



FAMILY FRONTIERS

Family Frontiers

ANNUAL

REPORT

- 2022 -



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LEAD COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Members and Partners of Family Frontiers,

As the Lead Coordinator of Family Frontiers, I am incredibly proud to share with you the significant achievements we have made in 2022. It has been a year full of challenges and obstacles, but with determination and resilience, we have continued to fight for the Gender Equal citizenship rights of the overseas-born children of Malaysian women.

Despite the disappointment of us losing the case in the Court of Appeals and the freezing of citizenship applications by operation of law, we have not given up. Infact with resolve, we have taken the case to the Federal Court, and with powerful advocacy tools such as our micro-site and Ainis' heart-warming campaign video, we have successfully amplified our cause and captured the attention of the media.

We joined forces with the empowered Malaysian mothers to raise their voices and bring attention to our issue during the election campaign. It was a significant milestone for us when we were named Newsmakers of 2022, and this recognition would not have been possible without the unwavering commitment of the Malaysian mothers and their journey to citizenship is well documented and has reached the proportions of a National Movement.

As we look forward to 2023, we have received a commitment from the new government to table the amendment



in Parliament sometime this year. We are actively engaging with MPs across parties, and we are optimistic that the reform we have been fighting is somewhat closer to the goalpost.

We are not only making an impact in Malaysia but also beyond Malaysian borders, indeed it is an honour to represent Family Frontiers on the Global Alliance Taskforce to end statelessness, our partnerships in regional and global coalitions demonstrate our commitment to the cause.

We are humbled by the unwavering support and collaboration of Malaysian Civil Society especially Women, Children, Migrant, Student groups, and international partners and funders who have stood by us in the fight for equal citizenship rights for all. Your courage, resilience, and determination have been an inspiration to us all and have brought us this far.

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to the core group of courageous moms who are at the forefront of this struggle. Your dedication to this cause is truly admirable, and we are honoured to work alongside you.

To our partners, the Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights, Institute of Statelessness and Inclusion, and Nationality for all, we are immensely grateful for the guidance and support you have provided us throughout this journey. Your unwavering commitment to this cause has been a driving force for us.

We would also like to thank our President Suriani Kempe, our Executive Committee, and our team for their tireless efforts and leadership in advancing this cause. You have gone above and beyond in your roles, and we could not have come this far without you.

To every supporter who has amplified our message and shared our posts, we extend our heartfelt gratitude. Your support has brought us closer to our goal, and we are honored to have you by our side.

As we move forward, we draw strength from your support and look forward to continuing our journey to secure equal citizenship rights for all. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Bina Ramanand
Lead co-ordinator



MESSAGE FROM THE COMMUNITY

"My journey during the advocacy for #SayaJugaAnakMalaysia has been a great experience and also an eye opener. This campaign has made me, a single mother, realise that I am not alone, and that the mothers support one another even though we are strangers. This is not only at events but in the group chat as well. The events have helped to boost my confidence to tell others of our predicament and to get their support for our cause. Knowing that there are still many other mothers who have the same fate as me even though their stories and journeys are different—some are trapped in problematic marriages, and some of the children are stateless—has made me want to keep on fighting for a better future for the next generation as well.

I do not want my kids to grow up and live in a country that discriminates against gender and does not recognise their status as citizens even though they have been living in Malaysia for years. How is their future guaranteed if they can no longer live with their families and are forced to settle in a country they do not know? This is not an issue with Malaysian fathers, for the law allows them to confer citizenship automatically, but Malaysian women are made to apply, without guarantee of any result, with approvals being at the mercy of the government.

My message to all Malaysians is that we should not punish the mothers and our children just because they were born abroad to non-citizen fathers. We just want equality, the same rights as Malaysian fathers. Don't mock us before knowing our story. Let us all work together to make #PindaPerkara14 a success.

Anieza, an impacted Malaysian mother

As an impacted mother I have had the privilege of advocating for equal citizenship rights for Malaysian mothers and their children. I was first involved with Family Frontiers through a post on their Facebook page searching for affected families. I was shocked to discover it was almost impossible for Malaysian mothers to pass on their citizenship to their overseas children whereas it was an automatic process for Malaysian fathers, and I felt compelled to get involved. During my time with Family Frontiers, I have participated in a number of advocacy campaigns and events. One of the most memorable ones was the rally we organised outside of JPN in Putrajaya, where we called on the government to take action on the issue of gender-unequal citizenship laws. We also had the opportunity to show the public that behind each citizenship application, there is a mother and a child being deprived of their basic rights in their home country.

One of the biggest challenges I faced while volunteering with Family Frontiers was the lack of awareness and understanding among the general public—many people I spoke with were unaware that this was even an issue, which made it difficult to build the momentum for change. However, I found that by sharing my own story and personal experiences, I was able to help others understand the importance of this issue and why it needs to be addressed.

Despite the challenges, I am proud to say that we have achieved some significant successes. For example, we were able to secure media coverage for the issue, which helped to raise public awareness and put pressure on policy-makers to take action. Overall, my experience with Family Frontiers has been incredibly rewarding. I have learned a lot about the power of advocacy and collective action. I also had the opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals who shared my passion to make a difference for all Malaysian mothers and their children.

Esther, an impacted Malaysian mother

OUR 2022 WINS

In 2022, Family Frontiers made progress in advancing gender equal citizenship rights in Malaysia. Through our tireless efforts and advocacy, we were able to achieve the following:



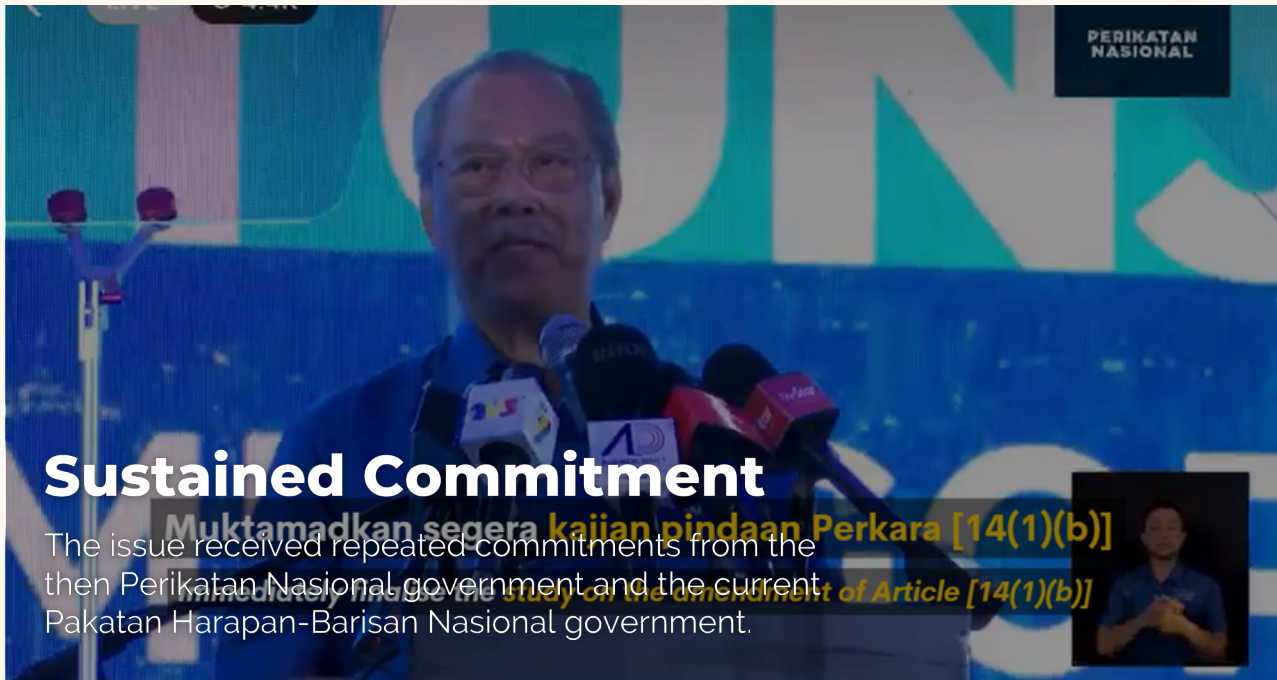
Access to Citizenship:

Six Malaysian mothers who are plaintiffs in Family Frontiers' case successfully obtain their children's citizenship certificates.



