



FAMILY FRONTIERS

# Family Frontiers Annual Report 2021



# Table of contents

<i>Malaysian mothers' post- 9 September 2021</i>	
<i>High Court decision reactions</i> .....	<b>3</b>
<i>The problems we address</i> .....	<b>6</b>
<i>Our impact</i> .....	<b>10</b>
<i>Strategies adopted</i> .....	<b>14</b>
<i>Service delivery</i> .....	<b>15</b>
<i>Strategic litigation</i> .....	<b>17</b>
<i>Advocacy by mothers</i> .....	<b>21</b>
<i>National-level advocacy</i> .....	<b>24</b>
<i>UN Advocacy engagement</i> .....	<b>30</b>
<i>Public education and outreach</i> .....	<b>31</b>
<i>Global outreach</i> .....	<b>38</b>
<i>Social media awareness</i> .....	<b>39</b>
<i>Research</i> .....	<b>40</b>
<i>Financial highlights</i> .....	<b>41</b>
<i>Thank you note</i> .....	<b>43</b>



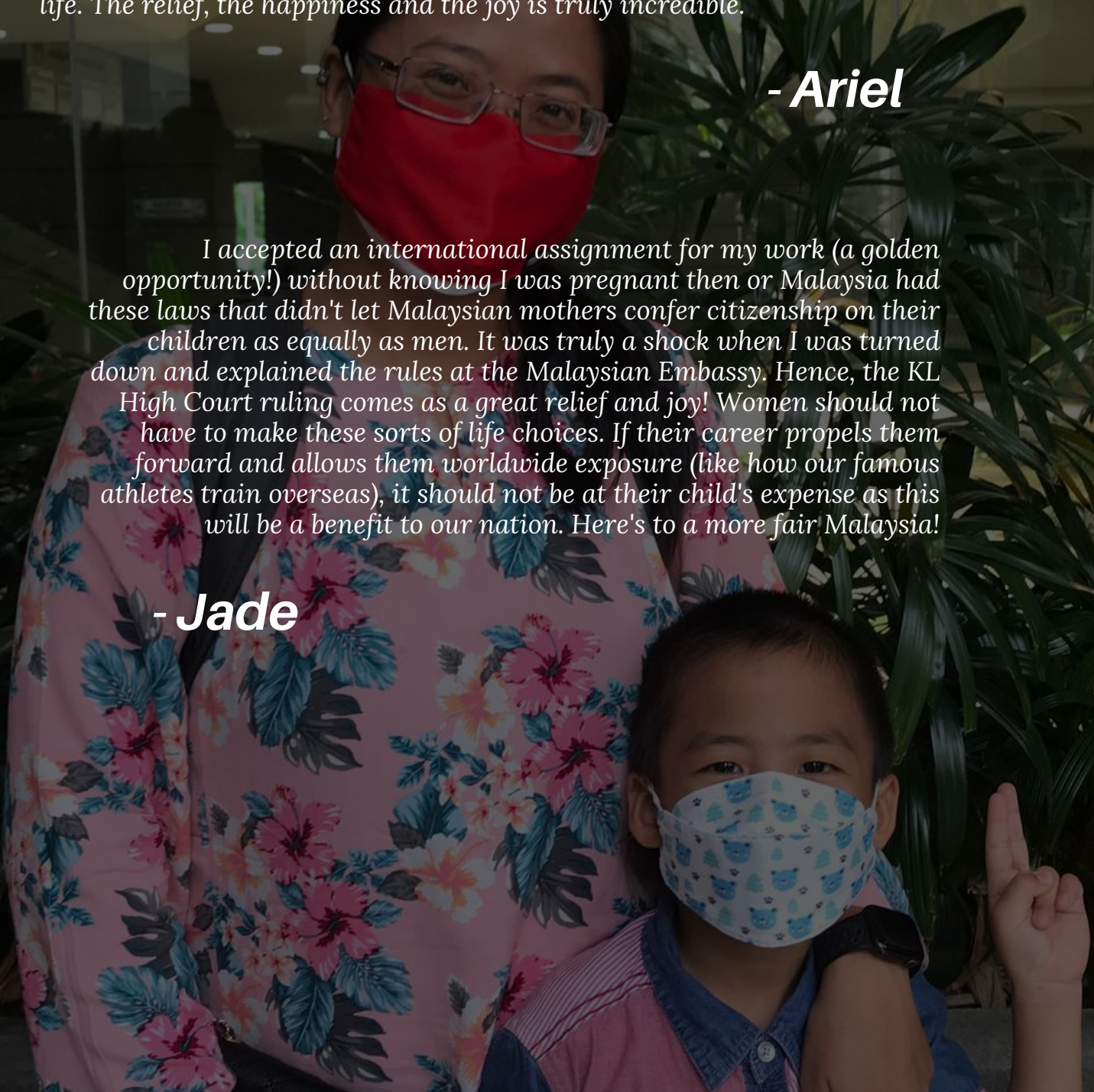
## Malaysian mothers' post-9 September 2021 High Court decision reactions

*My youngest son had always felt a little out of place, as he was the only one among his three (3) siblings who is not a Malaysian. Once I told him the great news (of the High Court ruling), his eyes sparkled, his smile was so big (the ear-to-ear kind). He ran up to me and gave me a huge hug, and said, "Mommy, I am the same with gege, jiejie and meimei now? I can go to the same school as them?" My heart melted, knowing that he can always be with his siblings and me. Words cannot describe the feelings I have, knowing that this change is a turning point in his life. The relief, the happiness and the joy is truly incredible.*

**- Ariel**

*I accepted an international assignment for my work (a golden opportunity!) without knowing I was pregnant then or Malaysia had these laws that didn't let Malaysian mothers confer citizenship on their children as equally as men. It was truly a shock when I was turned down and explained the rules at the Malaysian Embassy. Hence, the KL High Court ruling comes as a great relief and joy! Women should not have to make these sorts of life choices. If their career propels them forward and allows them worldwide exposure (like how our famous athletes train overseas), it should not be at their child's expense as this will be a benefit to our nation. Here's to a more fair Malaysia!*

**- Jade**

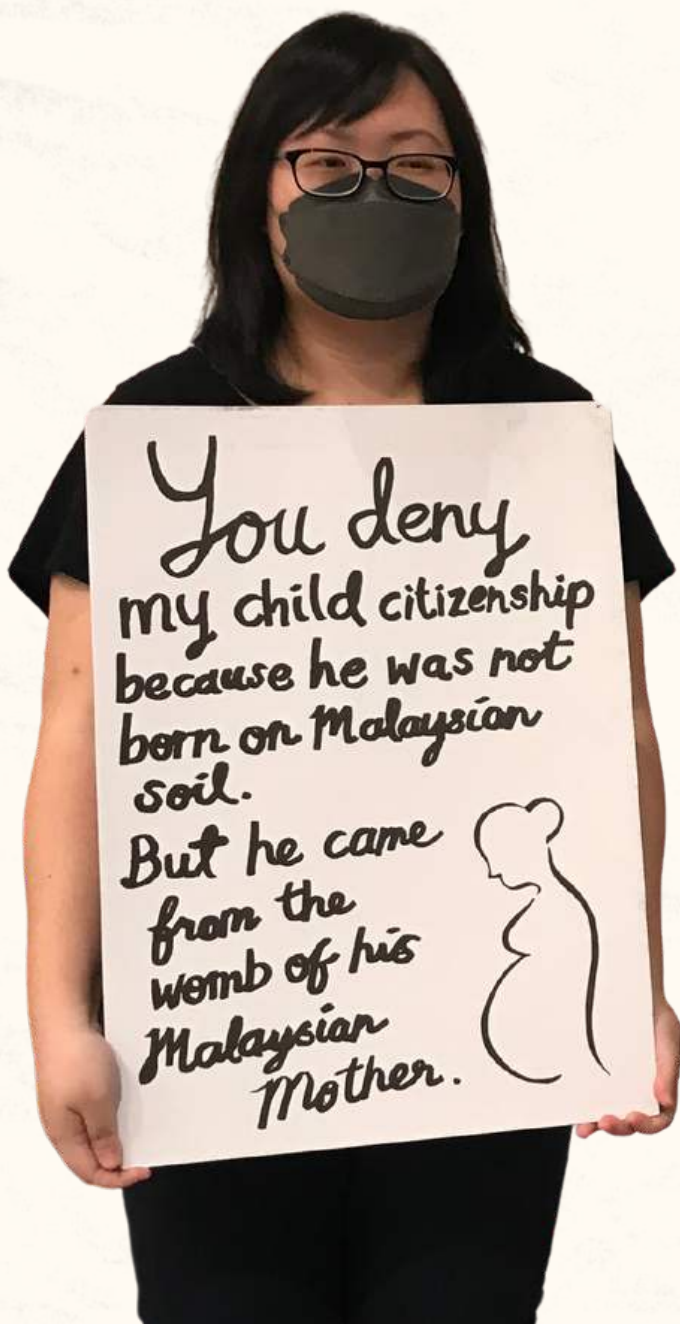




My son and daughter were both born in Ireland. After a few years of raising our little family abroad, we made the decision to return to Malaysia, mainly to have my children grow up knowing their grandparents, uncles, and the wider family. Many couldn't understand why we would ever want to move back, but I strongly felt that the best for my children would be to bring them up in Malaysia. But, soon after we arrived here, we found out that my children are ineligible to apply for Malaysian citizenship. Every year, we renew the children's long-term social visit passes. And this year (2021) I have to apply for a Student Pass for my eldest, so he can remain in the country with a valid pass. It is arduous and the rules are often arbitrary—it takes a lot out of you, and there is always anxiety and fear.

