

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



**ENABLING VOICES
FOR CHANGE,
WITHIN AND
WITHOUT**

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Reflections for the Year

Angela M. Kuga Thas, *Co-Founding Partner-Director*

As someone who believes in the power of storytelling and personal narratives, I am constantly thinking of how we, as KRYSS Network, can better tap and leverage that power.

The financial support in 2021 that allowed us to focus on strategising meant that we could tap the power of narratives in many different ways, and to more concretely make it our programmatic and core work. We developed our podcast series, called “GOSSIP”. This is a podcast series where we try to highlight women’s voices, including young women’s voices and LGBTIQ persons’ voices as well as alternative voices on current issues. Each GOSSIP podcast was deliberately crafted to surface the gender analyses of issues commonly but mistakenly thought as equally affecting men, women, and gender non-conforming persons.

In 2021, we produced six episodes in our effort to make publicly relevant gender analyses on media’s role in advancing gender sensitisation and equality; the issue of equal pay for work of equal value; online gender-based violence; women’s and girls’ bodily autonomy and the future of work (two episodes). We also placed a lot of emphasis on trying to effectively communicate bodily autonomy, privacy and consent issues in relation to Non-Consensual Dissemination of Intimate Images (NCII) as victim-blaming continued to proliferate whenever these images were found circulating in vile digital spaces and groups.

We started to more deliberately develop content in the national language (the Malay language) so that we could reach audiences outside of the human rights sector, to go beyond echo chambers and intimate publics of like-minded people. In this sense, our Virtual Workshop Roadshow series helped us reach students and young people whom we would have had challenges reaching especially as the movement control orders during the Covid-19 pandemic meant very little opportunity for face-to-face interactions.

The growth in financial support for the work that we do as KRYSS Network also meant that I needed to ensure that we were telling our story as well, not just on our website and over social media, but also through our financial accounts. Accountants say that the financial figures of any organisation tell a story, so I wanted our financial figures to really express ours. I did not want KRYSS Network to have an audit report that merely stated how much we spent on local travel, for example, but to also state why we spent that amount on local travel, what was the local travel for—Shaping Public Discourse for Gender Equality and Non-Discrimination? Elimination of Hate Speech and Online Gender-Based Violence? Or Institutional Reforms and Social Change?

It was quite the task to revise our account codes so that they reflected our work and strategic approaches accurately. Fortunately, I worked with an accountant who was very patient with me, who was equally solution-oriented, and who by then better understood where I was coming from and why I needed such detailed and multiple level account codes. By August 2021, we had a 15-page document of account codes that for me, described comprehensively where exactly our funds were going and in support of which strategies and categories/types of activities for the year(s) in question. More importantly, the figures now better reflected how much it realistically takes for KRYSS Network to build capacities, communal solidarity and feminist constituencies, and to craft effective content for gender sensitisation, knowledge-building and advocacy. Our financial figures began to speak of many realities of our work.

Internally, personal narratives contributed to establishing and strengthening our organisational culture. I am glad for the team that we have and still have. We are a team that has grown in strength, and one that continues to grow and is keen to learn and to take up more challenging work. We did face many challenges in fostering an organisational culture that is open to learning, which demanded that each of us as a team member of KRYSS Network was also equally vulnerable. It meant that we had to be ready to discuss our mistakes, weaknesses and fears openly, but also that we were equally given the space, time and opportunities to learn from our mistakes. Our position within the organisation and perceived power did not matter, and it should not matter. I think in fostering such a learning organisational culture, each of us also began to learn how to remain accountable to each other and to the organisation. As we ended the year, my hope was that each team member knew that they mattered, that their views, feminist positions, and even fears mattered to us; that the organisation is nothing without the people within.

Serene Lim, *Co-Founding Partner-Director*

I always thought I would enjoy working from home, but the prolonged pandemic and movement restrictions made me miss the experience of traveling to a physical office, the pantry talks about all things non-work related, brainstorming and writing down ideas and thoughts on a white board and more. Suddenly, the office is no longer just a place for “work” or to clock-in working hours. It is a safe space for me to connect with the rest of the team members and to have face-to-face conversations. I am thankful to be where I am and to be doing what I do with the amazing people in my team. Most importantly, to be in a space where vulnerability and shortfalls are not penalised but embraced as part of our growth journeys—individually and collectively. For that, it is important that we also create, enable and sustain such safe(r) and brave(r) spaces outside of KRYSS Network. It is with this consciousness that we designed and conducted many of our convenings, including our first ever Virtual Workshop Roadshow.

In 2021, we were also given the opportunity to expand our work on internet access. Leveraging on the former Communications and Multimedia Minister, Annuar Musa's statement on internet access as a human right, we organised a consultation with different groups and community organisers to unpack what is meaningful internet access, especially for marginalised communities, and their recommendations to the government. The input from the consultation contributed to the development of a policy brief on internet access. The rapid integration of technology into our existence means that our online and offline lives are no longer separated. To be denied access to devices or the internet is to be stripped off our access to education, healthcare services, information and essentially our rights as human beings. Paradoxically, opting out from digitalisation is no longer a choice people have.