Political Prioritisation

Gender equal citizenship rights now a part of all major political party manifestos.



Sustained Commitment

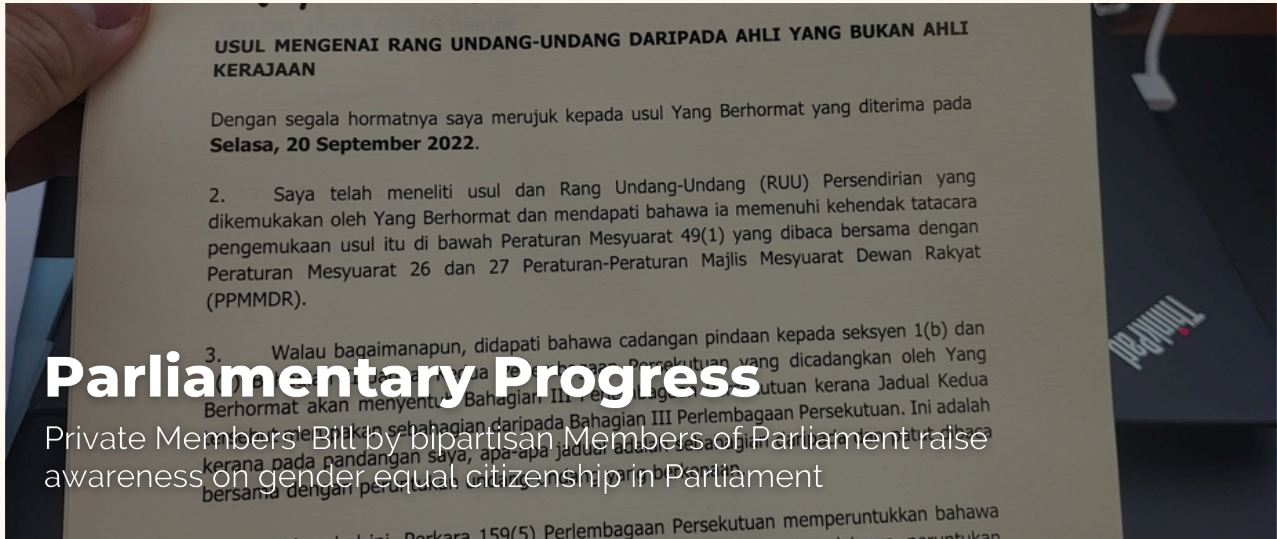
The issue received repeated commitments from the then Perikatan Nasional government and the current Pakatan Harapan-Barisan Nasional government.

Muktamadkan segera kajian pindaan Perkara [14(1)(b)]
Muktamadkan segera the study of the amendment of Article [14(1)(b)]



Growing Movement

Impacted women's movement gains momentum in the fight for equal citizenship rights



FAMILY FRONTIERS' WORK IN 2022

KOMPLEKS MAHKAMAH KUALA LUMPUR

Strategic Litigation

In December 2020, Family Frontiers, along with six Malaysian mothers, filed a case at the Kuala Lumpur High Court, to challenge Malaysia's discriminatory citizenship laws, seeking an interpretation of the Federal Constitution to grant Malaysian women equal rights to confer citizenship on their overseas-born children..

- On 9 September 2021, the High Court made a landmark decision, ruling that Malaysian women have equal citizenship rights as Malaysian men, and overseas-born children of Malaysian women are automatically Malaysian citizens. However, the Malaysian Government filed an appeal against the High Court decision.
- On 23 March 2022, the Court of Appeal heard the Government's appeal and announced its decision on 5 August 2022, overturning the Kuala Lumpur High Court decision in a 2-1 majority.
- On 14 December 2022, Family Frontiers was granted leave to appeal at the Federal Court.

The case filed by Family Frontiers against the Malaysian government was a significant step in the campaign for equal citizenship rights in Malaysia. It was crucial in creating national awareness and building momentum to address gender discriminatory citizenship laws that impact Malaysian women and their children.

Despite the government's resistance against the case, we persevered and continued the fight for justice. Two years since the case was filed, it remains a critical part of Family Frontiers' ongoing efforts to achieve equal citizenship rights for all Malaysian women.

#Manadokumenkami Campaign

The #ManaDokumenKami campaign by Family Frontiers urged the Government to issue citizenship-related documents to overseas-born children of Malaysian women, while awaiting the Court of Appeal decision on 5 August 2022. Considering the Government's stay of execution application was dismissed by the KL High Court and Court of Appeal, the campaign aimed at increasing the pressure on the Government to comply with the KL High Court order.

During the #ManaDokumenKami campaign, impacted mothers not only participated in an online campaign but also took to the streets in-person demand action from the government. They spoke up on the difficulties they face, the inconsistencies in the application process and the urgent need for the Government to comply with the KL High Court order. Many shared their stories on social media platforms, with some viral stories that garnered national attention. Some mothers also participated in demonstrations held outside the National Registration Department in Putrajaya.

591 citizenship documents were submitted via Article 14(1)(b) by Malaysian women for their overseas-born children between 2021 to 12 July 2022 following the KL High Court Decision. Out of those, 33 were processed while 558 are pending.



Plaintiffs Receive Their Children's Citizenship

On 21 February 2022, the National Registration Department issued the citizenship certificate (Sijil Pengesahan Taraf) to three of the plaintiffs in the Suriani Kempe case. Later, three other plaintiffs received their children's citizenship, resulting in a total of six Malaysian mothers receiving citizenship for their children following the Suriani Kempe case.

This was following a letter served by Family Frontiers' legal team highlighting the continued discrepancies between the processing of relevant documents by Malaysian mothers and fathers, which goes against the High Court's ruling. The letter requested updates on the plaintiffs' citizenship submission.



Court Of Appeal Decision

The Court of Appeal, in a 2-1 majority, ruled in favour of the Government and overturned the KL High Court decision. The majority judgement adopted a literal interpretation and stated that the word "father" in Article 14(1)(b) of the Federal Constitution and its related provisions in the Second Schedule cannot be interpreted to include "mother". The court also stated that only Parliament can amend the Constitution to remedy the grievances of Malaysian mothers.

Dissenting judge YA S. Nanthan Balan dissented, arguing that Article 14(1)(b) gives rise to the interpretation that the bloodline of the Malaysian mother is to be treated as inferior to that of the father. He added that it is "illogical, perverse and degrading to the rights, aspirations, expectations and dignity of Malaysian fathers that the father's bloodline, regardless of who he marries and where his child is born, could be reckoned for citizenship by operation of law, but not that of the Malaysian mother." He stated that the 2001 amendment to Article 8(2) was to ensure Malaysia complied with CEDAW obligations and prohibit gender discrimination and as Malaysian mothers are citizens, they are entitled to the full protection and rights under Article 8(2).

Applications made by Malaysian mothers for their overseas-born children under Article 14(1)(b) are frozen pending the conclusion of this issue at the Federal Court.



Leave To Appeal At The Federal Court

On August 26, Family Frontiers filed for leave to appeal to the Federal Court against the Court of Appeal decision. On December 14, Family Frontiers was granted leave to appeal at the Federal Court.



Building the community

Strengthening the capacity and confidence of impacted mothers and children to advocate for equal citizenship rights was a top priority for Family Frontiers. At the start of the advocacy process, many impacted mothers and children were hesitant to come forward due to fear and apprehension. However, through consistent engagement, motivation and capacity strengthening, they were able to build their confidence to advocate for equal citizenship rights. Family Frontiers created safe spaces for them to share their lived experiences and prioritise their voices throughout the advocacy process.