My children have no clear memories of Ireland. The only home they know is Malaysia. And Malaysia is the only home I know and have. And yet I am reminded, constantly, that my children are not welcomed here. When the High Court decision was announced, I broke down in tears of disbelief—my fears and struggles as a Malaysian mother wanting to raise her foreign-born children here were seen, and acknowledged. My children, once labeled as a 'threat to national security', can finally, and officially, call this country home.

**- Patricia**





Family Frontiers dedicates this annual report to our community of impacted Malaysian mothers. You are at the forefront of efforts to achieve women's equal citizenship rights. Thank you for all your contributions, strength and perseverance throughout the Malaysian Campaign for Equal Citizenship.





# THE PROBLEMS WE ADDRESS

## Impacts of gender-discriminatory citizenship laws on Malaysian women and their overseas-born children

*Tee Li Li is a single Malaysian mother living overseas with her non-citizen child. She was living in a country with rampant COVID-19 cases at the start of the pandemic outbreak, and had to turn down the opportunity to repatriate as her child was only offered a 30-day visa. “Where would my child go when her visa expires?” Li Li asked. She was not given the assurance of a long-term visa that would allow the child to remain in Malaysia with her mother. When she was COVID-19 positive in December 2021, she suffered mental agony from being home quarantined with her child all alone. Li Li wishes to return to Malaysia with her overseas-born child. However, every day, she fears separation from her child who cannot remain in Malaysia permanently. As such, she is forced to single-handedly raise her child whose nationality is different from hers in a third country.*

During the pandemic, the **repercussions of these gender-discriminatory laws and policies on women and their children intensified drastically**—the impacts include family separation as a result of border closures and ambiguous immigration procedures; pregnant Malaysian women living overseas were forced to deliver their children abroad, resulting in the possibility of them forgoing their children’s Malaysian citizenship; and the heightened risks of violence against women, particularly domestic violence.



Aisyah (not her real name) is a Malaysian mother with four Malaysian children and one child who is currently stateless as a result of being born overseas. Aisha made sure to confirm with the National Registration Department that her child will be a Malaysian should she give birth overseas before leaving for Turkey. Despite being told she could, after giving birth she was dismayed to find out that she would have to “apply” for her child’s citizenship. Unable to also inherit the foreign father’s citizenship, the newborn was stranded abroad for almost six months without any citizenship or travel documents. After lobbying and rigorous advocacy, they are now safely back home in East Malaysia. However, her child remains stateless to this day. Since then, her everyday life has become an uphill battle due to her child’s statelessness. In 2020, Aisyah was forced to separate from her breastfeeding child when she travelled to West Malaysia to explore solutions for her child’s statelessness. Without Malaysian citizenship, her child faces a lifetime of adversity, and is left behind with limited access to education and affordable healthcare while her other Malaysian children lead regular lives.





“We have been filled with sorrow and worry throughout the COVID-19 period. So many unprecedented challenges—we have been continuing to pay house rental and bills to an unoccupied home in Malaysia, leaving all our belongings behind with no one to ask for help during the long-winding MCO; we had no choice but to just sit and wait. Otherwise, it will be one Malaysian woman returning home with two foreigners; as my husband and daughter do not have a valid Long-Term Social Visit Pass, they would be treated as foreigners when entering Malaysia. It is almost impossible for us to afford the high cost of hotel quarantine, flight tickets, and all the other processing fees. Furthermore, setting up an online appointment with the Immigration Department to renew my daughter's visa was not available to us, as we are not physically in Malaysia. All these worries stopped us from taking a step further to reach my homeland.”

– Malaysian woman in a binational marriage –





# Socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on Malaysian binational families

The lack of a Malaysian legal identity of non-citizen children and spouses of Malaysians, especially a secure legal status such as citizenship or Permanent Residence, has led to increased bureaucratic challenges during COVID-19, placing Malaysian binational families in unprecedented uncertainties.

- **Non-citizen children and spouses of Malaysians faced family separation during the COVID-19 pandemic.** This kept families, especially women and children in precarious situations. Border closures and travel restrictions as a result of the pandemic only served to heighten this problem. Families with special circumstances were denied into the country, including but not limited to families with a lack of financial resources and depleted life savings who were forced to live in a third country, those who had to return to care for their elderly in Malaysia who were ill, and those who had to return to visit their loved ones for one last time while they were on their death beds.
- **Women in Malaysian binational marriages who gave birth in Malaysia during the pandemic faced difficulty with birth registration in the absence of the newborn's father.** This occurs in such cases where the non-citizen father was stranded overseas and unable to return. Non-citizen spouses and children of Malaysians were also being asked to leave the country to enable the renewal, extension or application of their visas, further jeopardising their chances of returning to Malaysia.
- **Increase in the number of children of Malaysian women without access to Malaysian citizenship.** This is as a result of the inability of pregnant Malaysian women to travel back to Malaysia to give birth.
- **Increased socio-economic marginalisation faced by Malaysian binational families due to restrictions to employment of foreign spouses.** With a rise in xenophobic sentiments during the COVID-19 pandemic, there have been greater restrictions for non-citizen spouses of Malaysians to hold licenses to open or run businesses and access other employment opportunities.



# OUR IMPACT

## Immigration policies and practices in the best interest of family welfare

Family Frontiers' advocacy during COVID-19 played a crucial role in ensuring the existence of public conversation on the challenges faced by Malaysian binational families, which can often be sidelined from general conversations on access to rights.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Family Frontiers engaged with relevant stakeholders (especially the Immigration Department of Malaysia) through **persistent and a multi-pronged advocacy approach**. With evidence-based engagement and constant media presence, Family Frontiers contributed towards:

- The **reduction of quarantine costs for non-citizen spouses and children of Malaysians from the East Malaysian state of Sarawak** who were initially charged with double quarantine—first in West Malaysia and second upon entering East Malaysia—which resulted in exorbitant quarantine fees that deterred non-citizen spouses and children from returning. The advocacy by Family Frontiers, specifically by sharing lived realities through media, resulted in more affordable quarantine costs.
- The **initiation of conversations on an inclusive COVID-19 vaccine rollout**, particularly on access to the vaccine among non-citizen spouses. Following this, Family Frontiers was involved with the campaign for access to vaccines among migrants and non-citizens along with the Right to Redress Coalition.
- **Increased discourse and campaign efforts against the arbitrary detention and risk of deportation** of non-citizen spouses, specifically on the impact on family. Family Frontiers lobbied for the release of two non-citizen spouses who were unlawfully detained and were ordered to be deported. The courts found the detention unlawful and ordered them to be released.





The Government, especially the Immigration Department of Malaysia, published guidelines and made announcements and cabinet directives specifically targeting non-citizen spouses and children of Malaysians, which would not have been possible without the awareness-raising efforts by Family Frontiers. For instance, the Immigration department published a separate guideline and section on the Immigration portal on how non-citizen spouses and children of Malaysians can apply to enter the country. Similarly, this was seen in the announcement on COVID-19 vaccines, which was a direct result of Family Frontiers' mobilisation targeting the Ministry of Science and Technology and the minister in charge of the vaccine rollout in Malaysia.

## Malaysian women granted equal citizenship rights and their overseas-born children recognised as Malaysian citizens

*Family Frontiers, through the Malaysian Campaign for Equal Citizenship, addresses Malaysia's gender-discriminatory citizenship laws that impact women's ability to confer citizenship on their overseas-born children.*

The Federal Constitution grants Malaysian men the right to confer citizenship by 'operation of law' on their overseas-born children via Article 14(1)(b) of the Federal Constitution. Malaysian women, on the other hand, have to rely on citizenship by 'registration' via Article 15(2), a discretionary and arduous process fraught with delays and inconsistencies, often ending with rejection with no reason given. This makes Malaysia one of only 25 countries in the world that do not grant men and women equal rights to confer citizenship on their children.

**The right to citizenship is a gateway to a range of other fundamental rights.** The legal and policy restrictions placed upon Malaysian women and their overseas-born children put them in a position of extreme vulnerability to adversity, effectively violating the human rights of women and children. This includes vulnerability to physical and psychological violence against women, family separation and insecure family unity and restricted public healthcare and education for non-citizen children, and the risk of statelessness among children with access to neither parent's citizenship.



## KOMPLEKS MAHKAMAH KUALA LUMPUR

As part of its strategic litigation, **Family Frontiers filed a case at the Kuala Lumpur High Court along with six Malaysian mothers** on the issue of unequal citizenship rights of Malaysian women. The case sought an interpretation of the citizenship provision that remains silent on the citizenship rights of women—Article 14(1)(b) together with the Second Schedule, Part II, Section 1(b)—so that it will be read in a harmonious manner with Article 8(2) of the Federal Constitution that prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender.





