



FAMILY FRONTIERS

FAMILY FRONTIERS

Annual Impact Report

2025





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About Family Frontiers

Based in Malaysia, the Association of Family Support & Welfare Selangor & KL (Family Frontiers, FF) is a registered not-for-profit and impact-led feminist organisation dedicated to advancing, promoting, and strengthening the family unit so that no family is left behind. Originally established in 2009 as the Foreign Spouses Support Group (FSSG) by two non-citizen wives of Malaysian men, who were navigating immigration challenges in raising their Malaysian children, FF has since evolved into the pioneering and only organisation dedicated to championing the rights of Malaysian binational families

Our Vision

All Malaysian binational families are guaranteed the full enjoyment of human rights through the realisation of equality, non-discrimination and the right to nationality and legal status.

Our Mission

Our advocacy centres the lived experiences of impacted persons and builds movements by mobilising action at the national, regional and international levels to guarantee the full enjoyment of human rights for Malaysian binational families.

Our Values



Community



Accountability



Fearlessness



Justice



Change



Creativity

Letter from the President Adlyn Adam Teoh



Dear members, friends, and partners,

I am filled with gratitude and pride for the strides we have made together. Family Frontiers has always stood at the forefront of advocating for equal rights and justice for Malaysian families, and this year has been no exception. We brought meaningful change with the settlement of our long-standing *Suriani Kempe & Ors v. Kerajaan Malaysia & Ors* court case. The outcome not only brought dignity for Malaysian mothers by paving a citizenship pathway for their overseas-born children but also reaffirmed the strength of our collective voice and the resilience of our community.

We have been encouraged by the progress of citizenship applications under Article 15(2), Citizenship by Registration. For the first time, we have seen increased approval rates and, remarkably, zero rejections. It is both a testament to the power of persistence and a moment of hope for countless families who have long awaited justice. Looking ahead, our focus turns to the implementation and enforcement of the constitutional amendment slated for 2026. We remain steadfast in our commitment to ensuring that this amendment is not only enacted but meaningfully applied, so that no child or family is left behind.

Beyond citizenship, our work on marriage migration has gained momentum. We have amplified the voices of non-citizen spouses navigating complex migration policies, advocating for fairer systems that respect the integrity of families. This area of work is deeply connected to our mission, as it underscores the fundamental right of families to live together without unnecessary barriers.

As we reflect on these achievements, I am reminded that none of this would have been possible without the dedication of our members, volunteers, and allies. Your support fuels our advocacy, sustains our campaigns, and strengthens our resolve. Together, we are not only changing policies but reshaping the narrative of what family rights mean in Malaysia.

Let us continue moving forward with courage and compassion. The year ahead carries a quiet promise—of laws catching up to lived realities, and of families like ours finally finding ease where there was once uncertainty. Together, with steady hearts and shared purpose, we will keep building a Malaysia where every family can stand rooted, recognised, and at home.

With gratitude,
Adlyn Adam Teoh





Letter from the Executive Director

Bina Ramanand

For Family Frontiers, progress did not come neither quickly nor quietly. It was forged through years of determination to undo a deep injustice, sustained by passion, persistence, and collective courage, grounded in the belief that women deserve equality and families their dignity and sense of belonging.

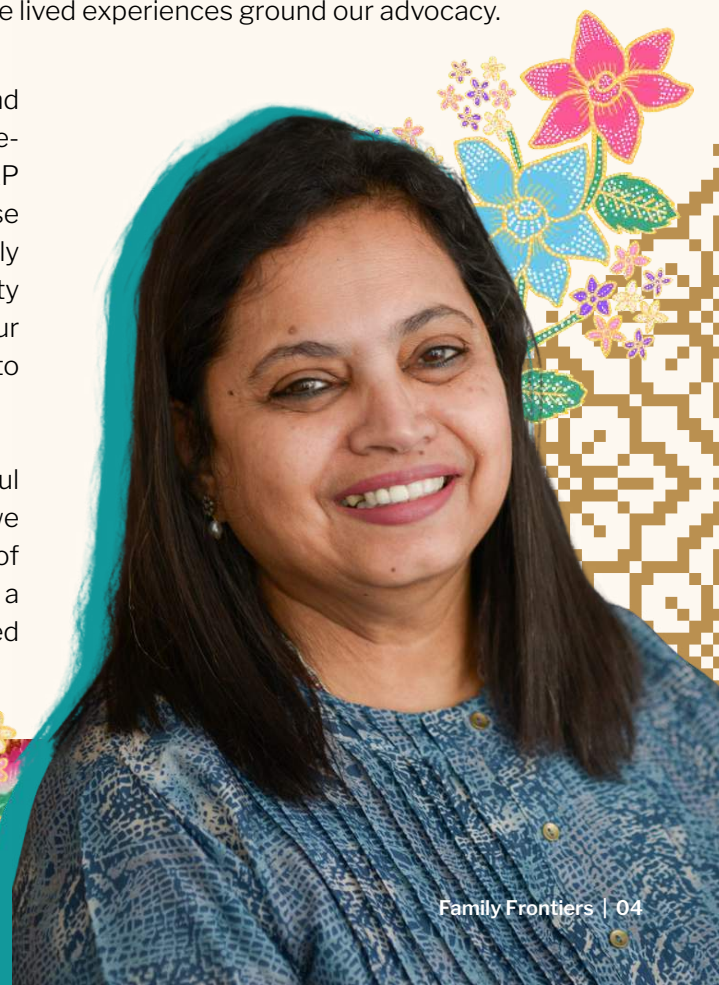
What began in 2018 as a multi-pronged effort, combining advocacy, public outreach, utilisation of Parliament mechanisms and centred on the lived experience of mothers and children, reached a defining moment in 2025 with the Federal Court Settlement. Our sincere thanks go to Prof Datuk Dr Gurdial Singh Nijar and Abraham Au, who have stood with us pro bono since we filed the case in the High Court in December 2020.

While we are still a few steps away from our ultimate goal, of the landmark Constitutional Amendment being implemented in June 2026, this journey is a powerful reminder that even the most entrenched barriers can begin to shift when impacted families, the media, civil society, and the support of almost an entire country come together, and refuse to give up.