Family Frontiers utilised a variety of platforms to elevate the voices of impacted mothers and children. They featured them on social media channels, hosted outreach activities in collaboration with other organisations and arranged for media features that centred around the experiences of impacted persons.

Impacted mothers and children were invited to attend meetings with policymakers and other stakeholders where they could share their stories and advocate for legal reform.

One particularly impactful outreach effort involved impacted children performing at the Human Rights Festival organised by the Malaysian Bar. These children spoke about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and how gender-discriminatory citizenship laws violate their rights as children. Prior to this, the children attended a workshop by Family Frontiers on child advocacy and gender equal citizenship rights.

Building the community

Family Frontiers also provided one-on-one coaching sessions to mothers and children before their speaking interventions. This coaching proved to be particularly helpful in honing their writing and speaking skills. As a result of this coaching, impacted mothers Sharon Chin and Josil were able to speak at the UNHCR Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific (RBAP) and UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) expert roundtable discussion on gender justice and statelessness and the High-Level Political Forum in Geneva, respectively.

Some impacted mothers took a more active role in the advocacy process by leading their own initiatives. For example, some created advocacy pages on social media, where they shared their experiences and raised awareness about the need for legal reform. Others used satirical TikTok videos and reels to generate significant public attention.

- Esther – Instagram | Twitter | Tik Tok
- Rachel – Instagram | Twitter | TikTok
- Botiza – Instagram
- Leanne – Twitter
- Li Li – Twitter | Tik Tok
- Patricia – Instagram | Twitter



Building support towards the reform among policymakers

Engaging with policymakers is a key strategy of Family Frontiers to ensure that gender-equal citizenship laws become a policy priority. This includes engagements with ministries, Members of Parliament, political parties and other national policymakers. This approach has resulted in:

Family Frontiers also worked with impacted mothers and children to strengthen their capacity and confidence to engage with policymakers. They play a critical role in highlighting their lived experiences and the urgent need for legislative reform.

- Consistent policy and political discourse on gender-discriminatory citizenship laws and their impacts on women and children. This discourse has occurred in both houses of parliament and national media.
- Increased pressure on decision-makers to discuss the reform for gender-equal citizenship rights. This has led to public and internal commitments towards reform.
- Intensified pressure on the Federal Government from Members of Parliament from both sides of the political divide.

As a result of these efforts, Family Frontiers was able to elevate the issue to the national agenda and to generate public awareness around the need for citizenship law reform.

Engagement With Government

Family Frontiers' advocacy efforts resulted in securing meetings with key ministers from the previous administration, including the Minister of Home Affairs, the Minister of Law in the Prime Minister's Department, and the Minister of Women, Family and Community Development. These engagements involved impacted persons to ensure that their voices were heard, and the government was pressured to make public commitments in support of the reform for equal citizenship rights.

Although there was no immediate reform carried out as a result of these meetings, both the Home Minister and Law Minister publicly stated their commitment several times towards the amendment to grant Malaysian women equal citizenship rights, both in Parliament and in the media. While the promise was not met during their tenure, the political coalition (Perikatan Nasional) that the ministers belonged to included the reform in their election manifesto.

The ruling government coalitions', Pakatan Harapan and Barisan Nasional have also both stated their full support towards the constitutional amendment. The newly appointed Home Minister and Law Minister have both vowed to prioritise this issue and have announced plans to table a cabinet paper on the matter.

Family Frontiers' advocacy efforts have played a crucial role in keeping this issue on the government's agenda and ensuring that the voices of impacted persons are heard in the policymaking process.





Meeting with Deputy Minister of Law Datuk Mas Ermieyati Samsudin and Legal Affairs Division under the Prime Minister's Department | 10 August

Family Frontiers met with Deputy Minister of Law Datuk Mas Ermieyati Samsudin and Legal Affairs Division under the Prime Minister's Department to brief them on the issue of gender-discriminatory citizenship laws and share the lived realities of those impacted. Present also were Exco of Srikandi Bersatu Malaysia, Head of Srikandi Selangor, a representative from the Perikatan Nasional office and an officer from BHEUU. This led to an opportunity to approach the Minister of Women, Family and Community Development, the Minister of Home Affairs, and the Minister at the Prime Minister's Department (Law).

Ministry of Health Event | 15 August

During a convention held by the Ministry of Health, Family Frontiers' Lead Coordinator Bina Ramanand informally met with Prime Minister Ismail Sabri and handed over a memorandum regarding the issue of gender-discriminatory citizenship laws.



Meeting with Law Minister Wan Junaidi | 18 August

Family Frontiers met with Law Minister Wan Junaidi bin Tuanku Jaafar and his officers to discuss progress on amending Malaysia's gender-discriminatory citizenship laws. Impacted persons shared their struggles and experiences, while Family Frontiers presented its recommendation for a constitutional amendment. The Law Minister released a statement via Twitter following the meeting.



Meeting with Home Minister Hamzah Zainudin and Minister of Women, Family and Community Development (KPWKM) Rina Harun | 26 August

The Minister of Women, Family and Community Development Datuk Seri Rina Harun invited Family Frontiers, along with members of the impacted community, to meet with Minister of Home Affairs Hamzah Zainuddin. Impacted persons shared their struggles and experiences, while Family Frontiers presented its recommendation for a constitutional amendment.



Meeting with KPWKM Policy and Strategic Planning Unit, Chaired by Deputy Secretary General (Strategic) Mr Chua Choon Hwa | 1 September

Family Frontiers met with the Policy and Strategic Planning Unit of the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development to discuss the Court of Appeal's decision on gender-discriminatory citizenship laws and the economic marginalisation faced by foreign spouses of Malaysian citizens. The Ministry offered to introduce Family Frontiers to the Legal Affairs Division under the Prime Minister's Department to discuss these matters further.



Meeting with the Legal Affairs Division, Prime Minister's Department | 27 December 2022

Family Frontiers met with the Legal Affairs Division (BHEUU) to discuss the issue of discriminatory citizenship laws impacting Malaysian mothers and their children born overseas. The Law Minister's commitment to the constitutional amendment was reiterated and the department agreed that the issue should not be delayed any further.



Meeting with Minister of Women, Family and Community Development, YB Dato' Sri Nancy Shukri | 14th December 2022

Family Frontiers met with the Minister of Women along with the Joint Action Group for Gender Equality when the minister was newly appointed as part of the Pakatan Harapan-Barisan Nasional unity Government. The Minister was briefed on the issue of gender discriminatory citizenship laws and immigration policies that impact Malaysian binational families among other issues.



Meeting with Minister of Education, YB Puan Fadhlina Sidek | 29th December 2022

Similarly, Family Frontiers met with the newly appointed Minister of Education to brief on the educational challenges faced by non-citizen children of Malaysian women seeking Malaysian citizenship. This includes issues pertaining to late enrollment into schools, challenges with accessing student visas and unequal access to other education-related social schemes. There were several follow-up letters issued to the Minister of Education following this meeting requesting urgent action to ensure these children are not left behind with regard to access to education.

Engagement With Political Parties

Family Frontiers actively engaged with political parties across the political spectrum to advocate for policy changes that would improve the lives of Malaysian women impacted by discriminatory citizenship laws. The engagements aimed at increasing awareness of the issue among policymakers and to secure their commitment to support the constitutional amendment towards gender equal citizenship laws. The engagements helped to build momentum for legislative reform, with several political parties incorporating the issue into their policy manifesto and committing to push for the reform.





Women's Convention by The National Trust Party (AMANAH) | 16 September 2022

Family Frontiers attended the Women's Convention by AMANAH, where President Suriani Kempe presented on discriminatory citizenship laws affecting Malaysian women with overseas-born children. An advocacy booth was set up and managed by impacted mothers, and roughly 600 women attended, including 350 members of AMANAH and representatives from Pakatan Harapan and NGOs. Impacted mother Patricia Low performed her spoken word poetry titled "Suatu Hari Anakku Bertanya".