***On 9 September 2021, the Kuala Lumpur High Court judge Dato' Akhtar Tahir in a landmark decision ruled that Article 14(1)(b) together with the Second Schedule, Part II, Section 1(b) of the FC, must be read in a harmonious manner with Article 8(2) of the Federal Constitution.***

In doing this, the High Court judge announced that the word 'father' must be read to include mothers and that the overseas-born children of Malaysian women are citizens by 'operation of law'. **The Judge ordered relevant authorities to issue citizenship-related documents to these children.** During the litigation process, Family Frontiers carried out extensive multi-pronged advocacy through its 'Saya Juga Anak Malaysia' and #TarikBalikRayuan campaigns, which contributed towards:



**Legal equality making it obligatory for the Malaysian government to comply with the landmark 9 September 2021 High Court decision** and issue overseas-born children with their citizenship-related documents



**Widespread public awareness and support towards the issue of gender-discriminatory citizenship laws** in print and digital media, reaching a wide range of stakeholders, including Malaysians from all walks of life in Malaysia and abroad



**Public endorsements from ministers**, including the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, de-facto Law Minister and Minister of Communications, and various Members of Parliament from both sides of the floor in support of the Malaysian Campaign for Equal Citizenship



**The Government's commitment to a policy to amend the Federal Constitution** to grant equal citizenship rights to Malaysian women and their overseas-born children



# STRATEGIES ADOPTED



## **Network-building to ensure access to information and peer support**

This includes daily inquiries, case management, necessary referrals and continuous updates of information on the Foreign Spouses Support Group (FSSG) online helpdesk and service platform that caters to a community of 25,000 followers, mostly consisting of Malaysian binational families. FSSG also caters directly to 300 members of various individual close-knit support groups that it manages.



## **Community, confidence and capacity-building of persons with lived experiences to ensure representation and co-creation of advocacy.**

Family Frontiers platforms impacted persons in all aspects of its advocacy to ensure their lived realities and voices are reflected in its campaigns, advocacy materials, online discussions, webinars, outreach activities and physical meetings.



## **Multi-pronged advocacy and awareness-raising to ensure public awareness and action.**

Family Frontiers engages with a wide range of stakeholders including human rights bodies; civil society organisations and coalitions nationally, regionally and globally; members of the legal fraternity; general public. This is aimed at ensuring there is public awareness and action towards gender-equal citizenship laws and gender-sensitive and family-friendly immigration policies. Family Frontiers heavily relies on media engagement, and consistently utilises parliamentary mechanisms.



## **Contribution to national, regional and global advocacy. Family Frontiers is a coalition member of various coalitions nationally, regionally and globally.**

Family Frontiers also contributes towards interventions to international treaties and communication procedures such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Universal Periodic Review (UPR), Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), UN Working Groups and Special Rapporteurs, and Commission on the Status of Women.



## **Strategic litigation and legal education as an approach to reform laws and legally empower the impacted community.**

Family Frontiers and six Malaysian mothers filed a case at the Kuala Lumpur High Court to challenge Malaysia's gender-discriminatory citizenship laws.



# SERVICE DELIVERY

Family Frontiers, through the Foreign Spouses Support Group (FSSG) Facebook public service platform, offered support to Malaysian binational families through enquiries, case management and referrals covering a wide range of topics including but not limited to visa, pass, permits, Permanent Residence; access to healthcare and education; entry to Malaysia through MyTravelPass during COVID-19; employment rights and endorsement to work.

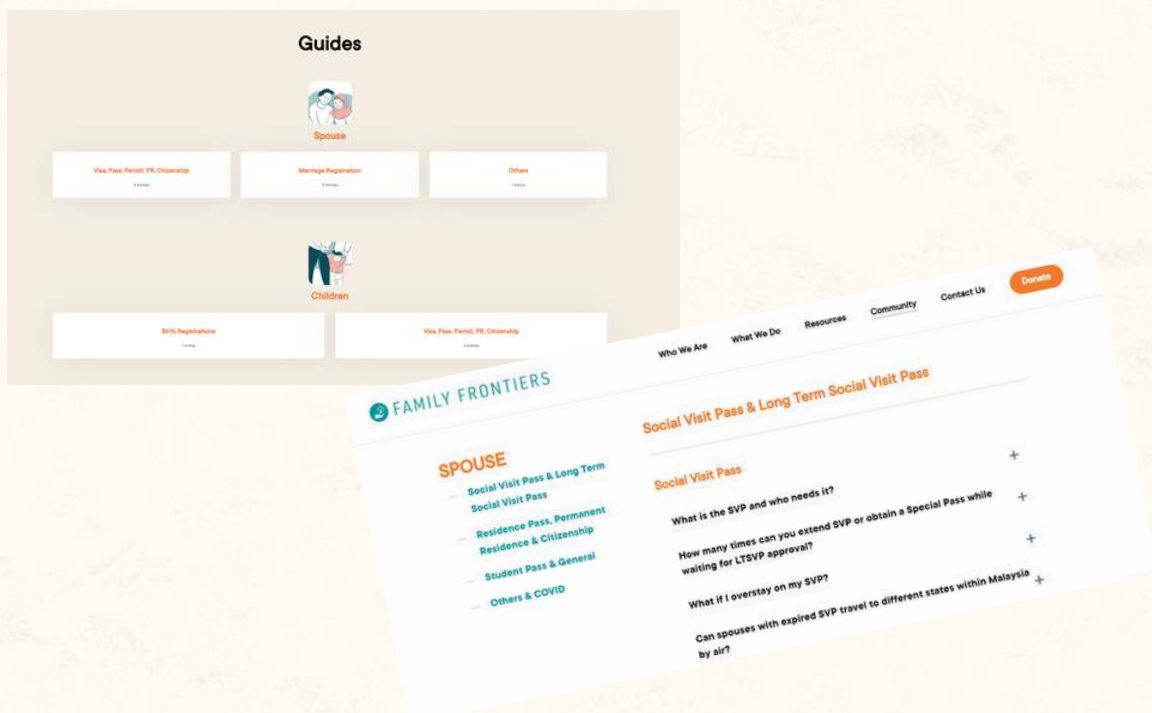
***FSSG posted a total of 577 public service announcements or information posts and attended to 2219 direct queries for the year of 2021 through the FSSG Facebook public service platform.***

Apart from the FSSG public service platform, Family Frontiers also adopts various other methods of offering support to impacted communities to ensure alternative avenues to access information. They are outlined below.

## Launch of website with guides and FAQs

As the COVID-19 pandemic created unprecedented uncertainties and unique challenges for Malaysian binational families as a result of bureaucratic challenges and an uncertain legal status, there was an increase of traffic on the FSSG Facebook public service platform. It was therefore crucial for Family Frontiers to diversify support and availability of information to develop sustainable service delivery.

Family Frontiers launched its website with curated guides and Frequently-Asked-Questions for the community to **access readily-available and easily-accessible information and support** while navigating through bureaucratic processes relating to visa, pass, permit and citizenship applications.









# STRATEGIC LITIGATION

## The case of Suriani Kempe & Ors. v Government of Malaysia & Ors.

To combat Malaysia's gender-discriminatory citizenship laws, Family Frontiers along with six Malaysian women **filed a case at the Kuala Lumpur High Court on 18 December 2020**. The case sought a declaration that Article 14(1)(b) together with Section 1(b) of Part II of the Second Schedule is to be read harmoniously with Article 8(2) of the Federal Constitution that was amended in 2001 to prohibit gender discrimination. However, the Government attempted to strike out the case on 22 January 2021 by calling the case "frivolous, vexatious and troublesome", which was then rejected by the High Court on 6 May 2021.



***On 9 September 2021, the Kuala Lumpur High Court judge Dato' Akhtar Tahir in a landmark decision ruled that Article 14(1)(b) together with the Second Schedule, Part II, Section 1(b) of the FC, must be read in a harmonious manner with Article 8(2) of the Federal Constitution. In doing this, the High Court judge announced that the word 'father' must be read to include mothers and that the overseas-born children of Malaysian women are citizens by 'operation of law'.***

This ruling received **open support from several federal ministers** including the Minister of Women, Family and Community Development, Datuk Seri Rina Harun; de facto Law Minister, Datuk Seri Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar; Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dato' Sri Saifuddin bin Abdullah; Minister of Communications and Multimedia, Tan Sri Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Annuar bin Musa; Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities, Datuk Zuraida binti Kamaruddin.

However, **on 13 September 2021, the Government filed an appeal** against the landmark High Court decision. They also applied for a stay of execution to temporarily halt the implementation of the High Court's decision pending appeal.

On **22 December 2021, the Court of Appeal unanimously dismissed the Government's stay of execution application** and ordered the issuance of citizenship-related documents to impacted children. Following this, on 29 December 2021, three Malaysian mothers who are plaintiffs in the Suriani Kempe case submitted their documents to the National Registration Department (NRD) under Article 14(1)(b) of the Federal Constitution, in order to obtain citizenship documents for their children.





## #JanganAppeal

Following the KL High Court decision, Family Frontiers pre-empted the Government's move to appeal against the decision. Thus, Family Frontiers immediately **launched the #JanganAppeal campaign to urge the Government not to appeal against the decision.** Family Frontiers **wrote to key Federal Ministers** and initiated a **joint CSO statement** that garnered endorsements from 58 national civil society organisations and 52 activists. However, shortly after, the Government filed an appeal against the High Court decision.

## #TarikBalikRayuan

Family Frontiers **launched the #TarikBalikRayuan campaign to urge the Government to withdraw its appeal against the landmark High Court decision.** Family Frontiers, through its multi-pronged advocacy approach, targeted a wide range of stakeholders to increase public awareness on the discriminatory citizenship provisions and its impact on families, and increase public action towards pressuring the Government.