None of this would have been possible without the full confidence, trust, and steadfast support of our Executive Committee. Your belief continues to anchor Family Frontiers through your deep resolve. Our team remains the heart of this organisation, deeply committed and fiercely driven by purpose. We are especially proud that our work continues to be shaped by impacted persons themselves, whose lived experiences ground our advocacy.

We were honoured to host Esther Teo, an impacted mother and frontline activist of the Mothers' Campaign, selected for the five-month Statelessness and Dignified Citizenship Coalition AP fellowship. She has since joined us part-time as a Case Coordinator, strengthening our service delivery. We also warmly welcome Aisyah Delaila as our Assistant Coordinator Community Paralegal Support, marking an important step forward in our paralegal services, with Mashitah Abdul Halim continuing to support our work from Sabah.

As the year ended, we said goodbye to Alicia, and remain grateful that she continues her journey with us as a volunteer and we warmly welcome Carmen Tan Yu Hui in the role of Communications and Advocacy Coordinator. It was also a pleasure to welcome Sarah back, refreshed and re-energised following her YSEALI Fellowship in the USA.



The year 2025 was momentous for Malaysian mothers. Long-pending citizenship applications, some delayed for years, were finally being cleared throughout the year. We remain hopeful that the constitutional amendment, committed for implementation in June 2026, will pave the way for future generations of Malaysian women to enjoy true equality. Yet, a critical gap remains: adult children of Malaysian women continue to wait for citizenship, which still needs to be addressed.

At the same time, we intensified our advocacy for Malaysian binational families, prioritising transparent permanent residence policies, the right to employment, and the right of divorced or separated spouses to live and work in Malaysia in the best interests of their children. We successfully launched our multi-country research on marriage migration. It was also heartening to see our team confidently holding their own, representing Family Frontiers at conferences across the Asia-Pacific region, engaging peers and stakeholders, and ensuring that the voices and lived realities of binational families were meaningfully reflected in regional discussions. In the year ahead, Adlyn will serve on the SDCC Steering Committee, continuing Family Frontiers' representation.

As we look forward, we will deepen our work on barriers to marriage and birth registration that place children at risk of statelessness, while continuing our advocacy for adult children who remain excluded.

Our work is far from finished. But every step forward this year, every cleared citizenship application, every new team member, every voice amplified, reminds us why we persist. We remain committed to a future where families belong, children are protected, and equality is not conditional.

Thank you for standing with us on this journey.
Bina Ramanand



Impact Snapshot

38,000

Beneficiaries reached

Direct and indirect (Malaysian mothers and non-citizen spouses)

230+

Impacted persons and activists capacitated

Strengthened initiatives that support local communities

1,980

Children of Malaysian mothers obtained citizenship

As of August 2025

40

Media mentions and features

Our Strategic Priorities



Equal Citizenship for All Children

Every child of a Malaysian parent deserves legal status and access to basic rights regardless of the parent's gender, marital status, or place of birth.



Accessible Birth & Marriage Registration

Inclusive, barrier-free registration to safeguard legal identity, protect the right to family life, and prevent intergenerational statelessness.



Legal Status for Non-Malaysian Spouses

Non-citizen spouses must obtain legal status within a reasonable timeframe to ensure family stability and well-being.



Right to Work with Dignity

Equal access to employment enables spouses to live with dignity and supports their Malaysian family's right to a stable life together.

What Change Looked Like in 2025

A snapshot of the moments, milestones, and collective efforts that shaped our work this year

Building the Case for Marriage Migration Reform

A multi-stakeholder consultation and research launch brought evidence, lived experience, and policy dialogue together to inform reform.



Building Collective Power Through the C3 Network

Youth activists and persons impacted by gender-unequal citizenship laws came together to organise, share strategies, and strengthen collective advocacy.



Advancing the Recognition of Marriage Migration in Policy & Practice

Advocacy efforts elevated marriage migration within regional and global policy spaces, strengthening momentum for inclusion in migration frameworks.



Strategic Litigation: Landmark Settlement for Malaysian Mothers & Progress in Citizenship Application Processing

The year also saw improvements in the handling of citizenship applications, including faster processing timelines, with applications being processed within a year, and higher approval rates, with no rejections of Malaysian mothers' applications recorded thus far.



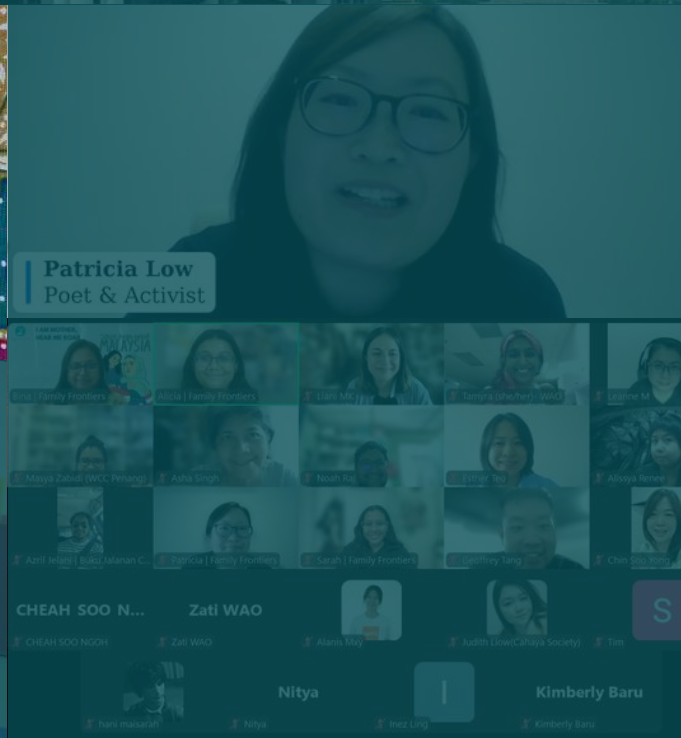


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Strategic Priority I

Equal Citizenship for All Children

Movement Building: Gender-Unequal Citizenship Laws, Statelessness & Youth Activists



Strategic Priority I

Equal Citizenship for All Children

Movement Building: Gender-Unequal Citizenship Laws, Statelessness & Youth Activists

Collaborate, Communicate and Campaign (C3) Network

Collaborate, Communicate and Campaign! (C3): A #SayaJugaAnakMalaysia Workshop | 21-22 February 2025:

Following a close-knit meeting in October 2024 with young activists and student leaders, FF saw an opportunity to further strengthen and expand this emerging group of individuals impacted by statelessness and gender-discriminatory nationality laws (GDNL).