Malaysian United Democratic Alliance (MUDA) Party Conference 2022 | 8 October 2022

Family Frontiers attended and ran an advocacy booth alongside impacted mothers at the Malaysian United Democratic Alliance (MUDA) Party Conference 2022, where impacted Malaysian mothers shared their stories and encouraged attendees to support the Malaysian Campaign for Equal Citizenship. Approximately 500 party members from all over Malaysia, diplomats, and NGOs attended.



Pakatan Harapan Women's Wing Convention | 15 October 2022

Family Frontiers representatives and impacted Malaysian mothers attended the Pakatan Harapan Women's Wing Convention, where the issue of gender-equal citizenship rights was highlighted as a priority. All key coalition leaders showed their support and commitment to resolving the issue; the amendment was included as a priority in the coalition's manifesto. Roughly 500 women attended, including members of DAP, PKR, AMANAH, and MUDA.



Perikatan Nasional Manifesto Drafting Team | <insert date>

Family Frontiers, as part of the Rakyat Manifesto group, spoke to representatives of Perikatan Nasional's Manifesto Drafting Team during the 15th General Elections period about unequal citizenship rights and our proposed amendments to Malaysia's gender-discriminatory citizenship laws that impact Malaysian women and children.



Malaysian Chinese Association | <insert date>

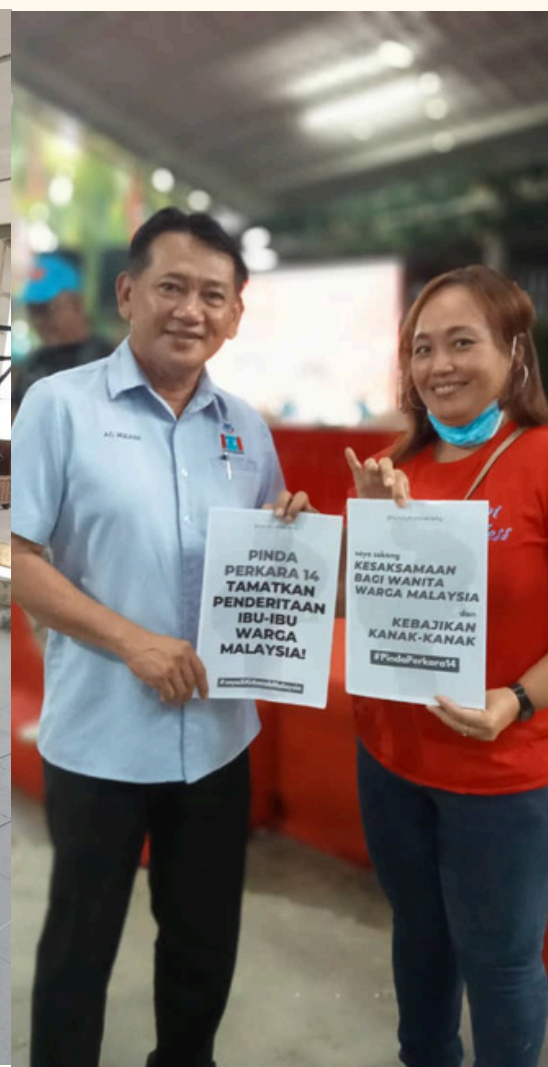
Family Frontiers, as part of the Rakyat Manifesto group, spoke to representatives of Malaysian Chinese Association (MCA) about unequal citizenship rights and our proposed amendments to Malaysia's gender-discriminatory citizenship laws that impact Malaysian women and children. MCA and their women's wing Wanita MCA expressed their support towards the campaign.

#PindaPerkara14 Campaign During 15th General Elections

During the 15th General Elections, impacted women and children actively engaged with incumbent Members of Parliament and election candidates to lobby for gender equal citizenship rights by attending political rallies and events. Family Frontiers conducted a workshop on how the election period can be leveraged to increase awareness on the campaign and ensure election candidates commit to upholding gender equal citizenship rights.

As a result, major political coalitions, including the current Pakatan Harapan and Barisan Nasional unity government, included the reform of Malaysia's gender-discriminatory citizenship laws in their election manifestos.

Some participants also volunteered as polling and counting agents, increasing their involvement in the electoral process and empowering them to advocate more effectively for their rights.

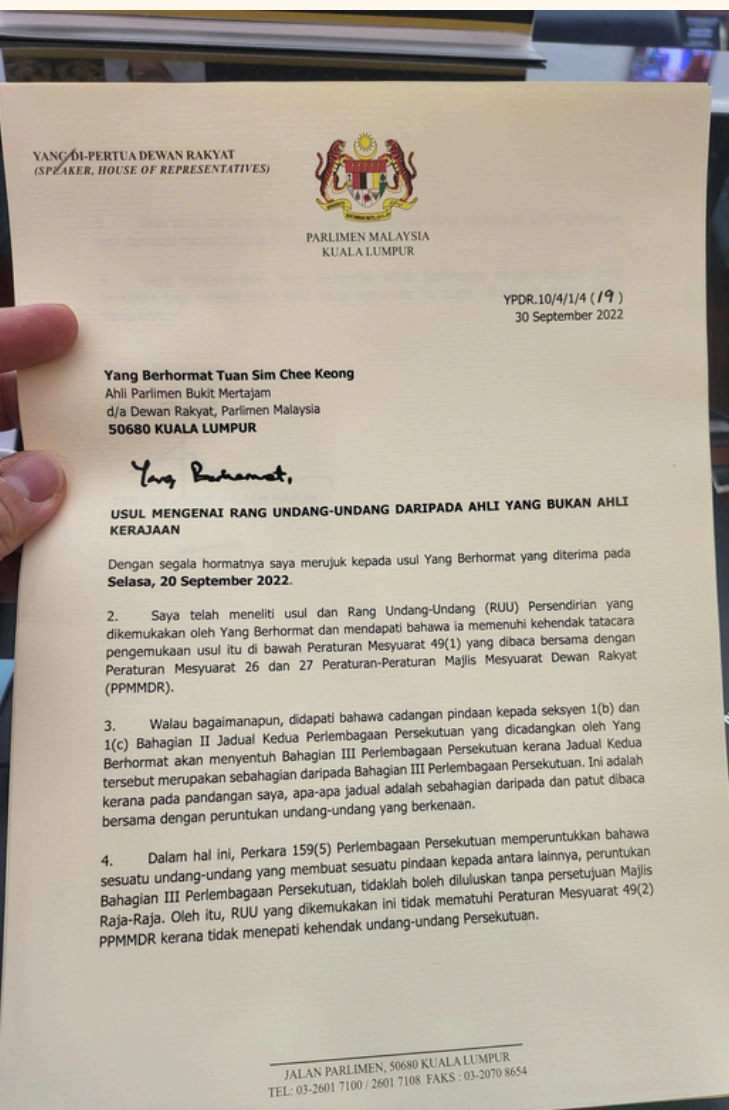


Parliamentary Engagement

Family Frontiers engaged with approximately 35 targeted Members of Parliament (MPs) to raise the issue of gender-discriminatory citizenship laws and immigration policies impacting Malaysian binational families in parliament. This involved submitting questions and making submissions for the Parliamentary Special Chamber, where MPs can directly discuss urgent matters with ministers.

Family Frontiers also submitted an inquiry to the Parliamentary Special Select Committee (PSSC) on Women and Children Affairs and Social Development. The PSSC report to the Parliament highlighted the issue of gender-discriminatory citizenship laws and their impact on women and children, along with proposed amendments to the Federal Constitution.

In the October 2022 Parliamentary sitting, 17 Members of Parliament from both sides of the political divide submitted Private Member's Bills seeking an amendment to grant Malaysian women equal rights to confer citizenship on their overseas-born children. Despite being rejected, this action amplified national discourse and pressure on the Government for a legislative amendment.