*This campaign gained widespread public support and extensive media coverage, including 30,000++ signatures on a petition and public endorsements from Members of Parliament from both sides of the floor.*





The **petition was handed over to the Minister of Foreign Affairs** along with a memorandum from Malaysian mothers impacted by Malaysia's discriminatory citizenship laws in front of the Parliament building on September 23. The handover was followed by a press conference, during which the Minister of Foreign Affairs Datuk Saifuddin Abdullah confirmed that the matter was brought to the Cabinet by the Minister of Women, Family and Community Development the previous week, and that the feedback from the cabinet was positive.

Also present to show support for the Malaysian mothers were Segambut MP Hannah Yeoh, Petaling Jaya MP Maria Chin Abdullah, Kulai MP Teo Nie Ching, Batu Kawan MP Kasthuri Patto, Sekijang MP Natrah Ismail, Merbok MP Nor Azrina Surip, Simpang Renggam MP Maszlee Malik, while there were also representatives for Plantation Industries and Commodities Minister Datuk Zuraida Kamaruddin, Pengerang MP Datuk Seri Azalina Othman, and Bayan Baru MP Sim Tze Tzin.



Picture by Yusof Mat Isa

***Following the launch of the petition, the Home Minister announced that they will proceed with the appeal, citing a contradictory court decision, but that a constitutional amendment was being considered; the Home Minister added that the Attorney-General was instructed to obtain the consent of the Conference of Rulers in order to allow the tabling of an amendment in Parliament.***





As part of the campaign, Family Frontiers also launched a short film titled 'Saya Juga Anak Malaysia' and an [advocacy microsite](#) in collaboration with Freedom Film Network and The Fourth, with support from Angkatan Belia Islam Malaysia (ABIM), which aims to shed light on the effects of gender-discriminatory citizenship laws on Malaysian women, their children and the family unit.

## ADVOCACY BY MOTHERS

Family Frontiers has a network of Malaysian women impacted by Malaysia's gender-discriminatory citizenship laws, and now a newly-established network of second-generation children impacted by these laws. The network serves as a **platform for the exchange of information, support and solidarity**, and was established to ensure Malaysian women felt supported in the process of navigating their children's citizenship.

Through community engagement and confidence and capacity-building, impacted mothers who are a part of the network have been **co-creating and leading the 'Saya Juga Anak Malaysia' campaign for equal citizenship rights to resist patriarchal structures that govern citizenship laws in Malaysia**. This is evident through the involvement of the network members in the case filed by Family Frontiers and the ensuing rigorous campaign demanding the Government's action on the matter. Impacted Malaysian mothers have been consistently sharing their stories and calls to action in all of Family Frontiers' outreach efforts, including webinars, forums, discussions to ensure that the advocacy is rooted in lived experiences; they have also been demonstrating and occupying public spaces to exercise their rights to freedom of speech and expression. Besides, the Malaysian mothers have also been heavily utilising mainstream and social media to raise awareness on the issue and highlight the realities on the ground.



**2ndclasscitizen\_not**  
 Rachel  
 Just a single mum fighting for equal citizenship rights so her child can be Malaysian.  
 chng.it/PgnpN9dXtC

99 posts 205 followers 81 following

My Story Donation Petition

**a\_malaysian\_mother**  
 Esther  
 A Malaysian mother who wants to confer her citizenship to her child  
 bit.ly/tarikbalikrayuan

107 posts 191 followers 115 following

Twitter storm Petition Link Fact Donation ARIAM

POSTS REELS VIDEOS TAGGED

POSTS REELS VIDEOS TAGGED

**tanah\_dan\_air**  
 patricia l.  
 Malaysian mother on a mission for #EqualCitizenshiprights - supaya anak-anak kami dapat berakar umbi di tanah air ini  
 bit.ly/tarikbalikrayuan

POSTS TAGGED

**botizathesumandak**  
 Botiza  
 I am Malaysian although I am born outside Malaysia. My mother is Malaysian so I am too.  
 #IamMotherHearMeBolan  
 This account is managed by Lesnie

POSTS REELS VIDEOS TAGGED



The Government has consistently utilised every judicial avenue possible to resist Malaysian women's equal citizenship rights since the day the case was filed. Despite the continued trauma and struggles that impacted families have to face as a result of the bureaucratic rollercoaster that the Government is putting them through, the impacted women have exhibited nothing but persistence, fearlessness and resilience in their advocacy.





# NATIONAL-LEVEL ADVOCACY

With increased political instability in Malaysia, Family Frontiers had to be strategic and persistent with its engagements. Family Frontiers heavily **relied on the media** to raise awareness on the challenges faced by the community, and offer practical recommendations and solutions to relevant authorities. **Collaboration and partnership with other civil society organisations, networks, and groups** were crucial in amplifying the message and ensuring that the campaign and stories reach a wider audience.

## Engagement with policymakers

*As a result of strategic engagements, Family Frontiers was able to gradually build a rapport with policymakers and raise awareness on the challenges faced by community members.*

As members of several Human and Women's Rights coalitions in Malaysia, Family Frontiers was involved in **joint-CSO meetings with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs** on Malaysia's Universal Periodic Review mid-term review and Malaysia's bid for a seat on the United Nations Human Rights Council.

Following the 9 September 2021 landmark Kuala Lumpur High Court decision, Family Frontiers **met and discussed with the Minister of Women, Family and Community Development** and the **Minister of Foreign Affairs** to discuss the impact of gender-discriminatory citizenship laws on women and children and ways forward in terms of the Government's appeal against the decision, and the need for reform and a constitutional amendment to concretise the court decision. Family Frontiers once again **engaged with the Minister of Foreign Affairs who attended the demonstration by impacted Malaysian mothers in front of the Parliament building** to hand over the petition launched by Family Frontiers that garnered around 30,000 signatures then and a Malaysian mothers' memorandum.







Family Frontiers also engaged with the **Women's Wing of the Malaysian Chinese Association (Wanita MCA)** that resulted in the party issuing multiple statements in support of Malaysian women's equal citizenship rights.

Family Frontiers consistently engaged with the **National Human Rights Commission (SUHAKAM)**, particularly the Children's Commissioner, on various issues such as family separation and gender-discriminatory citizenship laws.

## Engagement with other national-level advocacy groups and processes

### National coalition engagement

Family Frontiers contributes to advocacy meetings as part of **national coalitions and networks**, including the Joint Action Group for Gender Equality (JAG), CSO Platform for Reform: Right to Citizenship Cluster, Labour Law Reform Coalition, Malaysian Child Rights Coalition and End Child Detention Network.

### People's Manifesto (Manifesto Rakyat)

Family Frontiers was also involved in the People's Manifesto (Manifesto Rakyat) where it had made **multiple written submissions in the Gender, Women, Economic Justice, Children, Health and Education clusters** to propose policy recommendations in the best interest of Malaysian binational families. A **series of public virtual town hall forums** were conducted to facilitate engagement and conversations with the public where Family Frontiers spoke on the socio-economic impact on Malaysian binational families and offered practical policy solutions.



## Women's Tribunal Malaysia

Family Frontiers was also a member of the **Women's Tribunal Malaysia Steering Committee** during which **two Malaysian women** impacted by gender-discriminatory citizenship laws were prepared to **testify at the tribunal** on the rights violations they experienced.



## Engagement on double quarantine charges imposed on non-citizen spouses and children entering Sarawak

On the issue of double quarantine charges imposed on non-citizen spouses of Malaysians entering the East Malaysian state of Sarawak, Family Frontiers engaged extensively with Sarawak Women for Women Society (SWWS) and Lawyer Kamek for Change (LK4C). Among policymakers, Family Frontiers engaged with the Deputy Chief Minister of Sarawak, the National Disaster Management Agency (NADMA), Malaysian National Security Council, Prime Minister's Office, Ministry for Local Government & Housing Sarawak and Sarawakian Members of Parliament.

## Engagement on access to COVID-19 vaccine

Family Frontiers worked alongside the Right to Redress Coalition (of which it is a member) to advocate for equal access to vaccines among the migrant population. Direct engagements with the Ministry of Science and Technology, particularly the Minister in-charge of the vaccine rollout, were initiated that resulted in favourable policy outcomes. Family Frontiers also relied on the media to highlight the **importance of ensuring foreign spouses of Malaysians had equal access to the COVID-19 vaccine**.



# Parliamentary engagement

Family Frontiers **engaged with several Members of Parliament to utilise parliamentary mechanisms** such as parliamentary questions, special chamber and minister question time to obtain information from relevant ministries on statistics, procedures and policy updates or clarifications relating to Malaysian binational families.

## September 2021

- **Five (5) questions** were directed towards the Ministry of Home Affairs on citizenship applications, justifications on the processing of these applications and Malaysia's reservations to the Article on nationality in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).
- **One (1) question** was asked on foreign spouses, particularly on joint custody and child support in case of divorce of Malaysian binational couples.
- **Two (2) special chambers** were conducted on citizenship applications, one particularly on the Government's appeal against the case of Suriani Kempe & Ors. v Government of Malaysia & Ors.

