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UNIFEM Journal - Issue 08



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SPOTLIGHT ON:

Day Off Campaign



This May, **UNIFEM Singapore** has teamed up with local NGOs [HOME](#) and [TWC2](#) to launch a year long campaign titled 'Day Off'. Day Off aims to encourage **Singapore** employers to voluntarily give their domestic workers a regular day off. Currently, only an estimated half of **Singapore** employers give their helpers regular days off.

A day off is critical in creating and maintaining a positive working relationship between employer and employee. It can improve morale and productivity and most importantly empower the domestic worker as an individual. And, with so much focus on the importance of a work life balance for all kinds of workers - the campaign is really only asking people to treat others as they would wish to be treated themselves.

Globally, one of UNIFEM's key programs is to empower women migrant workers, with a specific focus on domestic workers - most of whom are female. Since 2003, **UNIFEM** has instituted programs to support the rights of domestic worker in countries such as Jordan and Hong Kong as well as source countries such as Nepal, Sri Lanka and The Philippines. The Day Off Campaign is a contribution to this global effort to improve the status and well-being of women migrant workers.

"Foreign domestic workers are productive individuals who make an extremely valuable contribution to Singaporean society," says President of **UNIFEM Singapore**, Ms Saleemah Ismail. " They take care of our homes and our children. And, like any other person, they deserve a day off. Time off is important for everyone's personal development, education, leisure and relaxation as well as for physical, mental and spiritual health. This can only result in a win-win situation."

"We regularly hear employers' concerns about the consequences of giving a day off. Through this campaign we hope to allay these fears and debunk the myths. Then, in time, perhaps the campaign will encourage employers to give their domestic workers a day off a week, which is still less than most would expect from their employers."

Day Off Campaign



UNIFEM Events

- [UNIFEM FWAS SNOW Benefit 2008](#)

Meet the Challenge!



PLAY VIDEO



Become a Member

Support us and Join the Network
[Membership Form](#)

UNIFEM links

[UNIFEM New York](#)
[UNIFEM Bangkok](#)
[Say No to Violence](#)
[Stop Child Sex](#)



Day Off was officially launched with a Media Briefing on 29 April and has since been covered extensively in local and some international media, including The Straits Times, Lianhe ZaoBao, News Radio 938Live, Channel News Asia and ABC Radio Australia. For more information, visit www.dayoff.sg



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Make a Donation

Help a woman...better a family!

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EVENT REPORT:

UNIFEM Singapore **Annual General Meeting**

The **UNIFEM** AGM was held on Saturday 26 April at the **UNIFEM** office. Over 30 volunteers and friends attended the AGM and the networking BBQ dinner that followed.

As this was an election year, there was a change to the Executive Committee (ExCo) of **UNIFEM Singapore**. We would like to acknowledge and thank our exiting EXCO members - Mr Micheal Ewing Chow, Ms Karen Ho and Ms Anthea Ong. And, we welcome the new committee for 2008-2009, Ms Saleemah Ismail (President), Ms Fadilah Ahmad (Vice President), Ms Pia Bruce (Treasurer), Ms Claudine Lim (Secretary), Ms Poornima Hatti, Ms Andria Hutchins, Ms Jacqueline Loh, Ms Sarah Mavrincac and Ms Deepa Pillai.



AGM held at the UNIFEM Office at 2 Nassim.



Volunteers and Members at the networking BBQ Dinner held after the AGM

EVENT REPORT: **Rice Drive at CJC**

Another Rice Drive has been held - this time at Catholic Junior College, where a whopping 2,700 kilograms of rice was collected for [HOME](#) shelters. Conducted over a mere two days, the Rice Drive saw students and teachers pitch in to make it a resounding success. If you'd like to conduct a Rice Drive at your school or organisation, simply contact our Rice Drive Volunteer Coordinators - Augustine and Flora. It's easy! For more information on the Rice Drive, visit their blog: <http://thericedrive.blogspot.com/>



Check out all the rice that was collected!



The shelter residents can barely contain their happiness as they receive the delivery of rice

EVENT REPORT:

UNIFEM School Talks

UNIFEM Singapore has held two school talks this year: on Jan 21st, to more than 450 Secondary Three students at Chung Cheng High School (Main), and on March 27th, to approximately 20 tertiary students from James Cook University. For more information, visit <http://www.unifemsingapore.org.sg/node/104>



*Chung Cheng High School students at a **UNIFEM** School Talk Q & A session conducted by volunteer presenter Ms Deepa Pillai*



Ms Jasmeet Walia presenting case studies of victims of abuse

UNIFEM Singapore appreciates the support that schools provide to our School Talk Series by providing us with the opportunity to speak to students about issues facing women in our region. We invite secondary and tertiary schools to get involved in the School Talk Series 2008, and look forward to more thought-provoking discussions that follow the presentations. This initiative supports our objective to raise awareness, amongst **Singapore** youth, of the daily challenges and struggles that many women face - be in our nation, our region or our world.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Join the UNIFEM Singapore Group on Facebook



UNIFEM Singapore has started a group on the popular online networking site - [Facebook](#). The Facebook group will be used as an

active forum for **UNIFEM** to give updates, photos and information to all group members. It will also serve as a platform for group members to share ideas, information and thoughts.

The **UNIFEM Singapore** Facebook group is open to everyone. To join, click [here](#). Please note that you have to sign up for Facebook before you can join the group.

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Submitted by **unifem** on Thu, 2008-05-08 03:20.