YANG DI-PERTUA DEWAN RAKYAT
(SPEAKER, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES)



YPDR.10/4/1/4 (32)
30 September 2022

Yang Berhormat Puan Hannah Yeoh
Ahli Parlimen Segambut
d/a Dewan Rakyat, Parlimen Malaysia
50680 KUALA LUMPUR

Yang Berhormat,

USUL MENGENAI RANG UNDANG-UNDANG DARIPADA AHLI YANG BUKAN AHLI KERAJAAN

Dengan segala hormatnya saya merujuk kepada usul Yang Berhormat yang diterima pada **Jumaat, 16 September 2022.**

2. Saya telah meneliti usul dan Rang Undang-Undang (RUU) Persendirian yang dikemukakan oleh Yang Berhormat dan mendapati bahawa ia memenuhi kehendak tatacara pengemukakan usul itu di bawah Peraturan Mesyuarat 49(1) yang dibaca bersama dengan Peraturan Mesyuarat 26 dan 27 Peraturan-Peraturan Majlis Mesyuarat Dewan Rakyat (PPMMDR).

3. Walau bagaimanapun, didapati bahawa cadangan pindaan kepada seksyen 1(b) dan 1(c) Bahagian II Jadual Kedua Perlembagaan Persekutuan yang dicadangkan oleh Yang Berhormat akan menyentuh Bahagian III Perlembagaan Persekutuan kerana Jadual Kedua tersebut merupakan sebahagian daripada Bahagian III Perlembagaan Persekutuan. Ini adalah kerana pada pandangan saya, apa-apa jadual adalah sebahagian daripada dan patut dibaca bersama dengan peruntukan undang-undang yang berkenaan.

4. Dalam hal ini, Perkara 159(5) Perlembagaan Persekutuan memperuntukkan bahawa sesuatu undang-undang yang membuat sesuatu pindaan kepada antara lain, peruntukan Bahagian III Perlembagaan Persekutuan, tidaklah boleh diluluskan tanpa persetujuan Majlis Raja-Raja. Oleh itu, RUU yang dikemukakan ini tidak mematuhi Peraturan Mesyuarat 49(2) PPMMDR kerana tidak menepati kehendak undang-undang Persekutuan.

A photograph of three women standing in front of a building with classical columns. They are all wearing face masks. The woman on the left is wearing a blue hijab and glasses. The woman in the middle is wearing a purple face mask. The woman on the right is wearing a white face mask. They are holding protest signs. The sign on the left says 'MY CITIZENSHIP For MY Children'. The sign in the middle says 'GENDER EQUAL CITIZENSHIP FOR ALL'. The sign on the right says 'MY CITIZENSHIP FOR MY CHILDREN'.

Building the movement by building allies

Family Frontiers mobilised a wide range of allies, including civil society organisations, Malaysian youth groups and members of the legal fraternity, to build a strong force for reforming Malaysia's gender-discriminatory citizenship laws. The solidarity and support from our allies have been incredibly meaningful and crucial to the success of our campaign.

Family Frontiers held briefings with these stakeholders to create an awareness on the issue and update them on the status of the campaign. Their support did not stop at briefings — many of our allies went on to collaborate with us to co-organise outreach events, including film screenings, panel discussions, and public demonstrations. These efforts were essential in raising public awareness about the issue and building a powerful network of allies who have consistently spoken up for the cause.

Moreover, our allies helped us to amplify the voices of those impacted by these discriminatory laws. By sharing their stories through various advocacy efforts, we were able to humanise the issue and galvanise more support. Through building these connections and fostering a larger movement, we were able to intensify the pressure on the Government to enact legislative change. Their solidarity and support have truly been invaluable, and we are deeply grateful for their partnership.

Mapping And Briefing Youth Groups

Engaging with youth and student groups was crucial for the campaign. By briefing and working closely with these groups, Family Frontiers was able to tap into the energy and passion of the youth to amplify the campaign's message. This engagement with youth and student groups had a significant impact on the campaign by increasing the visibility and reach of the cause and by building a strong, intergenerational movement for change. These include student groups in Malaysia and abroad namely: the United Kingdom and Eire Council for Malaysian Students (UKEC), Malaysian, Students' Global Alliance (MSGA), Malaysian Law Students' Network (MLSN), Kesatuan Penuntut Undang-Undang Malaysia di UK dan Eire (KPUM), University Malaya Law Society.



‘Saya Juga Anak Malaysia’ Short Film And Screenings

Family Frontiers collaborated with Freedom Film Network to produce a short film titled "Saya Juga Anak Malaysia," which highlights the struggle of a Malaysian mother to pass on her citizenship to her daughter due to Malaysia's gender-discriminatory citizenship laws. Through film screenings and discussions in partnership with strategic organisations, the film served as a tool to raise awareness of the challenges faced by women and their children in this situation.

In addition, a sequel to the film, "Anak Ibu, Anak Malaysia," featuring Malaysian mother Aini, was produced. Her journey takes her through Malaysia's bureaucracy and courts to her hometown in Sungkai.





Film premiere | 20 March 2022

The short film produced by Family Frontiers, in collaboration with Freedom Film Network and The Fourth, was screened for impacted individuals, human rights groups, legal professionals, and media. A discussion followed with speakers including the SUHAKAM Children's Commissioner and former MP Nurul Izzah.



Screening with University Malaya Consti Team (UMCT) | 13 May 2022

Family Frontiers partnered with the University Malaya Consti Team to screen "Saya Juga Anak Malaysia" and discuss gender-discriminatory citizenship laws with a constitutional law expert. The event raised awareness among law students and youth groups, with 80 participants.

Screening of Short Film 'Saya Juga Anak Malaysia' and Crash Course on Citizenship with the Bar Council Human Rights Committee | 20 May 2022

The Bar Council Human Rights Committee and Family Frontiers presented a screening of "Saya Juga Anak Malaysia" and a crash course on citizenship laws for legal practitioners. Prominent lawyers, including a member of Family Frontiers' legal team, led the session for 50 attendees.



Artistes Unite | 19 June 2022

The third screening of 'Saya Juga Anak Malaysia' featured performing artists advocating against gender-discriminatory citizenship laws in Malaysia. Impacted individuals shared their experiences through spoken word poetry and original rap performances. The event included commentaries and an interactive session for participants to take part in calls to action. The screening was attended by 69 participants including social media influencers, media personnel, policymakers, civil society organisations, youth groups, legal professionals, and impacted families.





KPUM Event | 31 July 2022

Family Frontiers and KPUM ASASI collaborated to host an event titled "Let's Talk Citizenship" at BAC Performing Arts Centre Petaling Jaya. The event featured a short film screening, poetry recital, and panel discussion with notable panellists such as Bukit Gelugor MP YB Ramkarpal Singh and University of Malaya senior law lecturer Dr Farah Nini Dusuki. The event was attended by 108 people and live-streamed on KPUM's Facebook page.



Sharing Session with PACOS Trust | 3 August 2022

Family Frontiers hosted 12 women from PACOS Trust to share about Malaysia's gender-discriminatory citizenship laws and the campaign for equal citizenship. The short film "Saya Juga Anak Malaysia" was screened, and participants signed postcards to the Prime Minister to advocate for change.



Screening at Freedom Film Festival of 'Anak Ibu, Anak Malaysia' | 11 September 2022

Family Frontiers' short film 'Anak Ibu, Anak Malaysia' premiered at the Freedom Film Festival. The screening was followed by a panel discussion featuring Aini and her family, as well as Family Frontiers' Lead Coordinator Bina Ramanand. The audience received info cards with campaign calls to action and postcards addressed to the Prime Minister urging for the reform of Malaysia's gender-discriminatory citizenship laws. The event was attended by approximately 120 people.

Other events in 2022



Two-day International Women's Day Bazaar at Empower Malaysia's ReFest Bazaar | 5-6 March 2022

Family Frontiers collaborated with EMPOWER Malaysia for their International Women's Day Bazaar. During the two-day event, Family Frontiers connected with the public to raise awareness about Malaysia's gender-discriminatory citizenship laws and urged them to take action by signing the campaign petition and participating in the Twitter storm.