The data from the government showed that 96.8 per cent of Malaysians used the internet in 2021. Yet, this data does not show the quality of access, who benefited from that internet access, who were denied access and the cost of being disconnected. During our consultation, we heard the realities of various communities. Even those located right at the heart of the city were denied quality access to the internet simply because they were not deemed “profitable” by telco companies. Often, these are the communities who have to decide between spending their daily wages on mobile data or food. Urgently, we need better data and research that better represent the lived realities, especially those who are marginalised. We need better informed policies and initiatives that are led by the communities most affected.

Meaningful access to the internet also includes a safe and inclusive digital space for all. In 2021, we documented 44 cases of online gender-based violence with little to no redress for survivors from law enforcers or the social media platforms. We have documented a case of police officer infringing on women's privacy and harassing them sexually by sending them unsolicited message after collecting their mobile number at a roadblock. In the absence of adequate remedy, the feminist community has found ways to support one another organically and unofficially.

We started to put together a resource toolkit to push back against online gender-based violence. Three consultation workshops were held with the LGBTQ communities, refugee women and Malaysian women of foreign spouses who face discrimination in conferring Malaysian citizenship to their children if their children are born abroad. We hope this resource toolkit will be useful for the community in our continuous battle against patriarchy online.

On a lighter note, I found out I was pregnant with a baby girl. Our work at KRYSS Network has a deeper meaning for me now so that we can have a world that her generation can freely exercise their freedom of opinion and expression and be who they want to be without judgment.

Jane Law, *Communication and Multimedia Officer*

2021 has been a steep yet very fulfilling learning curve for me.

"I am failing as a woman. I am failing as a feminist. To freely accept the feminist label would not be fair to good feminists. If I am, indeed, a feminist, I am a rather bad one. I am a mess of contradictions..."

Looking back, the words of Roxane Gay perfectly encapsulate my growth from a woman hesitant to embrace the "feminist" title to a proud and glowing feminist who makes no apologies for who she is.

Growing up, despite my beliefs and passion for equal rights for women, I have always felt unworthy to call myself a "feminist", especially not when I sing along to problematic songs or participate in gossip that put down women, when I shave my legs every time before I go out with my friends or when I would worry about eating too much and exercising too little even though I detest the unrealistic beauty standards placed on women.

I hold a deep-seated amount of respect and admiration for the brave and strong feminists who have stood up against injustices and defied all the discriminatory traditions and social rules to walk their own path. Yet, because of how feminism tends to be portrayed on mainstream media, my perception of the movement is that I have to make certain "sacrifices" in order to join or be a "true feminist". For example, I believed that I have to choose not to marry because women have always been told that their purpose in life is to find a husband, although I secretly longed to find an everlasting partner and perhaps have a family of my own in the future.

This is not to say I am disparaging the women who make the choice to not marry but rather my limited understanding of feminism at the time was that I had to give up certain things that may be rooted in patriarchal practices and I wasn't ready for that. I didn't realise that in a world where women have sacrificed and are always taught to do or are constantly expected to and pushed to sacrifice, feminism is not about having to make compromises but celebrating the choices women are empowered to make in their lives.

"Maybe I'm a bad feminist, but I am deeply committed to the issues important to the feminist movement. I have strong opinions about misogyny, institutional sexism that consistently places women at a disadvantage, the inequity in pay, the cult of beauty and thinness, the repeated attacks on reproductive freedom, violence against women, and on and on. I am as committed to fighting fiercely for equality as I am committed to disrupting the notion that there is an essential feminism...."

It took some time but being involved in KRYSS Network for this whole year allowed me to meet feminists in Malaysia and which helped change my mind. Reading and listening to the stories of women, particularly the stories from the women from our 16 Days of Activism campaign and the first Women's Tribunal in Malaysia made me in awe of their courage and resilience. It made me realise that it doesn't matter if your favorite color is pink or if you want to cut your hair and dye it green, there is no cookie cutter mold you have to force yourself to follow when it comes to being a feminist. These are women who come from different backgrounds and are diverse in their own ways but they are ultimately fighting for the same goal – equality.

We are all bad feminists because there is no such thing as perfect feminists. Just as all of us live different lives, feminists and their interpretations of feminism, their lived realities, are diverse and varied. Being a bad feminist doesn't make you any less of a feminist. Being a bad feminist is okay because it means we acknowledge the complexity of human existence.

As I embrace the next chapters of my life as a new born feminist, I hope to continue growing - from a bad feminist to not a perfect one but at least, better than who I was yesterday. I want to carry the feminist principles I have learned during my time at KRYSS Network and apply these in my everyday life.

So, I will end my reflection with this:

"No matter what issues I have with feminism, I am a feminist. I cannot and will not deny the importance and absolute necessity of feminism. Like most people, I'm full of contradictions, but I also don't want to be treated like shit for being a woman. I am a bad feminist. I would rather be a bad feminist than no feminist at all."