## October 2021

- **Four (4) questions** were directed towards the Ministry of Home Affairs on the number of citizenship applications received, approved, rejected and in process, along with justifications on the number of applications processed under Article 15(2) of the FC.
- **Two (2) questions** were asked on the rights of foreign spouses, namely the right to reside in Malaysia following a divorce and the way even those with custody rights over the children are generally not granted long-term visas to remain in the country, and another on foreign spouses' right to work while citing the concluding observations by the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).
- **One (1) special chamber** was conducted on the constitutional amendment towards granting Malaysian women equal rights to confer citizenship on their overseas-born children.

## November 2021

- **Four (4) questions** were raised relating to citizenship applications of children born to either parent who is a Malaysian, including one (1) on the Ministry of Home Affairs' plans to amend the Constitution to grant Malaysian women equal rights to confer citizenship on their overseas-born children.
- **Two (2) questions** were raised on the rights of foreign spouses, specifically on the mechanisms in place to ensure non-citizen husbands of Malaysian can remain in the country to provide for their children following a divorce.



## December 2021

**Two (2) questions** were asked on citizenship, one (1) on the number of citizenship applications processed by the Ministry of Home Affairs and another on the constitutional amendment to grant Malaysian women equal citizenship rights.

## Constitutional amendment

Family Frontiers' engagement with Members of Parliament compounded with the decision of the KL High Court compelled the **Minister of Home Affairs to announce in Parliament the Ministry's intentions to introduce a policy to amend the Federal Constitution** to grant equal rights to Malaysian women in conferring citizenship on their overseas-born children. On 16 December 2021, the Home Minister, responding to a question in Parliament, announced the **formation of a committee** comprising various stakeholders to study the issue of unequal citizenship rights and the relevant amendments.

## Submission for Inquiry to Parliament Special Select Committee on Women and Children Affairs and Social Development

Family Frontiers engaged with the Parliament Special Select Committee on Women and Children Affairs and Social Development when it sent a **submission for inquiry** on the issue of gender-discriminatory citizenship laws impacting women and children, and was **invited by the Committee to have further discussions**.

# Media engagement

Family Frontiers heavily relies on the media to consistently highlight challenges on the ground and lived experiences of those impacted by Malaysia’s citizenship laws or immigration policies.

*In 2021, Family Frontiers gained approximately 500 media mentions, including mentions of campaign updates in print and electronic media, opinion pieces, feature articles, podcast interviews and television interviews.*

**HOME / MALAYSIA**  
**Malaysian mums see hope for children's recognition as citizens after court rejects govt's bid to suspend ruling**  
 Monday, 15 Nov 2021 12:08 PM MYT  
 BY IDA LIM

**HOME / MALAYSIA**  
**Family Frontiers slams Putrajaya's move to appeal High Court's judgment on children citizenship case**  
 Monday, 17 May 2021 02:54 PM MYT  
 BY R. LOHESWAR

**South China Morning Post**  
 Asia / Southeast Asia  
**Malaysian mothers win High Court battle against 'sexist' citizenship law**  
 • Malaysia is one of 25 countries that do not give mothers and fathers equal rights under the country's citizenship law  
 • Malaysia's constitution gives fathers the automatic right to confer citizenship to their children born abroad, but it does not mention mothers  
 REUTERS

**FEATURE**  
**Mothers Fight Sexism in Malaysia's Citizenship Law**  
 Malaysia's constitution allows Malaysian fathers—not mothers—to pass their citizenship to children born abroad. Six mothers successfully challenged this discriminatory policy in court, but must continue to take on a recalcitrant government.  
 21 December 2021  
 Author Liani MK | Graphic: Elena Ekzarsheny

**HEALTHCARE SECTOR** / SEPTEMBER 9, 2021 / 11:54 PM / UPDATED 7 MONTHS AGO  
**Malaysian mothers win lawsuit in 'sexist' citizenship case**

**HOME / MALAYSIA**  
**Family Frontiers: Court decision for no delay on citizenship papers for Malaysian mums' overseas-born children paves way for family reunions**  
 Wednesday, 22 Dec 2021 11:16 PM MYT  
 BY IDA LIM

**BINA RAMANAND - FIGHTING FOR RIGHTS OF BINATIONAL FAMILIES!**  
 Bina Ramanand, Co-Founder, Family Frontiers  
 10-Sep-21 15:00

**astro AWANI**

**EQUALITY** | **SURI KEMPE**  
 President, Family Frontiers



# UN ADVOCACY ENGAGEMENT

## *National UN Advocacy Engagement*

Family Frontiers consistently engages with the **United Nations Country team**, especially **UN agencies such as UNHCR, UNFPA, UNDP and UNICEF**. Nationally, Family Frontiers was involved in the meetings initiated by the CSO–SDG alliance to discuss Malaysia’s submissions to the **Voluntary National Review (VNR)** in monitoring the adoption and localisation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Malaysia. Also in attendance were the United Nations Country team and government representatives. Family Frontiers was also present in several discussions comprising of impacted persons, experts and civil society organisations on **National Clusters for SDG Reporting** on Goal 3 on Good Health and Well-Being, Goal 8 on Decent Work and Economic Growth, Goal 10 on Reduced Inequalities, and Goal 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

## *Utilising global UN advocacy processes and complaint procedures*

Family Frontiers utilises United Nations advocacy processes and complaint procedures such as **international treaty bodies, UN Working Groups and Special Rapporteurs and High-Level events**. Family Frontiers made its individual submission for **UPR mid-term review** and submitted an **urgent appeal to the UN Working Group on Discrimination Against Women and Girls** which resulted in the **Working Group issuing a communication to the Government of Malaysia** regarding its appeal against the 9 September 2021 Kuala Lumpur High Court judgement. The **Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)** complaint procedure was also utilised to raise the issue of gender-discriminatory citizenship laws on a global platform. Family Frontiers also attended a **thematic consultation** on statelessness and violence against women with the **Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women**, following which an official submission was sent under the thematic area.



# PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

## Outreach activities in collaboration with civil society organisations

*Family Frontiers mapped and collaborated with various civil society organisations and groups nationally and globally to increase public awareness and action towards the issue of gender-discriminatory citizenship laws and immigration policies and practices impacting Malaysian binational families. Collaborations ensured that Family Frontiers' campaign messaging was amplified to a wider audience.*

### Webinar on 'Economic Marginalisation Impacting Malaysian Binational Families | 29 January

A webinar to share evidence and lived realities on the economic marginalisation impacting binational families of Malaysians, especially as a result of COVID-19. The pandemic had brought to light the vulnerability and precarity faced by Malaysians in transnational marriages and their non-citizen spouses and children as a result of bureaucratic challenges. The webinar was an avenue for Family Frontiers to bring together different stakeholders to discuss challenges and make an economic case against the marginalisation of binational families of Malaysians, and explore strategies and ways forward in the best interest of these families. The webinar featured YB Charles Santiago, Member of Parliament Klang; Dato' Dr Madeline Berma, SUHAKAM Commissioner; Chee Yoke Ling, Executive Committee Member of Family Frontiers and Executive Director of Third World Network. [Link](#)

A WEBINAR ON  
**ECONOMIC MARGINALISATION IMPACTING MALAYSIAN TRANSNATIONAL FAMILIES**  
 29.1.2021 (FRIDAY) | 8PM - 9.30PM

facebook.com/FSSGMY

**PANELLISTS**

**MODERATOR**

YB CHARLES SANTIAGO  
MP Klang

DATO' DR MADELINE BERMA  
SUHAKAM Commissioner

CHEE YOKE LING  
Exco Member, Family Frontiers



## Webinar on ‘Malaysian Binational Families: Impact of Unequal Citizenship Laws on the Mother & Child’ with HAKAM Youth | 27 February

A webinar co-hosted by Family Frontiers and HAKAM Youth aimed at educating the Malaysian public, particularly the Malaysian youth, on the trials faced by Malaysian binational families and their children in terms of difficulties in obtaining citizenship and a lack of access to basic human rights such as healthcare and education, among others. Speakers included YB Maria Chin Abdullah, Member of Parliament for Petaling Jaya; Melinda Anne Sharlini, the Programme Manager of Family Frontiers; Mashithah, an impacted Malaysian mother. [Link](#)

The poster features the HAKAM Youth and Family Frontiers logos at the top. The title is prominently displayed in a yellow banner. Below the title are three circular portraits of the speakers, each with their name and role in a blue box. The event details (Date, Time, Platform) are listed in a black box at the bottom.

**Malaysian Binational Families: Impact of Unequal Citizenship Laws on the Mother & Child**

Speakers:

- YB Maria Chin, MP Petaling Jaya & Social Activist
- Melinda Anne Sharlini, Programme Manager, Family Frontiers
- Mashithah Abdul Halim, Affected Malaysian Mother

Date : 27.02.2021 (Saturday)  
Time : 8.00 - 10.00 pm  
Platform : Zoom

## Webinar on ‘Our right to belong: Unequal Malaysian citizenship laws and its impact on women and children’ | 19 June

This webinar hosted by Family Frontiers and its youth collective, the ‘Right to Belong Project’ discussed Malaysia’s gender-discriminatory citizenship laws and the need for reform. The webinar featured Jasmine Wong, an associate with MahWengKwai & Associates, alongside Roshena, a Malaysian mother and Evelyn and Emily, two sisters impacted by Malaysian citizenship laws. [Link](#)

The poster has a pink-to-white gradient background. It includes the title, event details, a registration link, and a list of speakers with their photos and roles. The Family Frontiers logo is in the bottom left corner.