Majlis Tahlil and Bacaan Yasin for Sabeena, a Malaysian mother who passed away with the unfulfilled dream of Malaysian citizenship for her children | 6 June 2022

Family Frontiers' short film 'Anak Ibu, Anak Malaysia' premiered at the Freedom Film Festival. The screening was followed by a panel discussion featuring Aini and her family, as well as Family Frontiers' Lead Coordinator Bina Ramanand. The audience received info cards with campaign calls to action and postcards addressed to the Prime Minister urging for the reform of Malaysia's gender-discriminatory citizenship laws. The event was attended by approximately 120 people.



“No Way Home: Statelessness in Malaysia” | 8 August

Family Frontiers was invited by BAC Amnesty and Kource to speak on statelessness in Malaysian binational families. The event featured a documentary screening and a panel discussion with Maalini Ramalo from DHRRA and Corina Robert Mangharam from Family Frontiers, attended by around 30 people.

ALSA Malaysia Legal Webinar Series Episode #2: 'Citizenship Rights in Malaysia: Malaysian Mothers With Children Born Overseas' | 20 August 2022

Family Frontiers moderated the second virtual discussion in the ALSA Malaysia Legal Webinar Series on the issue of Malaysian mothers' equal rights to confer citizenship on their overseas-born children. The event was attended by 60 people and featured Senator YB Fadhlina Sidek, lawyer Jasmine Wong, and impacted mother Dr Alison Wee.



Fast Forward: "Hak Kewarganegaraan Setara, Demi Anak-Anak Kita" FB Live AWAN Nasional | 21 August 2022

Family Frontiers participated in AWAN Nasional's Facebook Live webinar titled "Hak Kewarganegaraan Setara, Demi Anak-Anak Kita." The panel discussed the issue of equal citizenship rights for Malaysian children of binational families. The panellists were Adlyn Adam Teoh, Executive Committee Member of Family Frontiers, Soraya Salim, the Secretary of AWAN Nasional and Pengerusi Biro Kanun of AWAN Nasional, and Athira Syamimi, an impacted Malaysian mother whose daughter was forced to inherit the father's Palestinian refugee status.



Seek to Speak | 28 August 2022

Family Frontiers conducted a session on community advocacy at Seek to Speak's 'Kami Untuk Semua' program. The session focused on effective messaging and stakeholder engagement in the context of the Malaysian Campaign for Equal Citizenship.

ACLAC Soft Launch and capacity building of young lawyers | <insert date>

Family Frontiers conducted a theoretical learning session on citizenship rights and welfare for Malaysian binational families for the Legal Aid Centre established through Brickfields Asia College and Amicus Curiae's Legal Aid Sub-Committee. The participants consisted of 4 LAC representatives, 20 LAC volunteers and 16 LAC Trainers, including Bina Ramanand and Corina Robert Mangharam from Family Frontiers.

Freedom Film Network “Using Films for Social Change” Workshop | <insert date>

Family Frontiers participated in a 3-day workshop organised by the Freedom Film Network to help activists who plan and implement outreach events and activities using films for social change. The workshop covered topics on designing a film program for impact and facilitating interactive post-screening discussions..

Engagement with Joint Action Group for Gender Equality and National CEDAW Advocacy Group on the Campaign for Equal Citizenship Rights | 7 July

Family Frontiers met with members of the Joint Action Group for Gender Equality and the national CEDAW advocacy group to discuss the Malaysian Campaign for Equal Citizenship.

Focused Dialogue Session on Addressing Statelessness by the Development of Human Resources for Rural Areas (DHRRA) Malaysia | 26 July

Family Frontiers presented its advocacy strategies and case progression at a dialogue session organised by DHRRA Malaysia to discuss the challenges faced by stateless persons and the need to reform policies and practices.



Merdeka for Malaysian Mothers | 28 August

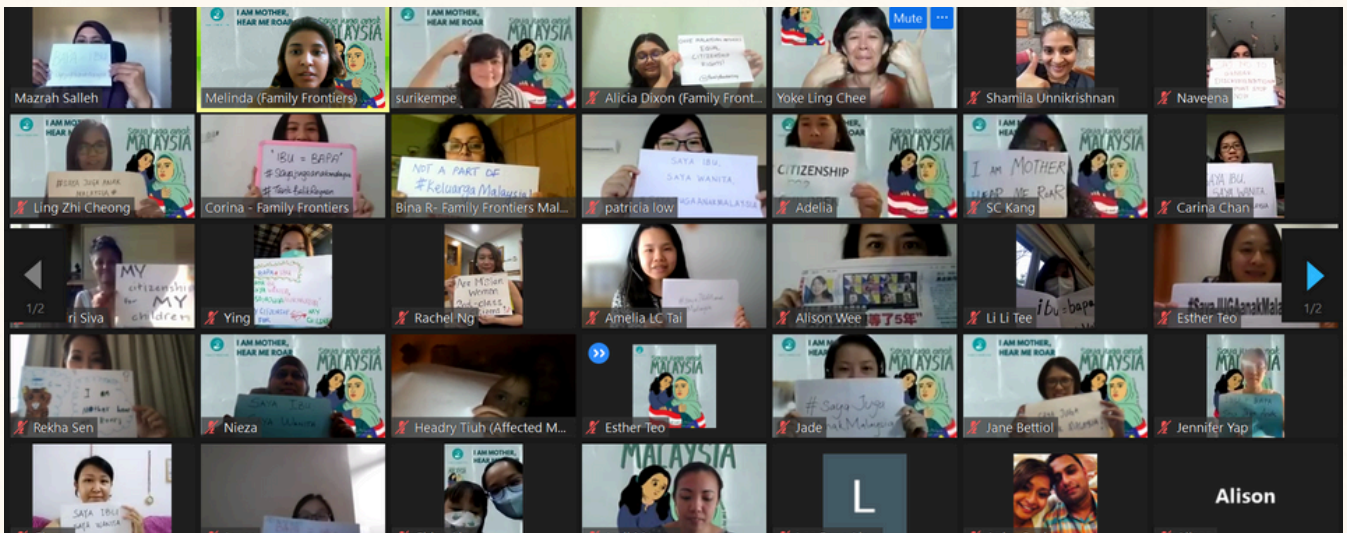
Family Frontiers organised a gathering in support and solidarity of Malaysian women's equal citizenship rights in line with Malaysia's National Day. The event that took place in Taman Jaya, Petaling Jaya saw roughly 80 participants, including Members of Parliament and Senators across the political divide, civil society organisations, persons of influence and members of the public. Present at the event were policymakers from across the political divide, including the chief of the women's wing of a political party part of the present ruling coalition. Policymakers publicly stated their support towards the campaign and called out the Government's lack of urgency on the matter.

In attendance were impacted Malaysian families, including non-citizen children born to Malaysian women who donned traditional outfits. Impacted Malaysian mothers also shared their lived realities. The event ended with second-generation impacted children singing their hearts out to the song 'Saya Anak Malaysia', as their struggles to be recognised as citizens in their mothers' homeland continue.



Storming the National Registration Department | 10 June

Family Frontiers organised two sessions of storming the National Registration Department to check the status of Malaysian mothers' submission of citizenship documents via "operation of law" following the Family Frontiers' case. Following the status check, Family Frontiers and impacted families demonstrated in front of the National Registration Department building demanding action in the presence of the media. Impacted mothers also use this opportunity to share their stories and struggles with the media. A total of 28 mothers attended the JPN storming session collectively.



Virtual Solidarity Space with Malaysian Mothers | 4 August

In anticipation of the Court of Appeal decision on 5 August 2022, Family Frontiers held a virtual solidarity space via Zoom meeting for Malaysian mothers to be present and support each other. A total of 22 attendees were present at the call, where we gave updates on the case and campaign, as well as projections on what the Court of Appeal decision may mean. We also encourage Malaysian mothers to go or send representatives to the Palace of Justice, Putrajaya, to bear witness to the decision and stand in solidarity with women all over the world as well as their children.