Quotes used above are taken from 'Bad Feminist: Essays' by Roxane Gay.

Nisa Rawi, *Research and Documentation Officer*

2021 was an incredibly packed year for the KRYSS Network team. There were so many new things in store for us as businesses and offices began to open again: Virtual Workshop Roadshow (VWR), a second run of SEAFAM, more face-to-face workshops, and physical and online events. Through the work we did that year, we were able to expand our support network; with VWR, we worked with children, refugees, and students all around Malaysia; with SEAFAM, we were able to mobilise together with fellow SEA feminists.

The lockdowns that took place all over the world had a serious impact in the way advocacy took place. The act of resistance, just like everything else, had to be done online. The thing about the act of resistance is it is done well when complimented with solidarity. This year, we were able to expand our network with other fellow Southeast Asian feminists through KRYSS Network's collaboration with Jakarta Feminist and Gantala Press in building the Southeast Asia Feminist Action Movement Network (SEAFAM). SEAFAM started in 2020 and we have managed to recruit many organisations from three different countries.

We had webinars and discussions, where we shared our knowledge, experiences and opinions as well as ways of resisting, oppressive cultural practices. Although 2021 was also a year of lockdowns just as in 2020, it did not stop human rights violations from happening in the region. With SEAFAM, we were able to share each other's sorrows and extended support to our friends in need. A particular workshop that stuck with me was the one we held on the topic of online campaigning. We shared the biggest challenge of shifting advocacy online, and how good intentions are not often translated well when communities are not consulted. The success of SEAFAM is captured in its continuation as we received news that there would be funds to continue working together for another year.

This was also the year for podcasts: KRYSS Network launched GOSSIP, a new avenue to connect with a whole new audience. I also had the honour of being a speaker on a podcast by Seek to Speak, on the topic of online gender based violence and the campaign that quickly took root among Malaysians, #MakeSchoolaSaferPlace, in response to call out on rape culture in schools perpetuated by teachers, which in turn encourages boys to embrace this bad behaviour.

So much happened in one short year: Both good and bad. As the work became more intense for the KRYSS Network team members, there were many new things to learn which meant that there were bound to be mistakes. But we learned and we came together, becoming much closer as a team.

This is also the year we had our first strategic planning retreat, a much needed one after years of working together, on top of the social void the pandemic had created. The retreat helped us in many ways; we got to know each other's strengths and weaknesses, we bonded and created memories I will cherish forever. We strategised for the new year and planned the work ahead for the team, ending the year on a good note; more hopeful and with more adventures ahead for KRYSS Network.

Desiree Wilone Christian, *Intern (July – October 2021)*

My internship at KRYSS Network has been one of the most rewarding and memorable experiences. I had the opportunity to connect with colleagues who have so much experience in women's rights/gender equality activism.

During my time there, I was given two tasks: to do online gender-based monitoring on social media and help out with the research for social media content development. Both these tasks opened my eyes to new knowledge. Online gender-based violence monitoring was intense work as it required me to scroll through social media to look for any evidence of verbal abuse or unsolicited photos/ videos of women. This experience shocked me as I always assumed that online harassment was not as bad as harassment that happened to victims face to face. To my surprise, online harassment in a male-dominated social media space is very severe. I've had to screenshot comments targeted against female athletes, celebrities, and even among peers.

The research I had to do gave me a better understanding of how something as simple as the gender pay/ wage gap and the stigma of how women are perceived or expected to be have a large negative impact on our society.

The best part of being part of the team were my colleagues who were really empathetic, compassionate, and understanding. There were times when I was not comfortable with my job scope and they were super understanding about how the work, especially the monitoring of social media for online gender-based violence incidents, affected me mentally. They offer a safe space for honest conversations among team members and prioritised mental health. Overall, it was a really good experience and I would definitely recommend KRYSS Network as a learning ground for interns.

Martina Andrene Michael, *Intern (June – October 2021)*

My internship at KRYSS Network has been one of the most rewarding and motivational experiences I have had during my time as a student at the University Science Malaysia. I worked closely with both the partner-directors and senior co-workers all of whom supported my growth as a human rights advocate both directly and indirectly.

With such empathetic, compassionate, and supportive mentors, this experience has helped me achieve my goal of working in a field I am truly passionate about. I have worked on monitoring, reporting and filing online gender-based violence (OGBV) cases found over social media and news websites. There were times I found it depressing to report such vile cases to the point where it has impacted me mentally. Nevertheless, I had such amazing co-workers and a healthy work environment that provided me days off when I felt overwhelmed, and the weekly meetings where we reflected on our previous week's work helped me prepare for the week ahead. I always looked forward to the weekly meetings as it provided me a therapeutic avenue to vent my struggles and share my happiness with my team. It helped me bond better with the team which led to improved work relationships. I was also exposed to the feminist advocacy scene in Southeast Asia. I was content to see the number of passionate individuals and organisations that are advocating equality across the region through various ways. I also connected with a few advocates who are good friends until today.