FF organised a two-day workshop that brought together the original participants, additional activists and impacted persons from across Malaysia. The workshop focused on developing practical skills in communication, public engagement, storytelling, and message-building.



By equipping participants with clearer communication tools and strategies, the workshop aimed to help them amplify their messages, foster greater understanding, and inspire broader public support for change.

Additionally, a call-to-action video was filmed on site, featuring activists and impacted persons who spoke about how the workshop strengthened their confidence and supported their ongoing advocacy work.



The workshop brought advocates working on gender, citizenship and statelessness from all over Malaysia, together as a connected community, now referred to as the C3 Network. The network provides a space for young activists and impacted persons to stay in touch, share resources, support one another, and collaborate on advocacy initiatives.



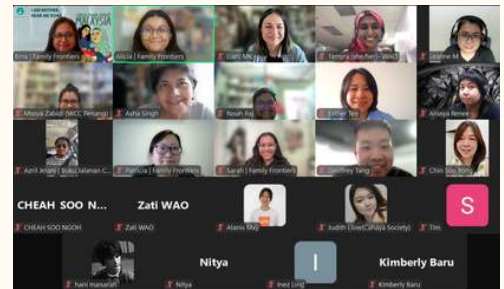
Strategic Priority I

Equal Citizenship for All Children

Movement Building: Gender-Unequal Citizenship Laws, Statelessness & Youth Activists

Impactful and Ethical Storytelling Workshop | 9 June 2025

To continue supporting the C3 Network, FF organised an online workshop on Impactful and Ethical Storytelling facilitated by Liani MK, an independent writer, journalist and artist. This session aimed to strengthen participants' storytelling skills while emphasising ethical approaches to sharing the experiences of those affected by statelessness and gender-discriminatory nationality laws.



The workshop provided a space for network members to explore how to responsibly capture and share stories, while reflecting on the impact their narratives could have on public understanding and advocacy efforts. By the end of the session, participants had strengthened their ability to identify and communicate stories ethically, enhanced collaboration among peers and key stakeholders, and committed to maintaining momentum through ongoing engagement.



Online Video Contest for Collaborate, Communicate and Campaign! (C3) Network | August - October 2025

As part of ongoing efforts to engage and strengthen the C3 Network, FF organised an Online Video Contest for participants of the C3 workshop series. FF partnered with Malaysiakini to provide free subscriptions for the winners and participants, giving them access to credible news sources for planning and developing their videos.



The contest invited network members to apply their communication and advocacy skills by creating a 60-90 second video highlighting issues related to gender-discriminatory citizenship laws or statelessness. Participants were encouraged to be creative, incorporating personal stories, calls to action, key data, or solutions into their videos.

The contest ran from August to October 2025, with participants submitting their entries individually, or in pairs or groups. A total of four submissions were received, and given the outstanding quality of the entries, two winners were chosen (Lawyer Kamek & Kings Guidance and Resource Centre).

Strategic Priority I

Equal Citizenship for All Children

Expanding the Movement Through Student Engagement

“End Statelessness” Panel | 3 June 2025:

FF’s Executive Director, Bina Ramanand, participated as one of the panellists in the forum titled ‘End Statelessness’, organised by students of the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM). The discussion provided a platform to highlight the challenges faced by undocumented individuals and stateless communities. During the forum, FF shared its advocacy on ensuring Malaysian women’s right to pass on citizenship to their overseas-born children and emphasised the importance of accessible birth and marriage registration as preventive measures against statelessness.



Creative Advocacy for Gender-Unequal Citizenship Reform



Documentary Filming with Yung Le, a Malaysian University Student Studying in Shanghai



Global Movement Against Statelessness, Community Call | 5 March 2025

- FF’s Research and Policy Coordinator, Patricia Low, recited her poem “These Threads” [\[Link\]](#)



Invisible People's Docuseries

- Feature on FF, Episode 5 featuring FF’s Vice President, Chee Yoke Ling [\[Link\]](#), Link to website [\[Link\]](#)
- Premiered during the Invisible People’s Exhibition in June 2025 at Sunway University where FF had set up a booth and displayed its life-sized Snakes & Ladders: Citizenship Edition game. Bina was a panellist for the panel discussion following the screening.

Strategic Priority I

Equal Citizenship for All Children

Putting Inequality in Nationality Laws on the Regional & Global Map

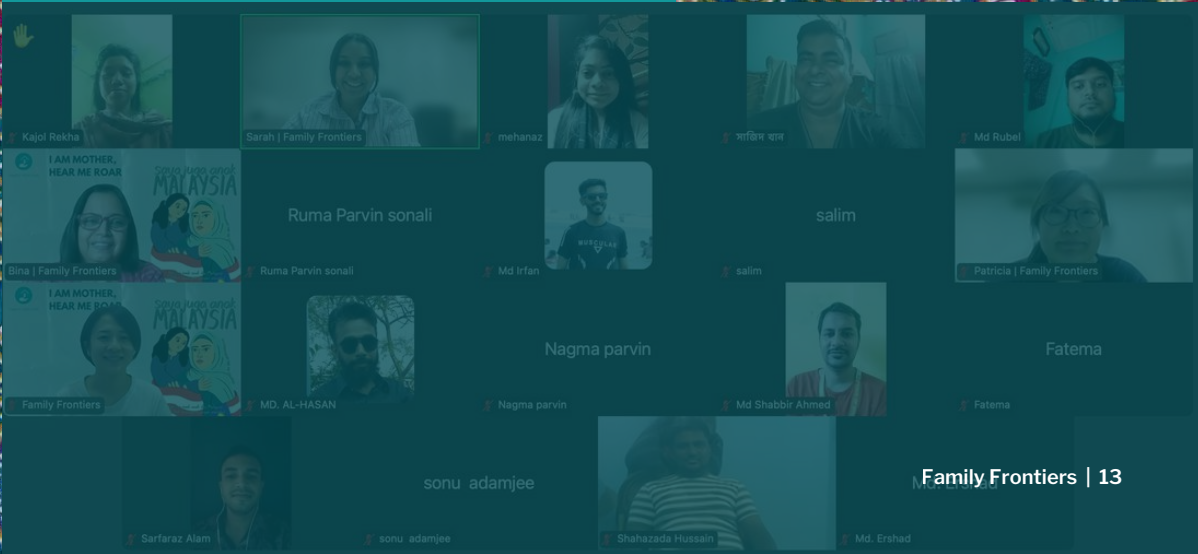
- **Webinar Series 3: Access to justice and effective remedies for children whose identity rights have been contravened**
- **Global Statelessness Fund Launch Event (Bina's intervention)**
- **CRC Submission – 100th Pre-Session**
- **Global Movement Against Statelessness, Community Call “Carrying Forward: Cross-Generational, Cross-Border Conversations” | 30 July 2025 [[Link](#)]**
 - Adlyn Adam Teoh, FF's President, spoke on her lived experience as an impacted Malaysian mother unable to confer citizenship on her son
 - Bina touched on the importance of cross-generational solidarity, particularly in the movement against statelessness
- **Impact Storytelling at the Asia Pacific Region Social Impact and Advocacy Workshop (SIAW) organised by the National Scouts Body**
- **#PindaPerkara14UntukIbu: What do Malaysians based overseas need to know? Webinar in collaboration with Global Bersih | 29 November 2025**
- **Regional Network Lab (Advocacy Guidelines on Statelessness) organised by the European Network on Statelessness, Apatride Network, Family Frontiers, Statefree and the Global Alliance to End Statelessness | 12 December 2025**