Focus Group Discussion with Children | 3 September

Family Frontiers organised a physical focus group discussion for UNICEF to collect information on children without Malaysian citizenship to be used to develop a new National Child Policy and Action Plan 2022-2025 by the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development (MWFCDD). The session included discussions on their living standards, education, health, and child protection, and ended with drawing and card-making activities



Global Outreach

Global outreach efforts proved to be instrumental in garnering international support and attention for Family Frontiers' cause. By partnering with regional and global partners, Family Frontiers was able to amplify its message on the status of gender-discriminatory citizenship laws in Malaysia and the need for reform. Engagement with UN bodies was also useful, with Family Frontiers utilising UN treaty body processes and complaint mechanisms to highlight the issue on a global platform.

UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) | 7 July

An impacted Malaysian mother from Family Frontiers' Network of Malaysian Mothers spoke at the UN High-Level Event during the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development organised by the Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights, focused on why gender-equal nationality laws are essential to sustainable development. Josil shared her personal experiences with Malaysia's gender-discriminatory citizenship laws and their impact on her family.



Arab States Multi Stakeholder Conference: Achieving Gender-Equal Nationality Rights | 7 - 8 September

Patricia Low, an impacted Malaysian mother, a key member of Family Frontiers' Network of Impacted Mothers, attended the event organised by the Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights, and co-sponsored by the UN Refugee Agency and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Cyprus. It was attended by government and civil society representatives from across the region.

Patricia gave a 15-minute intervention on the impact of women's unequal nationality rights, where she shared how Malaysia's citizenship laws have impacted her family, and shared the stories of other affected Malaysian women, with an added focus on how it contributes to gender violence and statelessness. She also had the opportunity to connect with other delegates, shared with them the work of Family Frontiers, and also handed out information postcards.

She also had the opportunity to meet with Reem Alsalem, Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences. She had a good discussion about the current situation of unequal citizenship rights and gender violence issues in Malaysia, and she made some recommendations in her capacity as Special Rapporteur. She also received a submission by Family Frontiers on how gender-discriminatory citizenship laws contribute towards gender-based violence.

Global Alliance to End Statelessness

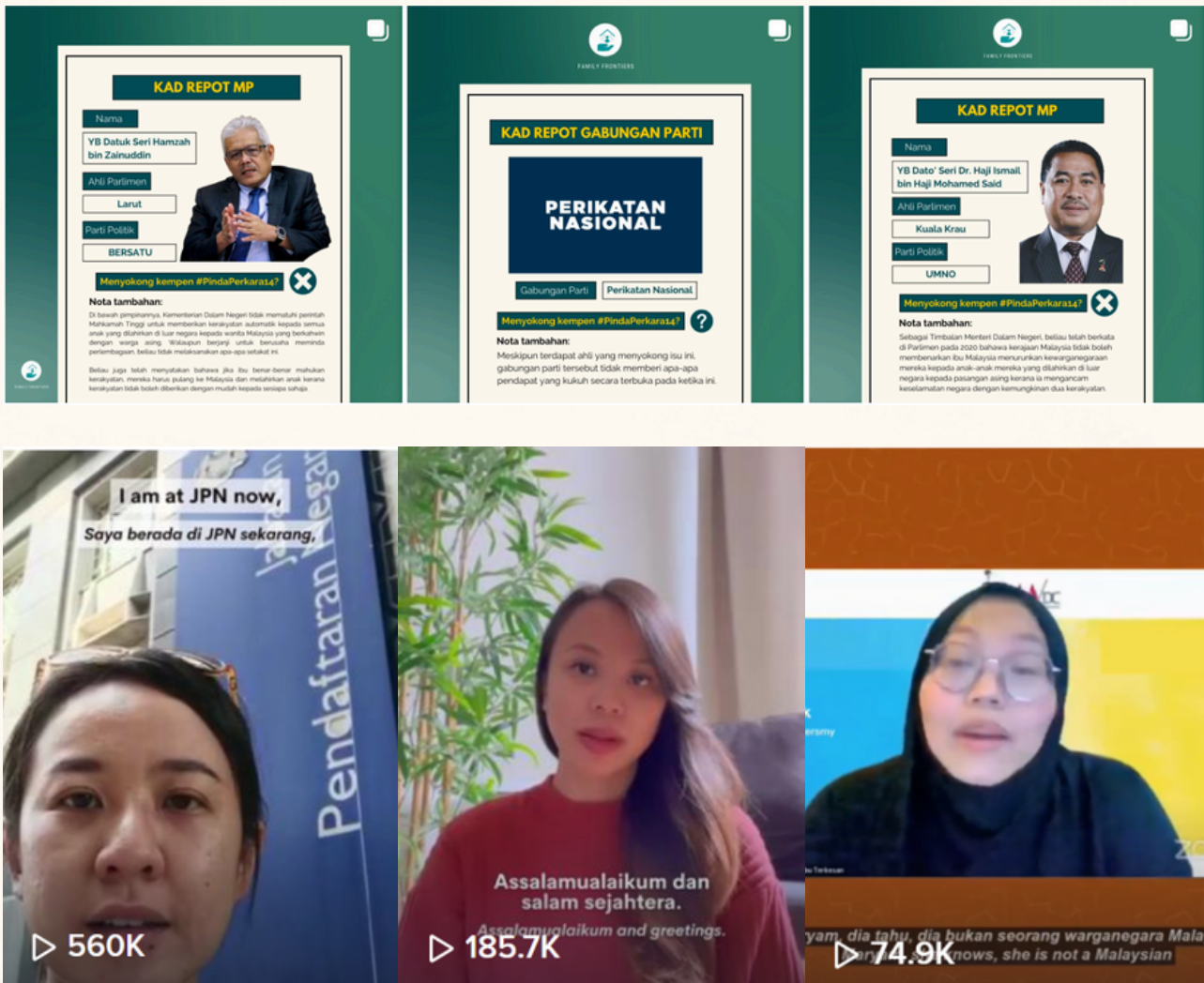
Family Frontiers joined the Global Alliance Taskforce to End Statelessness by UNHCR. The Alliance aims to accelerate solutions to statelessness through a collective multi stakeholder approach, which centres and respects the experience of those who are stateless and formerly stateless.



CSO Consultation on Forming a Regional Alliance on Statelessness | 2-3 November 2022

Family Frontiers participated in the regional CSO Consultation on Forming a Regional Alliance in November 2022 in Bangkok, Thailand. The consultation covered discussions on the identification of key areas of work for the Regional Alliance and thematic focus, structure and activities of the Regional Alliance.

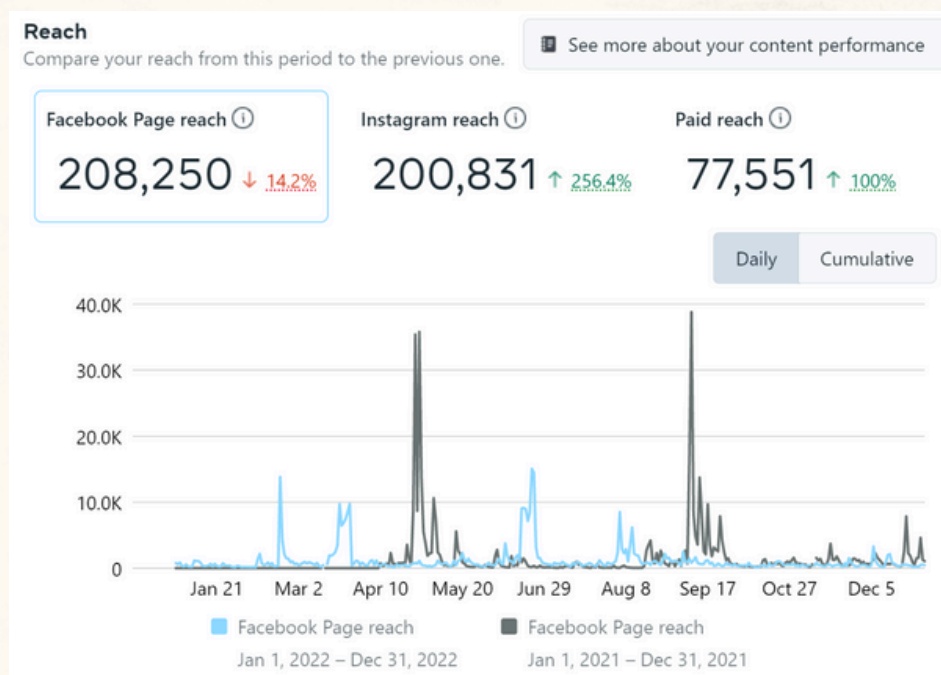
Building public awareness and mobilising public action through social media



Family Frontiers **uses social media to increase public awareness and action towards gender-discriminatory citizenship laws and the constitutional amendment to Article 14(1)(b).** Videos portraying the lived realities of impacted families, explainer videos, infographics, mini documentaries and TikTok trends were main content pillars. There was also content produced solely to raise awareness on political parties and candidates that were supportive of #PindaPerkara14 and place pressure on them in conjunction with GE-15. These posts and online campaigns had practical calls-to-action to the general public so that they can directly play a role in the advocacy in pressuring the Government to enact reform.