The biggest takeaway from this internship experience is to always be courageous. Many times, as a young advocate, I am frightened to speak the truth and blow the whistle when there is injustice. Being part of KRYSS Network, opened many opportunities and right avenues to speak my mind and understand that I am not alone in this fight. This organisation has taught me valuable lessons on freedom of speech and how we should protect this right at all costs. I am confident that I matured and grew as a person because of KRYSS Network even though I was there for a short period of time. I would not have the knowledge or skills I have today if it were not for my internship experience, and I look forward to where my career in advocacy and humanitarian affairs takes me in the future.

Our Herstory

Like many others, the introduction of vaccines for Covid-19 offered some optimism and a sense of progress for us individually and collectively as the KRYSS Network team. After working remotely for more than one year, we were excited to finally set up our first physical office and had our first strategic planning retreat in Penang. Despite our swift adaptation to a virtual office environment, these in-person meetings and gatherings brought us closer together and allowed for stronger collaborations, improved understanding and relationship-building. The ability to reconnect in-person is yet another reminder of the power of holding safe(r) and brave(r) space for meaningful, honest and open conversations – as we continued to foster our culture as a learning and feminist organisation.

In 2021, we started our very first podcast “GOSSIP” with an aim to build spaces where we can engage in dialogue and amplify alternative perspectives and to analyse current issues from a gender lens. We also launched our very first “Virtual Workshop Roadshow on Online Gender-based Violence” and for the first time, we were able to reach out to constituents who were not in our immediate network. They included children from B40 communities, and students from secondary schools, and from both public and private universities. The earnest curiosity to learn and understand issues around gender-based violence and inequalities by children and young people attest to the importance of our work efforts on community outreach and narratives creation.

As a team, we also had multiple conversations around accountability, power, consent, what does it mean to be in a learning organisation, and how do we carry one another when one of us needs time-off for multiple reasons, while ensuring that the others are compensated fairly for their labour. These were not easy conversations but essential, nonetheless. We developed our very own administration and financial manual in which we are better able to articulate our values and principles, accountability process etc. More importantly, the manual is our continuous attempt to remind team members that they are the heart of KRYSS Network. We see the manual as a living document that will change as the team expands and ways of working and resolving problems would likely be enriched further.

Our Vision

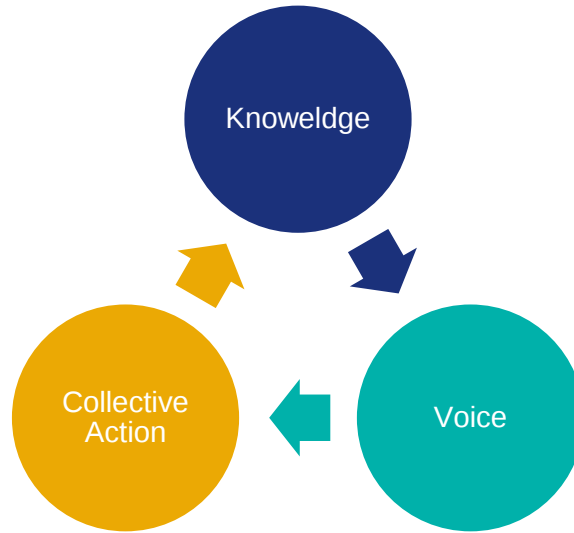
KRYSS envisions a world where all peoples, regardless of gender identity, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, age or any other status, are aware of and able to fully exercise their freedom of opinion and expression, public participation and bodily autonomy that are premised on gender equality, non-discrimination and feminist principles.

Our Mission

We work towards increasing the individual and collective agency of all, but especially of women, young women and gender non-conforming persons, in the full exercise of their freedom of opinion and expression through conscious strategy development that is supported by evidence-based knowledge, networking and advocacy; and guided by feminist and human rights principles of upholding dignity, equality, diversity, respect and choice.

Programming towards Our Vision and Mission

In 2021, we continued to synergise and expand our work through the same three intersectional and inclusive strategic approaches we had adopted since our incorporation in 2019:



Knowledge	We seek to enhance human rights advocacy and communication strategies through knowledge-building towards ensuring equality and non-discrimination in Malaysia.
Voice	We focus on expanding the discursive space for equality, non-discrimination and human rights in the country.
Collective Action	We see the importance of movement-building and our focus on strengthening collective action, recognising and acknowledging that every single woman, man, trans and gender diverse person is a catalyst for social change.

Premised on the above three strategic approaches, we continued to focus on three key areas of change in trying to enable equal access and the right to freedom of opinion and expression for all, especially for women/girls and gender non-conforming persons.

These three key areas of change are:

**SHAPING PUBLIC DISCOURSE
FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND
NON- DISCRIMINATION
(Creation, Networking and
Solidarity-Building)**

- We focus a lot on content creation in order to better enable and hold spaces that are safer for difficult or uncomfortable conversations. We consciously amplify alternative perspectives through our social media and podcasts and to platform voices that are less heard in mainstream conversations. We believe it is through conversation that we learn and unlearn.

