Continue efforts to combat discrimination and violence against women (Cuba);

⁵ Yap, W. X. (29 October 2021). #Bajet2022: PDRM To Get RM13 Million To Fight Sexual Crimes Against Women & Children. Says.com. <https://says.com/my/news/bajet2022-pdrm-to-get-rm13-million-to-fight-sexual-crimes-against-women-children> [23 June 2023].

⁶ Muhammad Afham, R., Nazrin, Z., Adila Sharinni, W., Norawazni, Y., & Normawati, A. (08 March 2023). Spouses are not meant to be hurt. Sinar Daily <https://www.sinardaily.my/article/191627/malaysia/national/spouses-are-not-meant-to-be-hurt> [20 March 2023].

⁷ Recommendations from the 3rd UPR Cycle on **Sexualisation and Exploitation of Women and Girls**:

151.123 Continue with efforts made to combat human trafficking, especially the exploitation of girls and women, further strengthening its fight against traffickers (Djibouti);

⁸ Raihan, H. (21 December 2020). Highway billboards called out for lewd double entendres. Marketing Magazine <https://marketingmagazine.com.my/another-lesson-on-the-importance-of-font-choice/> [27 March 2023].

⁹ Anon. (18 February 2021). Sugarbook dating app maker arrested over 'promoting prostitution'. BBC <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-56104597> [27 March 2023].

¹⁰ Coconut KL. (20 September 2021). Libresse pulls vulva flowers campaign for pads after conservative group cries 'dishonor'. Yahoo! News <https://malaysia.news.yahoo.com/libresse-pulls-vulva-flowers-campaign-043628800.html> [27 March 2023].

¹¹ Hadi Azmi. (19 January 2023). 'Soft porn': Pulau starring Instagram model Ms Puiyi triggers Malaysia's conservatives. SCMP <https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/lifestyle-culture/article/3207435/soft-porn-pulau-starring-instagram-model-ms-puiyi-triggers-malysias-conservatives> [27 March 2023].

¹² Anon. (19 January 2023). 'Pulau' a horror flick, not porn, says censorship board. Free Malaysia Today <https://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/2023/01/19/pulau-a-horror-flick-not-porn-says-censorship-board/> [27 March 2023].

¹³ Anon. (19 January 2023). 'Pulau' trailer not suitable for viewing, says Fahmi. Free Malaysia Today <https://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/2023/01/19/pulau-trailer-not-suitable-for-viewing-says-fahmi/> [27 March 2023].

¹⁴ Recommendations from the 3rd UPR Cycle on **Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children**:

151.230 Take further actions to protect children's rights, especially access to public education, protection from child labour and sexual exploitation and prevention of sexual crimes against children (Japan);

