

Organised by:



*maslaha*

# Interfaith Roundtable

---

Strategies to effectively support ethnic minority women experiencing gender based violence in Hong Kong

Date: Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2017

Time:

- 2:00 pm – 3:15 pm (women's discussion)
- 3:15 pm – 5:00 pm (men & women)

Venue: The University of Hong Kong, Rm 901 Cheng Yu Tung Tower

Please RSVP

Email: [janice@rainlily.org.hk](mailto:janice@rainlily.org.hk),

Tel: 2300-1933



本計劃由香港公益金資助  
This project is supported by The Community Chest



傅德蔭基金有限公司  
Fu Tak Iam Foundation Limited

# **Interfaith roundtable addressing strategies to effectively support ethnic minority women experiencing gender based violence in Hong Kong**

*We are pleased to invite you to attend Hong Kong's first inter-faith roundtable discussion regarding gender-based violence (GBV) on 5<sup>th</sup> January.*

The discussion will come as part of a wider programme of events running 4-6th January that will bring together international and local expertise on approaches to offering culturally appropriate and relevant support to Muslim and ethnic minority (EM) women experiencing GBV.

Partners involved include: Maslaha, a UK-based charity that works to tackle social inequalities in Muslim communities; RainLily – a crisis centre in Hong Kong for the protection of sexual violence victims; and academics from The University of Hong Kong.

## **Why are we doing this?**

The programme builds on recent data and insight in relation to EM women's experience of GBV including reports by RainLily<sup>1</sup>, the research of academic Puja Kapai at The University of Hong Kong<sup>2</sup>, and the work of Maslaha around practical approaches to tackling gender injustice and other social inequalities in Muslim communities<sup>3</sup>.

Evidence shows that front line service workers in Hong Kong are experiencing difficulties in effectively reaching and working with Muslim and EM women who are experiencing domestic violence<sup>4</sup>.

Barriers include a lack of cultural and religious sensitivity and insight among service workers, language difficulties, mistrust of authority and a need to build stronger cross-cultural understanding and inter-cultural collaboration. This amounts to a situation where complex barriers exist for many women in accessing effective protection against gender based violence and appropriate psycho-social support.

### **The aims of this discussion will be to:**

- Scope issues and experiences of barriers experienced by Muslim and EM women seeking support in Hong Kong
- Discuss strategies to tackle notions that religion or culture endorses GBV or female subordination
- Share positive practice of how such beliefs have been effectively and practically discounted within a faith framework
- Set in motion new networks of collaboration
- Reach a commitment from all present to take action against violence against women

**The discussion will take place in two parts; the first hour will be women-only, with men joining for the second part of the session. Both sessions will be facilitated by representatives from Maslaha who will be in Hong Kong for a three day period.**

1 Leung, L.C. & RainLily (2015). The Effectiveness of the We Stand Programme for Female Migrant Workers and Ethnic Minority Women

2 Kapai, P. (2016) Bringing Intersectionality Home: Contextualised Justice in Gender Based Violence in Hong Kong. In Barrow, A. & Chia, J.L. Gender, Violence, and the State in Asia, p.148-166. London: Routledge, 2016

3 For example: <http://www.islamandfeminism.org/> <http://www.talkingfromtheheart.org/>