**ELIMINATION OF HATE
SPEECH AND ONLINE
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE**

- We focus on the abnormalisation of hate speech and online gender-based violence towards creating and enabling safer and braver digital space where women, girls, transgender, and gender non-conforming persons have equal access and exercise of their freedom of opinion and expression, and following that, their public and political participation.

**INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS
AND SOCIAL CHANGE**

- We recognise that policy change does not necessarily bring about social change. Sustainable change lies in the change within the peoples of Malaysia. Even though we knew that this kind of work is human resource intensive and extremely slow, it is work that excites us. The intersectionality of one's citizenship status, the perception of that citizenship status because of ethno-religious politics, and what rights peoples of Malaysia are actually able to enjoy and to what (limited) extent was not lost on us.

Our Work and Thematic Threads of 2021

As the global economy slowly started to recover from the pandemic in 2021, the continued institutional support from both Access Now and Luminate (through East-West Management Institute) remained crucial in sustaining our organisation and in propelling our work within the larger human rights movement in Malaysia. We are equally thankful to the accompaniment programme and financial support from HIVOS Digital Defenders Fund which provided financial resources and capacity building on the organisation's security issues and the team's wellbeing. In addition to core financial support, we also undertook the following projects:

1. A second feminist internet research, supported by the Association for Progressive Communications' Feminist Internet Research Network (2021-2022)
2. Internet access as a human rights, supported by the International Centre for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) (2021-2022)
3. SEAFAM (2020-2021) under CFLI ASEAN, through the Jakarta Feminist Association
4. Women's Tribunal Arts Festival as part of the first Women's Tribunal in Malaysia, supported by the High Commission of Canada, Malaysia

Our Contributions to Change

In 2021, we endured so much as a nation from the devastations of the Covid-19 pandemic to the change of government that did not have the people's mandate. Yet, we saw how people come together to help one another, how young people march for the good of the country, how young girls and women continue to occupy their rightful spaces and speak out against gender inequalities and sexism despite knowing the risks of violence and verbal abuse. We also had our very first Women's Tribunal in Malaysia, where we reimagined justice for women. We firmly believe that the human rights movement belongs to everyone who share the vision for an inclusive and diverse country that treats everyone equally and with dignity. The change is slow, but it is happening.

We see our role in developing better articulation on the right of freedom of opinion and expression from a gender lens through evidence-based advocacy, public narrative shaping, outreach, and strategic collaborations with partners and community.

Below is a snapshot of our contributions in 2021 to the social change we seek:

Educating on Severity of Online Gender-Based Violence

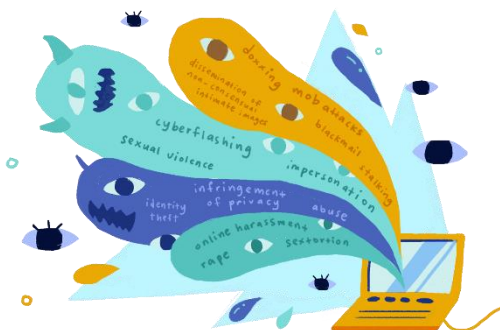


Illustration by Shan May

A total of 23 cases were documented in 2021 through media and social media monitoring, interviews with victims/survivors and complaints received through our social media accounts. In addition, we also documented 162 accounts on Twitter, Telegram, Reddit and Instagram that sexualise and disseminate sexually explicit images/videos of women. Online harassment and abuse and non-consensual dissemination of intimate images (NCII) were among the forms of online gender-based violence that were most commonly documented. The documentation of these violations are essential in developing an annual overview of documentation of OGBV within Malaysia. We see the gap in systematic data collection when it comes to OGBV. With our

documentation and annual review, we aim to help educate the public and key stakeholders on the severity of OGBV and the need to address its root causes. Our 2021 overview of monitoring and documentation of OGBV can be found [here](#).

Expanding Understanding on Negative Impacts of Online Gender-Based Violence



Illustration by Ly Ann

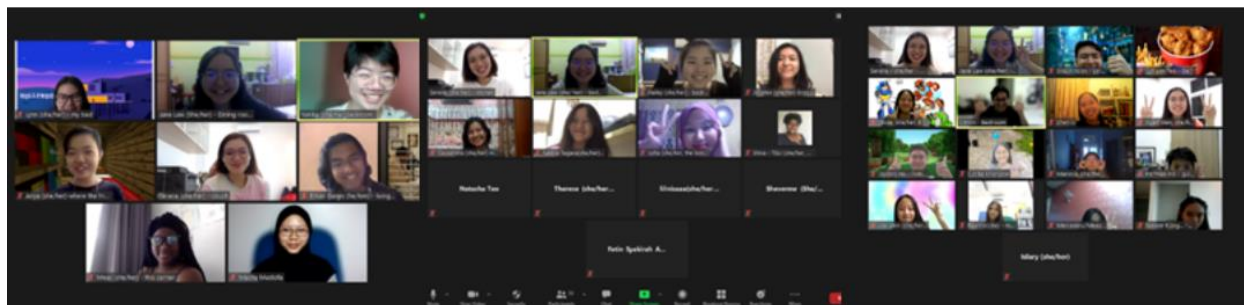
In 2021, we disseminated the findings of our research “[Power X Expression X Violence: A Research on Women’s Expression on Social Media in Malaysia](#)” through a webinar, a podcast, social media infographics and an executive summary. A one hour and 30 minutes online discussion titled “Power, Expression and Violence in Digital Spaces” was