- ¹⁵ Bernama. (23 March 2019). *Survey: 80 pct of children aged 10-17 have watched porn*. Bernama <https://www.bernama.com/en/news.php?id=1708648> [23 March 2023].
- ¹⁶ Junaid, I. (29 September 2022). *Unicef: 100,000 children in Malaysia face online sexual exploitation*. The Star <https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2022/09/29/100000-children-in-msia-face-online-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse-says-unicef-report> [23 March 2023].
- ¹⁷ Qistina Nadia, D. (24 February 2023). *Budget 2023: stronger fight against child porn with special D11 unit*. The Vibes <https://www.thevibes.com/articles/news/86086/budget-2023-stronger-fight-against-child-porn-with-special-d11-unit> [23 March 2023].
- ¹⁸ Morhan, S. (18 April 2023) *Child sexual exploitation a silent epidemic, says top child specialist*. The Sun Daily <https://www.thesundaily.my/local/child-sexual-exploitation-a-silent-epidemic-says-top-child-specialist-HB10883664> [23 June 2023].
- ¹⁹ Recommendations from the 3rd UPR Cycle on **Protection of Children against Neglect and Abuses:**
 151.226 Continue the enactment of legislation to protect children from all forms of ill-treatment and violence (Bahrain);
 151.229 Continue efforts to improve the protection of children from abuse (Sudan);
 151.230 Take further actions to protect children's rights, especially access to public education, protection from child labour and sexual exploitation and prevention of sexual crimes against children (Japan);
 151.231 Continue to ensure the physical and emotional safety and welfare of children (Morocco);
 151.244 Continue efforts to combat violence against children (Maldives);
- ²⁰ Adila Sharinni, W. (16 March 2023) *Kes kanak-kanak mati didera meningkat dalam tempoh 5 tahun*. Sinar Harian <https://www.sinarharian.com.my/article/250035/berita/semasa/kes-kanak-kanak-mati-didera-meningkat-dalam-tempoh-5-tahun> [23 March 2023].
- ²¹ Azmi, Z. (24 May 2022). *Orphaned and Unfortunate: Malaysia's bewildering flirtation with orphanage policy (Part 1)*. Sinar Daily <https://www.sinardaily.my/article/174567/special-reports/orphaned-and-unfortunate-malaysias-quos-bewildering-flirtation-with-orphanage-policy-part-1> 20 March 2023].
- ²² Nurbaiti Hamdan. (27 Jul 2022) *Couple fined RM20,000 each for abusing adopted daughter*. The Star <https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2022/07/27/couple-fined-rm20000-each-for-abusing-adopted-daughter> [27 March 2023].
- ²³ Chan, D. (12 August 2022). *Senior citizen nabbed for alleged abuse of adopted child*. New Strait Times <https://api.nst.com.my/news/crime-courts/2022/08/821704/senior-citizen-nabbed-alleged-abuse-adopted-child> [27 March 2023].
- ²⁴ Anon. (21 October 2022). *Security guard nabbed for allegedly abusing adopted son*. The Sun Daily <https://www.thesundaily.my/home/security-guard-nabbed-for-allegedly-abusing-adopted-son-JA10019426> [27 March 2023].
- ²⁵ Shah, M.F. (27 December 2022) *Boy, four, dies from suspected abuse by guardian and sister*. The Star <https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2022/12/27/boy-four-dies-from-suspected-abuse-by-guardian-and-sister> [27 March 2023].
- ²⁶ Recommendations from the 3rd UPR Cycle on **Malnutrition of Children Living in Low Cost Housing:**
 151.156 Continue ensuring the right to basic standards of health, education, nutrition and welfare of the entire population (Kuwait);
- ²⁷ Department of Statistics. (6 August 2021) *Household Income Estimates and Incidence of Poverty Report, Malaysia, 2020*.
- ²⁸ Singh, R. (5 October 2022). *One in five children under five suffering from stunted growth*. The Sun Daily <https://www.thesundaily.my/local/one-in-five-children-under-five-suffering-from-stunted-growth-MY9919349> [20 March 2023].
- ²⁹ Abdul Majeed, H. (15 June 2022). *Addressing malnutrition among children of public housing community*. New Straits Times <https://www.nst.com.my/opinion/letters/2022/06/805322/addressing-malnutrition-among-children-public-housing-community> [20 March 2023].
- ³⁰ Anon. (16 March 2023). *Govt to immediately tackle malnutrition issue among 5.6 million children in Malaysia, says DPM Zahid*. Malay Mail Online <https://www.malaymail.com/news/malaysia/2023/03/16/govt-to-immediately-tackle-malnutrition-issue-among-56-million-children-in-malaysia-says-dpm-zahid/59971> [23 June 2023].
- ³¹ Anon. (10 November 2022) *Total fertility rate of women in Malaysia continues to decline*. The Sun Daily. <https://www.thesundaily.my/local/total-fertility-rate-of-women-in-malaysia-continues-to-decline-FI10186553> [19 May 2023]
- ³² Anon. (13 October 2022). *Malaysia records lowest number of births in a decade*. Free Malaysia Today <https://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/2022/10/13/malaysia-records-lowest-number-of-births-in-a-decade/> [14 May 2023]
- ³³ Alvarez, P. (17 Jun 2022). *What does the global decline of the fertility rate look like?* World Economic Forum. <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2022/06/global-decline-of-fertility-rates-visualised/> [27 March 2023]; Anon. (10 November 2022). *Total Fertility rate of women in Malaysia continues to decline*. The Sun Daily <https://www.thesundaily.my/local/total-fertility-rate-of-women-in-malaysia-continues-to-decline-FI10186553> [20 March 2023].
- ³⁴ Zulkifli, A. & Mukhtar, Mukhsein. (13 July 2022). *Expand childcare subsidies to reflect rising costs, says group*. New Straits Times <https://www.nst.com.my/news/nation/2022/07/812936/expand-childcare-subsidies-reflect-rising-costs-says-group> [23 June 2023].
- ³⁵ Lim, I. (15 June 2023). *Study: RM6,890 monthly budget if married with two kids in Klang Valley; RM4,700 to RM6,000 to start family in Malaysia*. Malay Mail Online <https://www.malaymail.com/news/malaysia/2023/06/14/study-rm6890-monthly-budget-if-married-with-two-kids-in-klang-valley-rm4700-to-rm6000-to-start-family-in-malaysia/74316> [23 June 2023].
- ³⁶ Morhan, S. (23 June 2023). *Follow all legal procedures in child adoption, warns lawyer*. The Sun Daily <https://www.thesundaily.my/local/follow-all-legal-procedures-in-child-adoption-warns-lawyer-DF11140461> [23 June 2023].
- ³⁷ Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/muhajirahwafiq/> [15 July 2023].
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