Strategic Priority II

Accessible Birth & Marriage Registration



Strategic Priority II

Accessible Birth & Marriage Registration

Pilot Community Paralegal Project

The paralegal project aims to provide practical, rights-based support to families, helping them navigate basic procedures confidently and prevent long-term harm, including statelessness. It also seeks to build shared understanding and capacity among community leaders, service providers, and officers to improve assistance and streamline processes

I. Needs Mapping

Engagements with the Chairman of the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM), and their offices in Sabah and Sarawak

FF held engagements with the SUHAKAM Chairman, as well as SUHAKAM Sabah and SUHAKAM Sarawak, to discuss key issues arising from the implementation of the recent constitutional amendment.

In both engagements, FF also raised concerns related to birth and marriage registration involving Malaysian–non-Malaysian unions, particularly how gaps in registration processes can heighten the risk of intergenerational statelessness. This challenge is worsened by another gender-discriminatory provision in Malaysia’s nationality laws, which prevents Malaysian men who are not in a legally registered marriage with a non-Malaysian mother from conferring citizenship on their children. FF aimed to strengthen collaboration with SUHAKAM’s commissioners and state offices in monitoring the rollout of the amendment and to ensure that the rights of affected families, especially those in East Malaysia, are upheld in practice.

Engagements with Members of Parliament Service Centres

FF also initiated engagement with three Members of Parliament Service Centres in the constituencies of Bentong, Padang Besar, and Bandar Kuching through online discussions with their Special Officers (Pegawai Khas).

These engagements centred on recurring issues raised by families, including barriers to marriage and birth registration, visa and long-term pass uncertainties, work endorsement challenges for non-Malaysian spouses, and documentation-related concerns affecting children.



**Image dated to 2026*

Plans are underway for in-person visits to deepen collaboration, strengthen referral pathways, and explore practical ways FF can work alongside MP service centres to better support binational families within their constituencies.

Strategic Priority II

Accessible Birth & Marriage Registration

II. Learning Exchange



Paralegal learning exchange in Bangladesh

FF participated in a paralegal learning exchange in Bangladesh. FF's Executive Director, Bina Ramanand, was joined by an impacted Malaysian mother, who is also a community leader and educator supporting stateless children in Sabah. Through field visits to the refugee camps and direct engagement with community paralegals supported by local organisations, the delegation observed how grassroots actors provide frontline legal information, documentation support, and rights-based accompaniment within highly constrained systems.



The exchange offered practical insights into building trusted, decentralised support networks while reinforcing the importance of proximity, cultural understanding, and lived experience in effective paralegal work. This informed FF's approach to community paralegal development in Malaysia, using tested peer-led support models.

III. Pilot Phase

Early Steps in Community Paralegal Outreach

Building on these engagements, we initiated the pilot phase of our community paralegal outreach, identifying Sabah as the starting point for this first roll-out. Drawing on the regional learning exchange, the impacted mother and educator who participated in the Bangladesh programme stepped into a more active role within her community by supporting the organisation and facilitation of outreach sessions on the ground.



Four community sessions were held across Sabah, including in PPR Rugading, Kampung Contoh, Tuaran, and Madrasah Salimah. These gatherings created accessible, trusted spaces for impacted families to ask questions, surface concerns, and seek clarity on documentation processes that directly affect their everyday lives.

The primary focus of the sessions was the importance of marriage and birth registration, which are critical foundations for securing legal identity and protection for women and children. Discussions also addressed broader challenges facing binational families, including visa-related issues, long-term pass uncertainties, and other administrative barriers.