held. Guest speakers include: 1) Jac sm Kee, tech feminist activist; 2) Rachel Gong, senior research associate from Khazanah Research Institute, and 2) Dewi (name anonymised) from the Loud Asians, a group that challenges social stereotypes through infographics.

A [podcast](#) focusing on online gender-based violence and its relationship with freedom of opinion and expression was also produced. We invited two women survivors who were targets of online gender-based violence, namely: 1) Alia Affendy, feminist lawyer, and; 2) Jamaliah Jamaluddin, state assembly person. The diversity in the speakers' experience and knowledge contributed to rich and insightful perspectives on how online gender-based violence is also closely intertwined with our right to privacy and our understanding of consent in digital spaces.

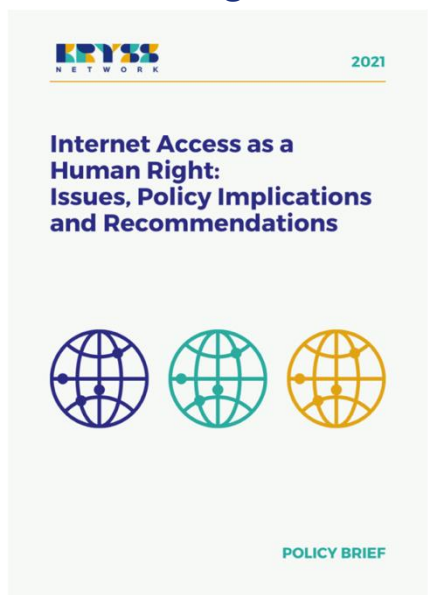


Reaching New Audiences in Unpacking Online Gender-Based Violence



10 online workshops were designed conducted to meet the demand of students and intermediaries who work with young people and children from all over Malaysia, including Sabah. The [VWR](#) has turned out to be an effective way of reaching audiences that we would normally find difficult to access. Most of the participants were young women/girls who have shown interest in improving their understanding on online gender-based violence. The promotion and publicity we have done around the VWR has helped us sustain our relationships and relevance with young people. The close and private nature of these workshops also means we were able to create a safe(r) and brave(r) space where participants have been able to ask difficult questions. A boy asked if their action amounts to sexual harassment, cis men allies shared the guilt they felt as men, and energised discussions on cancel culture and ethics of online vigilantism took place, among others.

Policy Recommendations for "Internet Access as a Human Right"



Building on the long overdue and welcomed statement by the former Minister of Communications and Multimedia in August 2021, wherein he said that “access to internet facilities must be considered a human right apart from basic necessities such as clothing, food and shelter”, we developed a policy brief that examines the challenges in promoting, ensuring and protecting “internet access as a human right”. An online consultation with 15 individuals working with different communities, researchers were also held to expand our understanding and to try to identify standards for meaningful internet access, especially for low-income households and marginalised communities. With these participants, we also developed [policy recommendations](#) for the State. Among others, we argue that internet access must be needs-based and that solutions must be community-driven. This means not

viewing communities who are underserved or unconnected as “the last mile” but as the first mile, and taking the necessary steps through regulatory means to uphold this more effective and sustainable approach to inclusive development.

Diversification of Digital Content Development for Shaping Public Discourse

1. Digital video on online gender-based violence

We produced a REVOLUSIS animation pilot episode on Non-Consensual Dissemination of Intimate Images (NCII) in the Malay language. The video titled, “Sedar Diri” (translation: Self-awareness) focused on the common occurrence of non-consensual dissemination of intimate images, where a young girl’s nude photo was disseminated by her boyfriend without her consent. The video shows how she overcomes the self-blaming and the harassment targeting her and eventually uses her voice to create awareness. This digital video was shared by various individuals and we were pleasantly surprised that it had relevance as well and was shared by a [feminist organisation in Indonesia](#).



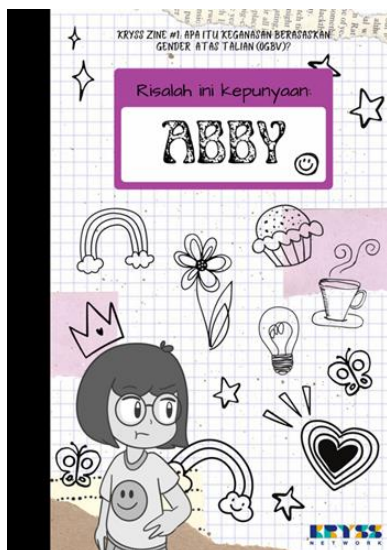
Illustration/ animation by Row Yow

2. Public education content creation through social media



We have created several digital contents on our social media platforms on various digital rights issues – 1) [issues impacting girls in digital spaces in conjunction with our National Day](#); [doxxing as a form of online gender-based violence](#), and; 2) [equal pay for work of equal value from a gender lens](#). We applied a gender lens to our contents and challenge the way the public looks at current affairs that often centre on or revolve around the experience of cis male and exclude the lived realities of women, girls and marginalised communities.