Webinar

**OUR RIGHT TO BELONG:**

UNEQUAL MALAYSIAN CITIZENSHIP LAWS AND ITS IMPACT ON WOMEN AND CHILDREN

SATURDAY, JUNE 19TH  
8PM - 9.45PM (MYT)

Join our event as we break down the issue of unequal citizenship laws that impact Malaysian women and their children.

**REGISTER NOW**  
[bit.ly/right2belong](https://bit.ly/right2belong)

Speakers:

- JASMINE WONG, ASSOCIATE, MAHWENGLKWAII & ASSOCIATES
- ROSHENA RAFIQ, MALAYSIAN MOTHER
- EVELYN & EMILY, DAUGHTERS OF A MALAYSIAN

## Webinar on ‘#SayaJugaAnakMalaysia: Gender Inequality & Denial of Citizenship’ targeting overseas-Malaysians with Global Bersih | 17 July

A webinar co-organised by Family Frontiers and Global Bersih to provide an opportunity for overseas Malaysians to understand citizenship-related challenges faced by Malaysian Women who give birth overseas, and unpack the case filed by Family Frontiers at the Kuala Lumpur High Court. Speakers included Prof Dato’ Dr Gurdial Singh Nijar, the lead counsel in the Family Frontiers case; Suri Kempe, President of Family Frontiers; Adlyn and Tee Li Li, impacted Malaysian mothers. [Link](#)

**WEBINAR #SayaJugaAnakMalaysia**  
**Gender Inequality & Denial of Citizenship**

global bersih

**DATE**  
**TIME**  
**SATURDAY**  
**17 JULY 2021**  
 5:00-6:30PM  
 Malaysian Time

**REGISTER BY 16 JULY**  
<https://bit.ly/SayaJugaAnakMalaysia>  
 Follow us LIVE @GlobalBersih

**SHAMALA HINRICHSEN** //  
 MODERATOR  
 Founder & CEO  
 Hanal

**SURI KEMPE** //  
 SPEAKER  
 President  
 Family Frontiers

**DATO' DR. GURDIAL SINGH NIJAR** //  
 SPEAKER  
 Lawyer & Lead Counsel  
 Family Frontiers

**ADLYN TEOH** //  
 SPEAKER  
 Affected Malaysian  
 Mother

**TEE LI LI** //  
 SPEAKER  
 Affected Malaysian  
 Mother

## Webinar on ‘Citizenship: The Plight of Children Born Abroad’ with UndiMsia | 7 August

A webinar organised by UndiMsia and supported by Family Frontiers to advocate for the importance of automatic citizenship rights of children born overseas to Malaysian women and draw attention to the obstacles faced by women and children impacted. The webinar featured Professor Dato’ Noor Aziah Mohd Awal, the SUHAKAM Children’s Commissioner; Eric Toh, Associate at MahWengKwai & Associates; Suri Kempe, President of Family Frontiers; Gaithiri Siva, an impacted Malaysian mother. [Link](#)

A LIVE WEBINAR ON UNEQUAL CITIZENSHIP

**CITIZENSHIP: THE PLIGHT OF CHILDREN BORN ABROAD**

7 AUGUST 2021 (Saturday) | 8.00PM TO 10.00PM

REGISTRATION LINK:  
<https://bit.ly/UnequalCitizenship>

**GAITHIRI SIVA,**  
 AN AFFECTED MALAYSIAN MOTHER

**ERIC TOH,**  
 ASSOCIATE AT MAHWENGGWAI & ASSOCIATES

**SURI KEMPE,**  
 PRESIDENT OF FAMILY FRONTIERS

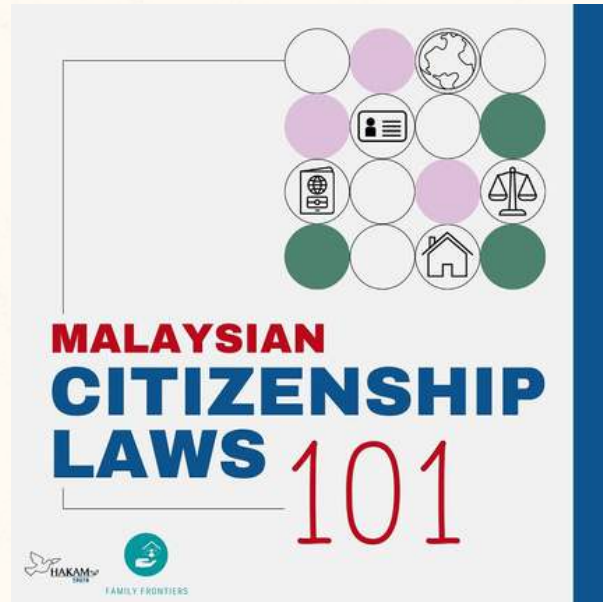
**PROFESSOR DATO' NOOR AZIAH MOHD AWAL,**  
 COMMISSIONER FOR CHILD AFFAIRS, SUHAKAM

**MODERATOR:**  
 PAVEETHRA RAJAGOPAL, INTERN AT MCCHR



## Workshop on ‘Citizenship Laws 101’ with Hakam Youth | 7 August

An interactive workshop by Family Frontiers in collaboration with Hakam Youth to share more about the challenges faced by Malaysians in binational marriages. The workshop was conducted by Ms. Jasmine Wong, an associate with MahWengKwai & Associates.



## Webinar on ‘#SayaJugaAnakMalaysia: Jangan Menafikan Hak Ibu dan Anak’ with Sisters in Islam | 26 August

A webinar hosted by #TelenisaTellsLive Sisters in Islam, supported by Family Frontiers to discuss the issue of gender-discriminatory citizenship laws and its impact on women and children. The speakers included Firdaus Husni, the Chief Human Rights Strategist at MCOHR – Malaysian Centre for Constitutionalism and Human Rights; Suri Kempe, President of Family Frontiers; Anisa Sani, an impacted Malaysian mother. [Link](#)

#TELENISATELLS LIVE

**#SayaJugaAnakMalaysia:  
Jangan Menafikan Hak Ibu dan Anak**

			
Vivienne Lee Abdullah Ahli SIS & Naib Presiden Persatuan Peranakan Baba Nyonya KL & Selangor	Suri Kempe Aktivis Bebas dan Perunding	Firdaus Husni Ketua Strategi Hak Asasi Manusia Malaysian Centre for Constitutionalism and Human Rights (MCCHR)	Anisa Sani Tetamu Jemputan
MODERATOR	NARASUMBER	NARASUMBER	PEMBICARA

SIARAN LANGSUNG DI:

26.08.21 KHAMIS 5.00 - 6.00 PETANG @officialSIS @telenisa.sis

## Webinar on ‘Hak Kewarganegaraan: Merdekakah Wanita dan Kanak-kanak Malaysia?’ with Angkatan Belia Islam Malaysia (ABIM) | 22 September

A webinar co-hosted by Angkatan Belia Islam Malaysia (ABIM) and Family Frontiers to discuss the issue of gender-discriminatory citizenship laws from an Islamic perspective. The webinar also featured Dr. Nor Hafizah Mohd Badrol Afandi, Professor Ahmad Ibrahim Kulliyah of Laws (AIKOL) of the International Islamic University Malaysia (UIAM) and Prof. Madya Dr Mohamed Azam Mohamed Adil, Deputy CEO of the International Institute of Advanced Islamic Studies (IAIS) Malaysia, alongside Suri Kempe, Family Frontiers President and Adli Zakuan, Vice President of ABIM. [Link](#)

**Webinar**  
**Hak Kewarganegaraan:  
 Merdekakah Wanita dan Kanak-kanak Malaysia?**  
 RABU, 22 SEPTEMBER 2021 | 8.30 - 10.00 MALAM

**Suri Kempe**  
 Presiden  
 Family Frontiers

**Dr. Nor Hafizah Bt  
 Mohd Badrol Afandi**  
 Pensyarah AIKOL  
 UIAM

**Prof. Madya Dr.  
 Mohamed Azam  
 Mohamed Adil**  
 Deputy CEO of  
 IAIS Malaysia

**Moderator**  
**Adli Zakuan Zairakithnaini**  
 Naib Presiden ABIM

ABIM & HELWA ABIM **LIVE** zoom

## Forum on ‘Keganasan Berasaskan Jantina dan Isu Kewarganegaraan: Apa Kaitanya?’ with Stand Up Malaysia | 31 October

A forum co-organised by Family Frontiers and Stand Up Malaysia to shed light on how Malaysia's harsh and discriminatory citizenship laws have affected many overseas-born children and their mothers, especially with heightening women and children's vulnerability to violence and harm. Speakers included YB Nik Nazmi, Member of Parliament for Setiawangsa; Melinda Anne Sharlini, Programme Manager of Family Frontiers; an impacted Malaysian mother and child; Soffi Shuhada, representative from Stand Up MY.

**REGISTER NOW!**

FAMILY FRONTIERS x STAND UP MALAYSIA

**FORUM ON 'THE  
 VIOLENCE OF GENDER  
 DISCRIMINATION AND  
 CITIZENSHIP LAWS'**

**L  
 I  
 N  
 K**

**B  
 I  
 O**

**ZOOM | 31 OCTOBER 2021 | 8PM - 9.30PM**



## Twitter space on ‘Herstory: Malaysian Mothers’ Advocacy for Equal Rights to Confer Citizenship’ with All Women’s Action Society (AWAM) | 19 December

A collaboration between All Women’s Action Society (AWAM) and Family Frontiers to speak on Malaysian mothers’ fight for equal citizenship rights, for themselves and for all women in Malaysia. The speakers included Esther and Leanne, two impacted Malaysian mothers, alongside Suri Kempe, President of Family Frontiers.