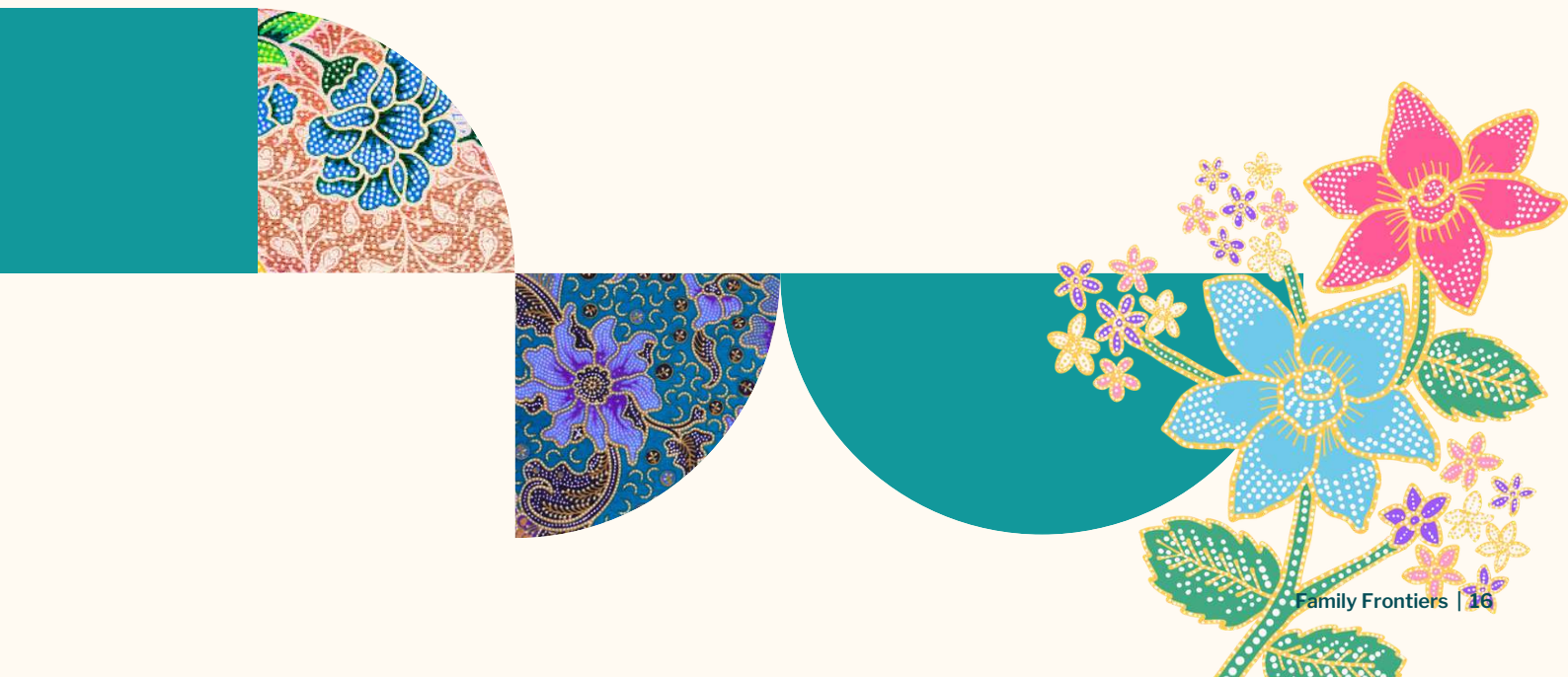
Strategic Priority II

Accessible Birth & Marriage Registration



Participation in the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems (CRVS) Forum in Bangkok

Alicia Dixon, FF's Social Media and Communications Coordinator, represented the organisation at the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Forum held in Bangkok. This event brought together policymakers, civil society, and experts to discuss strategies for improving CRVS systems across Asia and the Pacific, focusing on inclusive birth registration, legal identity, and the intersection between statelessness and gender.





Strategic Priority III & IV

Legal Status for Non-Malaysian Spouses & the Right to Work with Dignity



Strategic Priority III & IV

Legal Status for Non-Malaysian Spouses & the Right to Work with Dignity

Legal status for non-Malaysian spouses directly shapes their ability to seek employment and to work with dignity. Without secure immigration status, barriers to work and long-term residency with their Malaysian family are intensified, increasing precarity. Therefore, it is essential that advocacy around Strategic Priority III and IV is pursued in tandem, ensuring both legal recognition and the right to work are addressed together.

Leveraging ASEAN 2025 in Kuala Lumpur

FF organised and led a dedicated roundtable on marriage migration during the two-day ASEAN Peoples@ASEAN 2025 conference, bringing together over 30 participants from across Southeast Asia. Discussions centred around persistent policy gaps, the gendered impacts of marriage migration frameworks, and the lived realities of marriage migrants and their families. Participants also shared country-level experiences and collectively explored more rights-based, gender-sensitive approaches to managing marriage migration in the region.



In conjunction with the roundtable, FF produced an [advocacy outcome video](#) amplifying the voices of marriage migrants and their Malaysian spouses, alongside key regional stakeholders. The video featured, among others, a former Commissioner of the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM), who called on governments and regional migration governance mechanisms to take marriage migration more seriously within policy and implementation frameworks.

Strategic Priority III & IV

Legal Status for Non-Malaysian Spouses & the Right to Work with Dignity

Participation in the Second Asia-Pacific Regional Review of the Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)

Throughout early 2025, FF was actively engaged in shaping the discourse and priorities leading up to the Second Asia-Pacific Regional Review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM). These engagements allowed FF to elevate the lived realities of marriage migrants, particularly women in binational families, within a broader regional migration governance framework.

Pre-engagements and Preparatory Work

Ahead of the GCM Review, FF undertook targeted pre-engagements with key regional human rights and migration networks to ensure that marriage migration—in particular the vulnerabilities tied to gendered legal dependencies and restrictive immigration frameworks—was meaningfully integrated into the Review process.

Meeting with OHCHR–Asia Pacific on Marriage Migration | 14 January 2025: FF initiated a meeting with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights – Asia Pacific (OHCHR-AP). Discussions explored marriage migration trends in the region, discriminatory legal frameworks, and the compounded precarity faced by non-citizen spouses. The session aimed to inform human rights-based recommendations that OHCHR-AP would contribute to the State-led review process, ensuring that the intersection of gender, citizenship, and migration received stronger emphasis.

Stakeholder Consultation for the 2nd Asia-Pacific Regional Review of the GCM | 14 January 2025: FF's Research and Policy Coordinator, Patricia Low, participated in a multi-stakeholder consultation organised to assess progress on GCM implementation since the first Regional Review. The session provided an opportunity for civil society, UN agencies, academics, and migrant-led groups to highlight gaps in State commitments, emerging regional issues, and priorities for the upcoming Review. Patricia emphasised the need to better capture marriage migration dynamics within GCM Objective 4 (provide proof of legal identity and adequate documentation) and Objective 5 (enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration).

Meeting with APMM on Marriage Migration in Asia Pacific | 20 January 2025: In preparation for the Review, FF also met with the Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants (APMM) to explore collaboration on strengthening cross-regional advocacy on marriage migration. The meeting fostered an exchange of insights on migrant spouse rights, the barriers created by gender-discriminatory nationality laws, and opportunities for joint engagement during the GCM process.