3. Zine



We published a [Zine](#) on Non-Consensual Dissemination of Intimate Images (NCII) in the Malay language meant for children/younger students, especially those from the B40 income households. This Zine was done in conjunction with our 2021 Virtual Workshop Roadshow, “Unpacking Online Gender-Based Violence” to further the awareness of online gender-based violence, its harms to victims, and the resources available to help victims.

4. 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (2021)



Illustration by Sunita S.

From 25 November to 10 December 2021, we launched a campaign on our social media to amplify the voices of 5 women who fight for a fair, just and inclusive country. We highlight these women's bravery and resilience in speaking up despite their voices being ignored, belittled, mocked, interrupted or shut down because they know the importance and power of speaking up, of making visible of what had been ignored. We collaborated with 5 women (a young woman activist from the state of Sabah, a mother facing citizenship issue for her children, a transgender woman and transgender rights activist, a refugee woman, and a women's rights activist) and a local illustrator to document and curate their stories of strength and resilience in Malaysia. The full write-ups of their stories are published on our [website](#).

5. [GOSSIP](#)



We launched our podcast series "GOSSIP" and a total of 6 episodes were produced in 2021 with the following topics:

- [Gender and Media](#)

- [Equal Pay for Work of Equal Value](#)
- [Online Gender-Based Violence](#)
- [Women's and Girls' Bodily Autonomy](#)
- [Future of Work \(Part 1, focusing on on-the-ground realities\)](#)
- [Future of Work \(Part 2, focusing on policy, understanding concepts, gender analysis of the impact\)](#)

Our podcasts focused on surfacing the gender analysis of the above topics and we consciously identified speakers who are women and young women and who are not very well known in the public eye but whose lived realities and substantive views/analyses were critical and important to be shared. GOSSIP's approach to identifying guest speakers has helped widen KRYSS Network's audience reach and public relevance.

Reimagining Justice - A Collective Initiative



In 2021, along with other women's rights groups, KRYSS Network was part of the steering committee that organised the first [Women's Tribunal](#) in Malaysia to reimagine justice for women, girls and transgender women. More specifically, we facilitated the organising of the Women's Tribunal Arts Festival, a 90-minute event that reimagines advocacy through music, poetry and creative dialogue. KRYSS Network was also part of the security team in which we ensured that members were aware of digital security issues and that data of the victims/witness testimonies was stored in a secure manner. We also conducted a risk

assessment with witnesses and partner organisations. We also supported one online gender-based violence victim who had experienced online harassment, doxing, impersonation and violence following her speech against the legitimacy of the then Prime Minister and the government that was established after the infamous Sheraton move. OGBV was recognised as a critical issue and raised substantively in the final judgment by the panel of three judges. The Women's Tribunal Arts Festival was able to attract a good mix of performers, from both the aspects of ethnic representation and forms of art. This meant that amplification was not just in terms of numbers of people reached, but also how the audience reach was deliberately cross-cultural.