## Sembang Santai : Wanita warganegara Malaysia tak layak bagi kewarganegaraan kepada anak? Apa cerita? | 3 October

An Instagram Live chat session on Malaysia’s citizenship laws that are discriminatory towards Malaysian women. The session featured three (3) impacted Malaysian mothers – Loca B, a Malaysian rapper; Nadine Ann, Miss Universe Malaysia 2010; Rachel Ng, Director and Equal Citizenship Advocate; alongside Melinda Anne Sharlini, Programme Manager of Family Frontiers.



## Clubhouse discussion ‘Bayi lahir luar negara satu ancaman keselamatan? Apa cerita?’ by Wanita MCA | 22 September

Co-organised by Wanita MCA, Apek Cina and Family Frontiers to discuss citizenship rights of children born overseas to Malaysian women. Speakers included Datuk Heng Sei Kie, Wanita MCA chief; “Apek Cina”, Independent Lawyer & Political Analyst; Chee Yoke Ling, Family Frontiers Executive Committee Member; Adlyn Adam Teoh, Family Frontiers Executive Committee Member and Plaintiff in the Suriani Kempe case.

## Press Conference by Penang Women's Development Corporation (PWDC) | 8 October

Press Conference featuring YB Chong Eng, EXCO for Social Development and Non-Islamic Religious Affairs; YB Kasthuriraani Patto, Member of Parliament for Batu Kawan; YB Senator Fadhlina Dato' Sidek, Member of Dewan Negara; Suri Kempe, President of Family Frontiers. The press conference was aimed at giving impacted persons a platform to come forward to voice out their plea and share their struggle they've been experiencing in their citizenship rights. [Link](#)

## Webinar on 'Statelessness 101: Reforming the Law' by I Belong Here, Taylor's University | 27 October

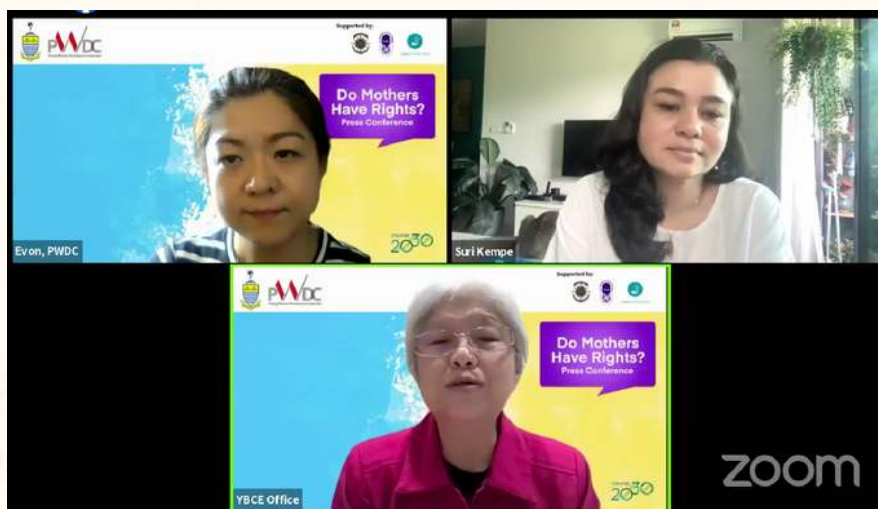
A webinar by a student-led virtual campaign 'I Belong Here' to raising awareness on the stateless community in Malaysia. The webinar was aimed at helping viewers understand the policies in place to combat statelessness and how effective they are in our country. Reforms that need to be implemented in order to better combat the issue were explored. Speakers included YB Kasthuri Patto, Member of Parliament for Batu Kawan; YB Teo Nie Ching, Member of Parliament for Kulai; Melinda Anne Sharlini, Programme Manager for Family Frontiers.

## Webinar on 'Soal Hak Ibu' with Penang Women's Development Corporation (PWDC) | 13 November

Co-organised by Penang Women's Development Corporation (PWDC) and supported by the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM) and Family Frontiers. The webinar featured YB Ramkarpal Singh, Member of Parliament Bukit Gelugor; Professor Dato' Noor Aziah Mohd Awal, SUHAKAM Children's Commissioner; Puan Atirah Syamimi Azmi, an impacted Malaysian mother. [Link](#)

## Forum on 'Do Mothers have Rights?' (Mandarin) with Penang Women's Development Corporation (PWDC) | 17 October

An online forum organised in collaboration with Penang Women's Development Corporation (PWDC) to bring forward a mother and a daughter's plight from two different families on issues in regard to citizenship rights of overseas-born children of Malaysian women. [Link](#)





# Global outreach

## Webinar on 'Youth Activism for Gender Equality in Nationality Laws' by Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights | 1 June

A dynamic conversation with youth activists advocating to end gender discrimination in nationality laws in Malaysia, Bahrain, Jordan, Eswatini, Kuwait and Lebanon. A keynote speech by Un Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka was delivered. [Link](#)

## Global Launch of 'Together We Can: The COVID-19 Impact on Stateless People & A Roadmap for Change' by Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion (ISI) | 17 June

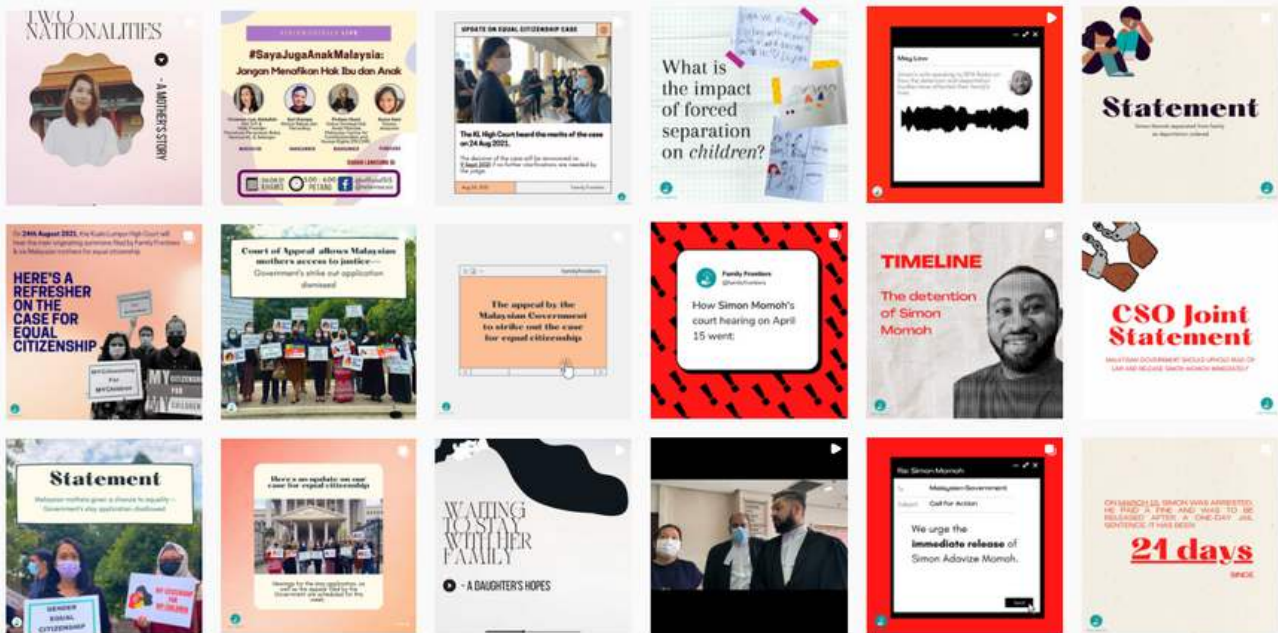
Organised by the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion (ISI), this event was the global launch of the Together We Can report by ISI and the COVID-19 Emergency Statelessness Fund (CESF) Consortium. The event focused on unpacking the findings of the report and presenting the experiences of CESF Consortium members who are working directly to address the COVID-19 impact on stateless people. Together with other invited experts, they also shared their reflections on the roadmap and discussed how this can help to shape more effective and joined-up responses by states, UN agencies, NGOs, donors, stateless activists, grassroots groups and other relevant stakeholders. Family Frontiers was a contributor towards the Together We Can report. [Link](#)



## Webinar on UN Advocacy for Gender-Equal Nationality Laws by Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights | 19 November

Experts from multiple regions share learnings from their experiences of leveraging UN-related advocacy for gender-equal nationality rights in a webinar organized by the Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights and co-sponsored by Collective for Research and Training on Development-Action, Equality Bahamas, Family Frontiers, Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion, "My Nationality is a Right for Me and My Family" Campaign, Nationality For All, and Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung-Geneva Office. [Link](#)

# Social media awareness



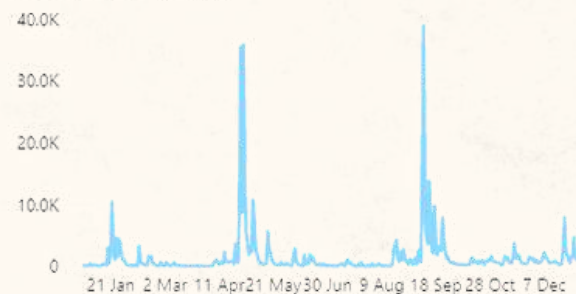
Family Frontiers uses social media to **increase public awareness and action towards gender-discriminatory citizenship laws and immigration policies and practices impacting Malaysian binational families**. This includes explainers and infographics to educate the public on laws, policies and practices; stories and lived experiences to highlight realities on the ground; campaign updates, including practical calls-to-action to the general public such that they can directly play a role in the advocacy in pressuring the Government to enact reform.