Strategic Priority III & IV

Legal Status for Non-Malaysian Spouses & the Right to Work with Dignity

Participation in the Review

During the Second Asia-Pacific Regional Review, FF contributed substantively through three side events, public interventions, and stakeholder engagements. Patricia represented FF at these high-level discussions and helped ensure that marriage migration was foregrounded in regional migration governance conversations. Her contributions included:



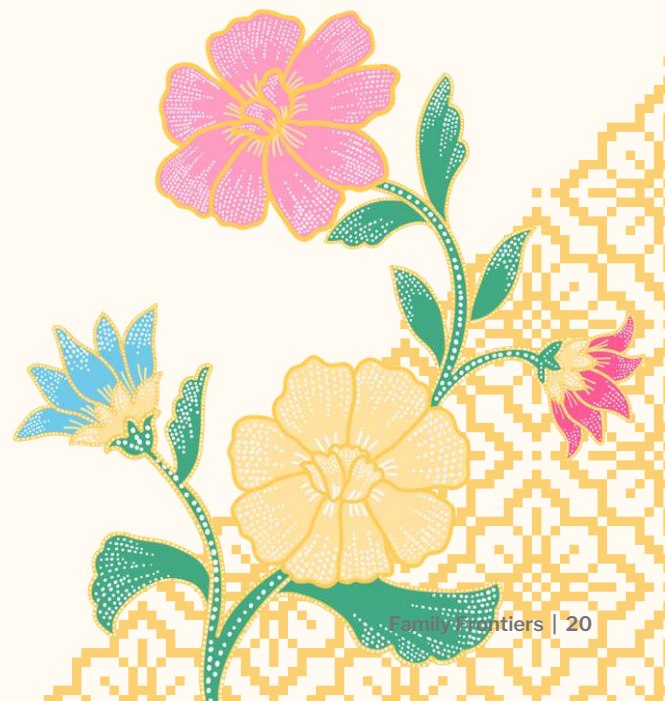
Involvement in a roundtable on rights-based border governance, where she highlighted the disproportionate challenges faced by marriage migrants and their families, and the barriers to accessing legal identity and documentation.



A side event, “Integrating Marriage Migration into the GCM Implementation: Ensuring Safe, Human Rights-Based, and Gender-Responsive Pathways”, where FF shared insights on the Malaysian context and underscored the need for States to address barriers to legal status, dependent-visa regimes, and restrictions on employment.



“In Her Shoes”, organised by UN Women Asia Pacific, an experiential side event that traced the journey of a woman migrant worker. Patricia contributed insights connecting this narrative to broader regional patterns of gendered migration and policy exclusion.



Strategic Priority III & IV

Legal Status for Non-Malaysian Spouses & the Right to Work with Dignity

Media Engagement Surrounding Marriage Migration

Interview on Astro AWANI's Niaga Spotlight | 28 November 2025:

In November, Patricia was featured in Astro AWANI's Niaga Spotlight alongside economist Dr Melati Nungsari, and impacted non-citizen spouse Dr Nadine Ruppert. The interview discussed the economic impacts of Malaysia's policies for marriage migrants for Malaysian binational families and the country as a whole.



Radio Interview on Marriage Migration | 29 May 2025:

In May, FF's Executive Director, Bina Ramanand, was featured in a radio interview on BFM Radio, where she discussed the findings from FF's research on marriage migration and unpacked the lived realities of Malaysian families in cross-border unions. The interview offered an accessible, in-depth look at how current policies impact spouses and children, helping to bridge the gap between public perception and on-the-ground experiences.

“Keluarga Konversations” Voxpop Initiative:

To further engage the public, FF launched a new voxpop series titled “Keluarga Konversations” (translating to Family Conversations). Through street interviews, the series explored public perceptions of Malaysian binational families with the aim of gauging public understanding, and actively dispelling myths that often shape negative or inaccurate views of mixed-nationality marriages.

[Episode 1](#), [Episode 2](#), [Episode 3](#)



Media Briefing on Marriage Migration | 3 December 2025:

FF organised a media briefing on 3 December 2025 to support journalists in reporting accurately and responsibly on topics that had taken centre stage in national discussions—including Permanent Residence (PR), citizenship for overseas-born children of Malaysian mothers, statelessness, and policies affecting non-citizen spouses.

The session aimed to unpack key terminologies, clarify policy nuances, and provide journalists with a deeper understanding of the complex realities faced by binational families. Attendees heard from experts working on migration, gender, and legal identity, as well as from individuals with lived experience who shared their journeys firsthand. FF also presented new findings from its latest research on marriage migration, offering data and insights that had not previously been available to the public.

Strategic Priority III & IV

Legal Status for Non-Malaysian Spouses & the Right to Work with Dignity

Regional Engagement Surrounding Marriage Migration

Regional Migrants Summit | June 2025: Patricia shared FF's multi-country research on women marriage migrants in Malaysia at the Regional Migrants' Summit Quezon City, Philippines. Titled 'Navigating Borders, Barriers and Belonging: A Case Study of Women Marriage Migrants in Malaysia', the research explored migration pathways, legal landscapes, and systemic challenges faced by non-citizen wives of Malaysians. Combining qualitative insights with quantitative data, the paper centred the lived experiences of 62 non-citizen wives across Malaysia, amplifying their voices in regional migration discourse.

Regional Women Migrant Convening and Migrant Solidarity Exchange: Exchanging Solidarity, Strengthening Resistance | October 2025: Patricia attended the APWLD's Regional Women Migrant Convening and Migrant Solidarity Exchange in Kathmandu, Nepal. The convening mapped regional trends, priority issues and proposed actions. Patricia shared FF's work with women marriage migrants, highlighting the main challenges and recommendations, which were subsequently captured in a [joint statement](#).



Informing Policy Through Evidence and Dialogue

Parliamentary Engagements

Special Chamber (Kamar Khas) Session | 26 August 2025: Member of Parliament, YB Rodziah Ismail presented a [Special Chamber](#) (Kamar Khas) motion highlighting the precarious legal status faced by widowed, divorced, and separated non-citizen wives of Malaysian men. She raised the longstanding issue that the residency status of these women is tied to their Malaysian spouse—a dependency that leaves them vulnerable to instability, sudden loss of status, and, in some cases, risks of deportation or statelessness. The intervention also underscored how these challenges disproportionately affect women in binational marriages, further compounding the gendered impact of restrictive nationality and immigration policies.