Throughout the year, there were several videos of impacted mothers that went viral on TikTok, including videos of Alison, Esther, Mimi and Shahlina. There were also explainer videos on the progress of the campaign and common misconceptions that obtained tens of thousands of views, leading to increased awareness on the issue.

Family Frontiers reached an estimated 208, 250 people through their Facebook and 200, 831 people on Instagram and gained 2,273,500 Tweet impressions on Twitter. Family Frontiers also garnered 1,219,650 views on TikTok.





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 Immigration related matters – visas, passes, permits, Permanent Residence, access to healthcare and education, marriage registration, domestic violence, employment rights and endorsement to work.

FSSG posted a total of 633 public service announcements or information posts and attended to 2520 direct queries for the year of 2022 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 in the following pages.

Updated website guide and FAQs



- Updates have been made to the website and FAQs over the past year to ensure that the guides and resources reflect the latest immigration requirements and to cope with immigration procedures are constantly evolving.
- Four new guides have been added to the website that specifically address the needs of Malaysian binational families
- All the guides have been equipped with Malay and Vietnamese translations to make them more accessible to a wider audience.
- A video guide has also been launched on the FSSG's Facebook page to explain the features of the website and how to access the resources. This video guide will help users navigate the website with ease and make the most of the resources available.

**OUR
HEARTFELT
GRATITUDE**

Donors and Contributors

We are deeply grateful for the generosity of our donors and contributors, including individuals who contributed through our fundraising platform. Your support has allowed us to continue our important work in advocating for the rights of Malaysian women and children impacted by gender-discriminatory citizenship laws. Your contributions have enabled us to mobilise the movement for gender equal citizenship rights for all Malaysian mothers and children, and speak up on the rights of Malaysian binational families.

- Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights
- Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion
- Nationality for All
- Women's Fund Asia

We would also like to thank all individuals who contributed through our Simply Giving fundraising platform.

Collaborators, Allies & Supporters

Our collaborators and supporters have been instrumental in the growth of our campaign. We are grateful for the partnerships we have formed with civil society organisations, youth groups, and members of the legal fraternity. Your support has strengthened our voice and allowed us to reach a wider audience with our message. Your solidarity has been a source of inspiration, and we look forward to continuing to work together towards our shared goal of ending gender-discriminatory citizenship laws in Malaysia.

- All Women's Action Society (AWAM)
- Amnesty International Malaysia
- Amnesty Malaysia Brickfields Asia College Club
- Angkatan Belia Islam Malaysia (ABIM)
- Architects of Diversity
- ARUS Anak Muda

Collaborators, Allies & Supporters

- ASASI United Kingdom and Eire Council for Malaysian Students (UKEC)
- Asian Law Students' Association (Malaysia Chapter) (ALSA Malaysia)
- Association of Women Lawyers Malaysia (AWL)
- Bar Council Human Rights Committee
- Between The Lines
- Borneo Komrad
- Brickfields Asia College Legal Aid Centre & Amicus Curiae's Legal Aid Sub-Committee
- C4 Center
- Childline Foundation
- Child Rights Coalition Malaysia (CRCM)
- COVID-19 Emergency Statelessness Fund (CESF) Consortium
- CSO Platform for Reform: Right to Citizenship Cluster
- CSO-SDG Alliance
- Development of Human Resources for Rural Areas, Malaysia (DHRRA-Malaysia)
- Dr. Farah Nini Dusuki
- End Child Detention Network
- ENGENDER Consultancy
- Freedom Film Network
- Global Bersih
- Global Campaign for Equal Citizenship Rights (GCENR)
- Hakam Youth
- Harapan OKU Law Reform Group
- I Belong Here
- IIUM Law Students' Society 21/22
- Imagined Malaysia
- Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion (ISI)
- Justice For Sisters
- Knowledge and Rights with Young People Through Safe Spaces (KRYSS)
- Kource
- Labour Law Reform Coalition
- Lawyer Kamek for Change (LK4C)
- Lawyers for Liberty
- Malaysian Bar
- Malaysian Centre for Constitutionalism and Human Rights (MCCHR)
- Malaysian Law Students' Network (MLSN)
- Malaysian Students' Global Alliance (MSGA)
- Manifesto Rakyat
- Messrs. MahWengKwai & Associates
- Monsters Among Us

Collaborators, Allies & Supporters

- Nationality For All (NFA)
- PACOS Trust
- Penang Women's Development Corporation (PWDC)
- Perak Women for Women (PW/W)
- Persatuan Kesedaran Komuniti Selangor (EMPOWER)
- Persatuan Sahabat Wanita Selangor (PSWS)
- Pertubuhan Generasi Aspirasi Pemimpin Wanita Malaysia (GAP Malaysia)
- Pertubuhan Suara Selangor
- Rights to Redress
- Sabah Women's Action Resource Group (SAWO)
- Sarawak Women for Women Society (SWWS)
- Save The Schools Malaysia
- Seek to Speak
- Sisters in Islam (SIS)
- Stand Up Malaysia
- Suara Rakyat Malaysia (SUARAM)
- Suruhanjaya Hak Asasi Manusia Malaysia (SUHAKAM)
- Tenaganita
- The Big Picture Sdn Bhd
- The Fourth
- Third World Network (TWN)
- Undi18
- UndiMsia
- United Kingdom and Eire Council for Malaysian Students (UKEC)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA)
- University Malaya Law Society
- University of Malaya Constitutional Team (UMCT)
- Wanita Nadi Selangor
- Women's Aid Organisation (WAO)
- Women's Centre for Change (WCC)
- Women's Wing of the Malaysian Chinese Association (Wanita MCA)

Our Legal Team

We owe a debt of gratitude to our legal team at Messrs. Nijar & Advocates and Messrs. Joshua Aaron Keet who has worked tirelessly to advance our cause. Your dedication, expertise, and commitment to fighting for gender equal citizenship rights have been critical in achieving the milestones we have reached so far. We appreciate the long hours and hard work that you have brought to this effort. Your contribution has been essential in our efforts to challenge discriminatory laws and advance the rights of Malaysian women and children.

Our Community

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to our community of Malaysian binational families and Malaysian mothers seeking citizenship for their children, for their unwavering resilience and bravery in speaking up, sharing your stories and fighting for your rights. We know that this journey has not been easy, and we are deeply inspired by your courage every single day. Your strength and determination to advocate for equal citizenship rights have been the driving force behind our campaign and team, and we are honoured to stand alongside you in this journey.

We recognise that sharing your personal stories is never easy, but your voices have been instrumental in raising awareness on the issue. Your experiences have highlighted the far-reaching consequences of gender-discriminatory citizenship laws on Malaysian women and their children.

We are committed to amplifying your voices and ensuring that your struggles are not ignored. We assure you that we will continue to fight for equal citizenship rights until justice is served.

Thank you for your bravery, strength and commitment to equality.



FAMILY FRONTIERS

DON'T
DENY
OUR
CHILD-
REN

#TARIKBALIKRAYUAN
#SAYAJUGA **ANAK** MALAYSIA

MY CITIZENSHIP
FOR
MY CHILDREN

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



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