**Family Frontiers reached an estimated 313,299 people collectively through their Facebook and Instagram posts and stories and gained 3,707,900 Tweet impressions on Twitter.**

## Reach

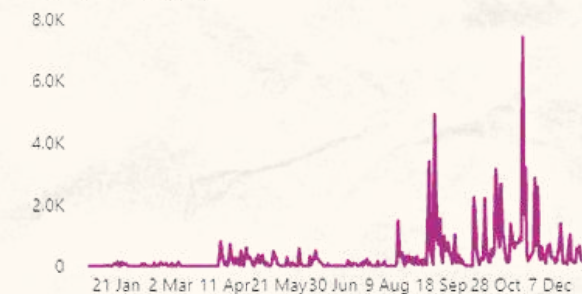
Facebook Page reach ⓘ

255,819 ↑ 2.2K%



Instagram reach ⓘ

57,480 ↑ 43.1K%





# Research

***Family Frontiers maps crucial issues impacting the community and conducts research to highlight challenges on the ground, including gaps in relevant laws, policies and practices; and offers practical policy recommendations that policymakers can adopt to ensure citizenship laws and immigration policies are family-friendly and gender-sensitive and inclusive.***

Evidence on the ground is collected through surveys, inquiries and interactions during service delivery as well as focus group discussions. Findings are then curated in the form of policy briefs, long-form reports and social media shareables. Some of the research conducted by Family Frontiers (both as part of the Malaysian Campaign for Equal Citizenship and the Foreign Spouses Support Group) include:

- Gender-based violence in binational marriages: The violence of unequal citizenship laws and immigration policies
- Position paper on citizenship rights and children for the Child Rights Coalition Malaysia
- Economic marginalisation faced by Malaysian binational families (and the economic cost of denying foreign spouses equal rights to employment)
- Challenges to Muslim marriage registration among Malaysian binational couples
- Marriage Registration Challenges: Consequences to binational couples due to delayed marriage registration in Malaysia (Muslim and non-Muslim marriages)
- Examining the status of Malaysian binational families during the COVID-19 pandemic: Research Findings from Malaysian Binational Families Based in Malaysia and Abroad (as an impact check-in since the 2020 COVID-19 impact survey by FSSG)
- Status of separated, divorced and widowed non-citizen spouses of Malaysians

These materials are currently available upon request and will soon be publicly available on the Family Frontiers' website.

# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2021

	Note	2021 RM	2020 RM
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and bank balances	4	79,572	19,105
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<u>79,572</u>	<u>19,105</u>
<b>FINANCE BY:</b>			
<b>ACCUMULATED SURPLUS</b>			
Balance as at beginning of the financial year/period		17,105	-
Net surplus for the year/period		4,287	17,105
Balance as at end of the financial year/period		<u>21,392</u>	<u>17,105</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Other payables and accruals	5	58,180	2,000
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<u>79,572</u>	<u>19,105</u>

## STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2021

	2021 RM	From 24 July 2020 To 31 December 2020 RM
INCOME ( <i>Appendix I</i> )	185,431	61,714
LESS: OPERATING EXPENDITURE ( <i>Appendix I</i> )	(181,144)	44,609
<b>NET SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR/PERIOD</b>	<u>4,287</u>	<u>17,105</u>



**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
AS AT 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2021 (CONT'D)

**4. CASH AND BANK BALANCES**

	2021 RM	2020 RM
Cash at bank	79,572	18,065
Cash in hand	-	1,040
	<u>79,572</u>	<u>19,105</u>

**5. OTHER PAYABLES AND ACCRUALS**

	2021 RM	2020 RM
Other payables	29,569	-
Sundry payables and accrued charges	25,643	-
<u>Accruals</u>		
Accounting fee	1,000	-
Auditors' remuneration	1,600	2,000
Printing and stationery - accounting and audit	368	-
	<u>58,180</u>	<u>2,000</u>

**6. APPROVALS OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The financial statements have been authorised for issue in accordance with the resolution of the Council on 25 March 2022.

**DETAILED STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2021

*(Appendix I)*

	2021 RM	From 24 July 2020 To 31 December 2020 RM
<b>INCOME</b>		
Donation received	34,611	60,134
Grant received	149,190	-
Membership fee received	1,630	1,580
	<u>185,431</u>	<u>61,714</u>
<b>LESS: OPERATING EXPENDITURE</b>		
Accounting fee	5,000	-
Auditor's remuneration	1,600	2,000
Auditor's remuneration - over provision	(50)	-
Bank charges	24	8
Co-ordinators fee	48,000	17,500
Communication and consultant fees	28,466	4,783
Meeting cost	1,285	1,860
Legal fee	19,289	-
Printing and stationery	368	-
Programme management fee	48,000	17,500
Rental expenses	6,600	-
Taxation fee	212	-
Telephone charges	-	958
Transport charges	3,819	-
Other allowance	5,526	-
Website charges	5,500	-
Workshop fee	7,505	-
	<u>181,144</u>	<u>44,609</u>
<b>NET SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR/PERIOD</b>	<u>4,287</u>	<u>17,105</u>

# Our heartfelt gratitude

## Donors & Contributors

We thank all our funders, donors and contributors for your compassionate gesture of financially aiding our work; with each donation we receive, we become all that much closer to our goal to advance, promote and strengthen the family unit so that no family is left behind. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of all Malaysian binational families.

- Women's Fund Asia (WFA)
- Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion (ISI)
- Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights

We would also like to thank all individuals who contributed through our Simply Giving fundraising platform. [Link](#)

## Collaborators & Supporters

We would also like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all collaborators and supporters that enabled us to substantially expand our reach in our advocacy, capacity building, and community engagement efforts through collaborations with our national, regional and global partners. It has been a true pleasure and inspiration working with you, and we look forward to future opportunities in achieving our common goals.

- All Women's Action Society (AWAM)
- Amnesty International Malaysia
- Angkatan Belia Islam Malaysia (ABIM)
- Association of Women Lawyers Malaysia (AWL)
- COVID-19 Emergency Statelessness Fund (CESF) Consortium
- CSO-SDG Alliance
- CSO Platform for Reform: Right to Citizenship Cluster
- Child Rights Coalition Malaysia (CRCM)
- The Development of Human Resources for Rural Areas, Malaysia (DHRRR-Malaysia)
- End Child Detention Network
- ENGENDER Consultancy
- Global Bersih
- Global Campaign for Equal Citizenship Rights (GCENR)
- The Fourth
- Freedom Film Network
- Hakam Youth
- I Belong Here
- Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion (ISI)
- Justice For Sisters
- Knowledge and Rights with Young People Through Safe Spaces (KRYSS)
- Labour Law Reform Coalition
- Lawyer Kamek for Change (LK4C)
- Lawyers for Liberty
- Messrs. MahWengKwai & Associates
- Malaysian Bar



- Malaysian Centre for Constitutionalism and Human Rights (MCCHR)
- Manifesto Rakyat
- Nationality For All (NFA)
- Perak Women for Women (PWW)
- Rights to Redress
- Sabah Women's Action Resource Group (SAWO)
- Sarawak Women for Women Society (SWWS)
- Sisters in Islam (SIS)
- Stand Up Malaysia
- Suara Rakyat Malaysia (SUARAM)
- Suruhanjaya Hak Asasi Manusia Malaysia (SUHAKAM)
- Tenaganita
- Third World Network (TWN)
- Penang Women's Development Corporation (PWDC)
- Persatuan Kesedaran Komuniti Selangor (EMPOWER)
- Persatuan Sahabat Wanita Selangor (PSWS)
- Women's Aid Organisation (WAO)
- Women's Centre for Change (WCC)
- Women's Wing of the Malaysian Chinese Association (Wanita MCA)
- UndiMsia
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)

## Legal team

Special thanks to our legal team at Messrs. Nijar & Advocates and Messrs. Joshua Aaron Keet for the extraordinary work towards the case of Suriani Kempe & Ors. v Government of Malaysia & Ors. Your legal expertise and support have been invaluable to the Malaysian Campaign for Equal Citizenship.







FAMILY FRONTIERS

DONT  
DENY  
OUR  
CHILD-  
REN



#TARIKBALIKRAYUAN  
#SAYAJUGA ANAK MALAYSIA



MY CITIZENSHIP  
FOR  
MY CHILDREN

Association of Family Support & Welfare  
Selangor & KL (Family Frontiers)

✉ [admin@familyfrontiers.org](mailto:admin@familyfrontiers.org)

📷 [@familyfrontiersmy](https://www.instagram.com/familyfrontiersmy)

🐦 [@FamilyFrontiers](https://twitter.com/FamilyFrontiers)

📘 [@FamilyFrontiersMY](https://www.facebook.com/FamilyFrontiersMY)