While the Deputy Minister of Home Affairs responded with limited substantive solutions, the session nonetheless resulted in a meaningful outcome: FF was able to obtain new, critical data from the Ministry. The figures revealed that the number of marriage migrants impacted by gender-discriminatory nationality laws and restrictive immigration policies is three times higher than previously understood. This data has since strengthened the evidence base for advocacy efforts and validated concerns long raised by affected families.

All-Party Parliamentary Group on Child Rights (APPG-CR): As partners and fiscal hosts for the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Child Rights (APPG-CR), FF remained actively involved in 2025, attending the meetings on 17 February and 23 July. These sessions allowed FF to stay connected with parliamentary discussions on child rights issues in Malaysia and contribute insights drawn from our work with children in Malaysian binational families.

Strategic Priority III & IV

Legal Status for Non-Malaysian Spouses & the Right to Work with Dignity

Engagement with Migration Networks & Frameworks

Regional Exchange Meeting UN Women in Bangkok | 30 - 31 January 2025:

As part of efforts to better understand migration governance in the Asia-Pacific and advance our mission to include marriage migration within regional governance frameworks, FF participated in a regional capacity-building initiative organised by UN Women and Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) from October 2024 to August 2025. The programme aimed to strengthen the capacity of women's rights organisations in Southeast Asia to advocate for gender-responsive migration policies through training on migration policy frameworks, gender equality principles, and strategic advocacy. Patricia and Sarah Czarina, FF's Programme Officer, attended the third session of the workshop series, which focused on sharing gender equality advocacy strategies and strengthening cross-border feminist networks across the Asia-Pacific.



Data-Driven Insights: Leveraging Evidence for Gender-Responsive Migration Policies (UN Women) | 24 June 2025:

Patricia spoke at the "Data-Driven Insights: Leveraging Evidence for Gender-Responsive Migration Policies" online event organised by UN Women Asia Pacific. The programme featured a panel discussion on the use of data and evidence in policy advocacy, bringing together regional experts to exchange perspectives on strengthening gender-responsive migration frameworks. During the session, she shared key findings from FF's multi-country research on women marriage migrants, outlining both the substantive insights and the participatory approaches used in data collection. She also highlighted FF's advocacy work, emphasising the organisation's multi-pronged approach, which combines research, strategic litigation, parliament engagement, multimedia advocacy, media engagement, and community and public outreach to drive structural change. The discussion underscored how evidence grounded in lived experience can be leveraged to inform policy reform and strengthen advocacy efforts across the region.

Networking with IMA and APMM | 20 August 2025:

FF received a courtesy visit from the International Migrants Alliance (IMA) and APMM. As FF expanded its efforts to have marriage migration recognised as a distinct form of migration within regional frameworks, it became more intentional in engaging stakeholders. During the meeting, FF discussed collaboration and joining IMA as members, and it is now officially part of the network. FF sees this as a springboard to strengthen its regional networks, amplify its advocacy on under-recognised forms of migration, and enable FF to play a more active role in shaping policy dialogue and advancing the rights of marriage migrants.



Global Refugee Forum | 15-17 December 2025:

FF's President, Adlyn Adam Teoh, represented the organisation at the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) in Geneva and delivered an intervention at the side event "Solutions to Statelessness: Multistakeholder Action to Achieve Equal Nationality Rights for All", highlighting the organisation's advocacy on equitable birth and marriage registration, as well as gender-discriminatory citizenship laws that contribute to statelessness.

Strategic Priority III & IV

Legal Status for Non-Malaysian Spouses & the Right to Work with Dignity

Navigating Borders, Barriers, and Belonging: Rethinking Marriage Migration in Malaysia — Multi-Stakeholder Consultation and Launch of the Research Report on 11 November 2025

The “Navigating Borders, Barriers, and Belonging: Rethinking Marriage Migration in Malaysia” multi-stakeholder consultation and research report launch was a particularly significant milestone for FF. The event brought together experts, academicians, grassroots organisations and impacted persons in law, migration, economics, gender, and human rights alongside individuals with lived experience, providing a platform for non-citizen spouses to share their perspectives directly.

Of particular note, the consultation was attended by the Deputy Secretary-General and senior officers from the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development (KPWKM), allowing policymakers to hear firsthand from impacted individuals during the panel discussions. This direct engagement offered a valuable opportunity to ground policy recommendations in lived realities, highlighting the challenges marriage migrants face and informing advocacy strategies that are gender-responsive, family-centred, and rooted in human rights principles. The event not only launched FF’s research report, but also strengthened dialogue between civil society, impacted marriage migrants, and government stakeholders, marking a meaningful step toward more inclusive and informed policy discussions.

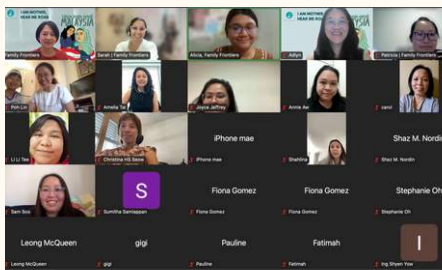


At the Core of our Work: Centring Lived Experience, Uplifting Communities

Our advocacy is grounded in listening, care, and collective strength, shaped by the lived realities of the communities most impacted

Service Delivery

FF provides support and guidance to impacted families navigating citizenship, immigration, and documentation challenges. We work closely with communities to deliver accurate information and connect families to relevant government agencies and support services.



881

new direct beneficiaries from Malaysian binational families were engaged and supported this year through responses to queries via the FSSG Facebook page

194

community updates and announcements disseminated via the FSSG Facebook page regarding the right to work, access to Permanent Residence and secure legal status

Campaign Update Call with Malaysian Mothers: Regular campaign update calls kept Malaysian mothers informed of the latest developments on application processes, policy shifts, and advocacy efforts, while creating space for questions, feedback, and shared concerns.

Community Call with Malaysian Binational Families: This initial community-wide call marked a first step toward strengthening networks among Malaysian binational families. It created space to listen, take stock of community priorities, and explore how support could be better tailored to their needs.

Know Your Rights, Tell Your Story 1.0: The first in-person gathering for non-citizen spouses provided a safe, supportive space to learn about immigration-related processes, including residence, employment, legal status, and pathways to permanence, while building connection and solidarity among participants.

Know Your Rights, Tell Your Story 2.0: A follow-up online session deepened understanding, addressed emerging questions, and sustained connections with both returning and new participants.

At the Core of our Work: Centring Lived Experience, Uplifting Communities

Our advocacy is grounded in listening, care, and collective strength, shaped by the lived realities of the communities most impacted

Care as Infrastructure through the Webs of Care & Safety Project

This year-long initiative strengthened our collective approach to care, safety, and sustainability, recognising the emotional labour, risks, and pressures carried by both community advocates and the FF team.

Key Components of the Project

Listening & Understanding

Risk and safety assessment for impacted communities and the FF team: The needs assessments created space for both the community and the FF team to pause and reflect on their experiences, their roles, and what support truly looks like. Listening first allowed us to move beyond assumptions and ground our next steps in lived realities. The insights gathered shaped the development of the toolkit, ensuring it was participatory, context-specific, and responsive to real needs. The process strengthened shared ownership and reinforced care as a collective responsibility.

Rest, Reflection, & Collective Care

Well-being retreat for the community and team: The retreat was designed as a space for collective care, connection, and renewal. Over two days, community members and the FF team stepped away from daily pressures to rest, reflect, and learn together. Through creative activities, shared meals, facilitated discussions, and workshops on mental wellbeing and advocacy, participants strengthened relationships, shared experiences, and nurtured the solidarity that sustains both individual resilience and collective action.

What This Built

- Stronger, more connected community networks
- Greater confidence and agency
- Clearer priorities for organisational care structures
- More sustainable advocacy practices
- A shared understanding of collective care



Governance & Compliance

Audited Financial Report

Audited report and financial statement [available](#) for viewing.

Strengthening Our Governance & Safeguarding Infrastructure

In 2025, FF took deliberate steps to formalise and strengthen our Safeguarding and Child Protection policies. As our engagement with children and families deepens, we recognise that safeguarding cannot remain an informal practice, but it must be embedded into our governance structures, operational processes, and organisational culture.

This year focused on refining our policies, clarifying reporting pathways, and strengthening internal accountability mechanisms to ensure that children and vulnerable individuals engaging with our work are protected. By institutionalising these frameworks, we are building a strong and safe institution aligned with both our values and our duty of care.



Partners & 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 bring real progress, including the outcome of the Suriani Kempe case and improvements in citizenship application processing for Malaysian women and their children. 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.

Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD)	Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion (ISI)
Global Statelessness Fund (GSF)	Nationality for All (NFA)
Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights (GCENR)	Women's Fund Asia (WFA)
Urgent Action Fund (Asia and the Pacific) (UAF-AP)	Kementerian Belia dan Sukan
Porticus	Namati

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

Collaborators, Allies & Supporters

To our collaborators, allies, fellow CSOs and supporters, thank you for your solidarity and for working alongside us. Your support has strengthened our advocacy, our outreach, and our ability to keep pushing forward.

Our Legal Team

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to Prof Datuk Dr Gurdial Singh Nijar and the legal teams at Messrs Nijar & Advocates and Messrs Joshua Aaron Keet, whose steadfast commitment and legal expertise have been central to the historic outcome achieved through the courts. Their tireless advocacy and strategic litigation laid the groundwork for the recognition of Malaysian women's equal right to confer citizenship on their overseas-born children.

Our Community

We want to extend our deepest thanks to our community of Malaysian mothers and binational families. The progress we have seen this year is a testament to your courage in coming forward, in speaking up, and in participating in ways big and small. Every story put forth, every conversation, and every act of support has helped move this work forward. We know it has not been easy. Many of you have had to navigate difficult systems, carry uncertainty, and revisit deeply personal experiences. Yet you continued to show up, not just for your own families, but for others who are still finding their way through. This year, we also had the opportunity to deepen our connections with our community of spouses. Building these relationships has been incredibly meaningful. It has strengthened our understanding of the everyday realities families face and reminded us that this work is not only about policy change, but about people, care, and belonging. The progress we are seeing today, from legal developments to shifts in practice, reflects your persistence and belief that things can and should be different. While there is still more to be done, we want to take this moment to recognise all that you have contributed to getting us here.

Thank you for trusting us and for continuing to walk this journey with us.

Our Heartfelt Gratitude

Acronyms

ASEAN – Association of Southeast Asian Nations
APMM – Asia Pacific Mission for Migration
APWLD – Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development
C3 – Collaborate, Communicate and Campaign Network
CRC – Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRVS – Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
FF – Family Frontiers
FSSG – Foreign Spouses Support Group
GCM – Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
IMA – International Migrants Alliance
IMRF – International Migration Review Forum

KPWKM – Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development
LTSVP – Long-term Social Visit Pass
OHCHR – Office of the Higher Commissioner
PR – Permanent Residence
UNHCR – United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UAF A&P – Urgent Action Fund Asia & Pacific
UN – United Nations
PPR – Program Perumahan Rakyat or People's Housing Program
SUHAKAM – Human Rights Commission of Malaysia

Links

C3 Workshop Video [\[Link\]](#)

C3 Call to Action Video [\[Link\]](#)

Online Video Contest for the C3 Network (Lawyer Kamek) [\[Link\]](#)

Online Video Contest for the C3 Network (Kings Guidance and Resource Centre) [\[Link\]](#)

Global Movement Against Statelessness, Community Call [\[Link\]](#)

Invisible People Docu-series Website [\[Link\]](#)

Peoples@ASEAN 2025 Conference Advocacy Outcome Video [\[Link\]](#)

Astro AWANI Niaga Spotlight, IDEVAW 2025: Marriage Migration & Economic Impacts [\[Link\]](#)

BFM Radio Interview on Marriage Migration [\[Link\]](#)

Defending Women Migrants' Human Rights and Access to Justice - A Joint Statement [\[Link\]](#)

“Keluarga Konversations” Voxpop Initiative:

[Episode 1](#)

[Episode 2](#)

[Episode 3](#)

Audited Financial Report [\[Link\]](#)



Scan the QR Code to access the online version of the 2025 Annual Report and for clickable links



FAMILY FRONTIERS

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

✉ info@familyfrontiers.org

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

🌐 [familyfrontiers.org](https://www.familyfrontiers.org)

🌐 [Family Frontiers](https://www.linkedin.com/company/family-frontiers)