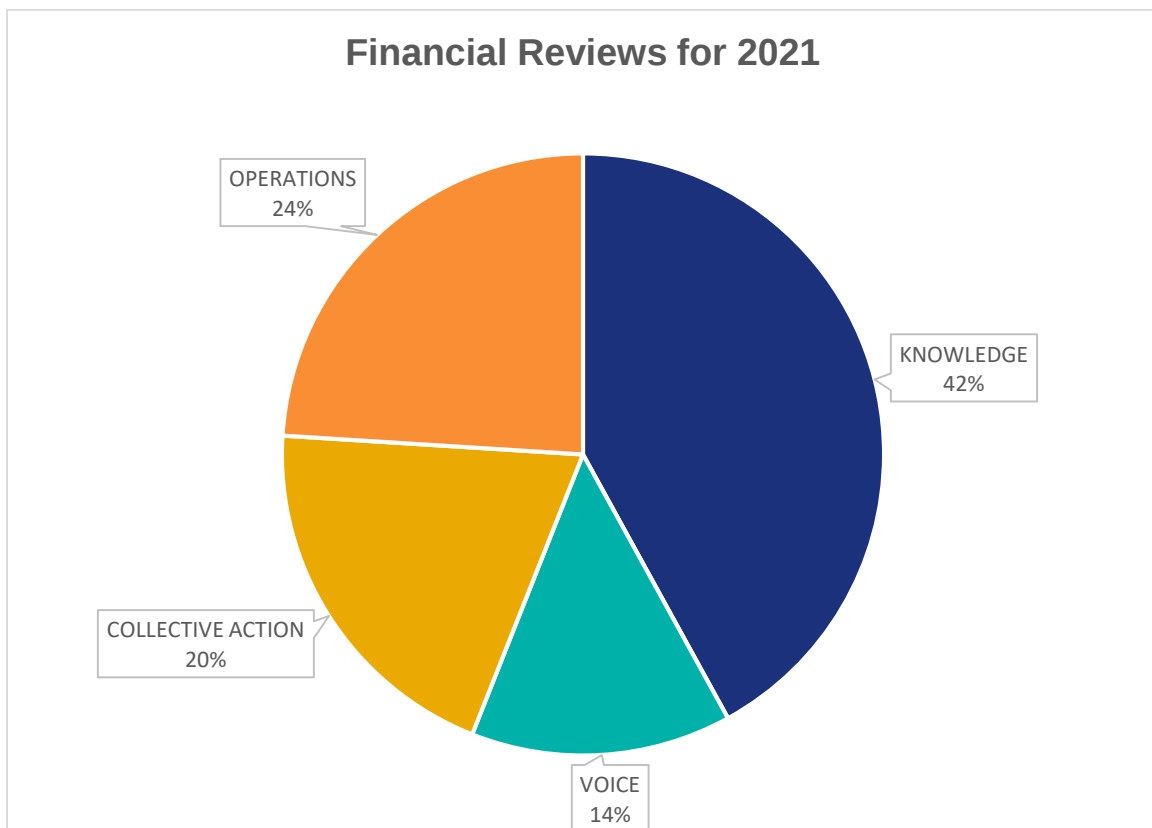
Acknowledgements

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all who have supported us in different ways, as funders, as collaborators, as resource persons, as allies, as fellow human rights defenders and as friends. We are especially appreciative of those who would readily work with us or who are keen to work with us because of how we work and believe in the work that we do.

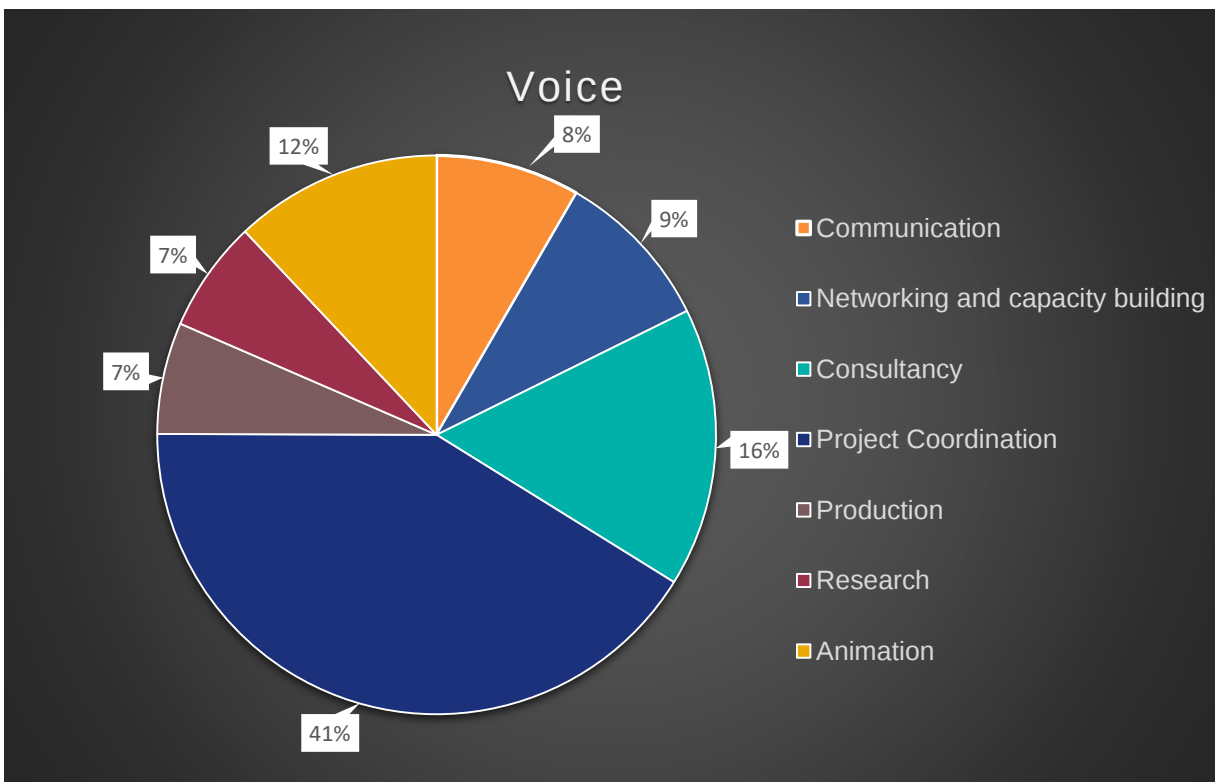
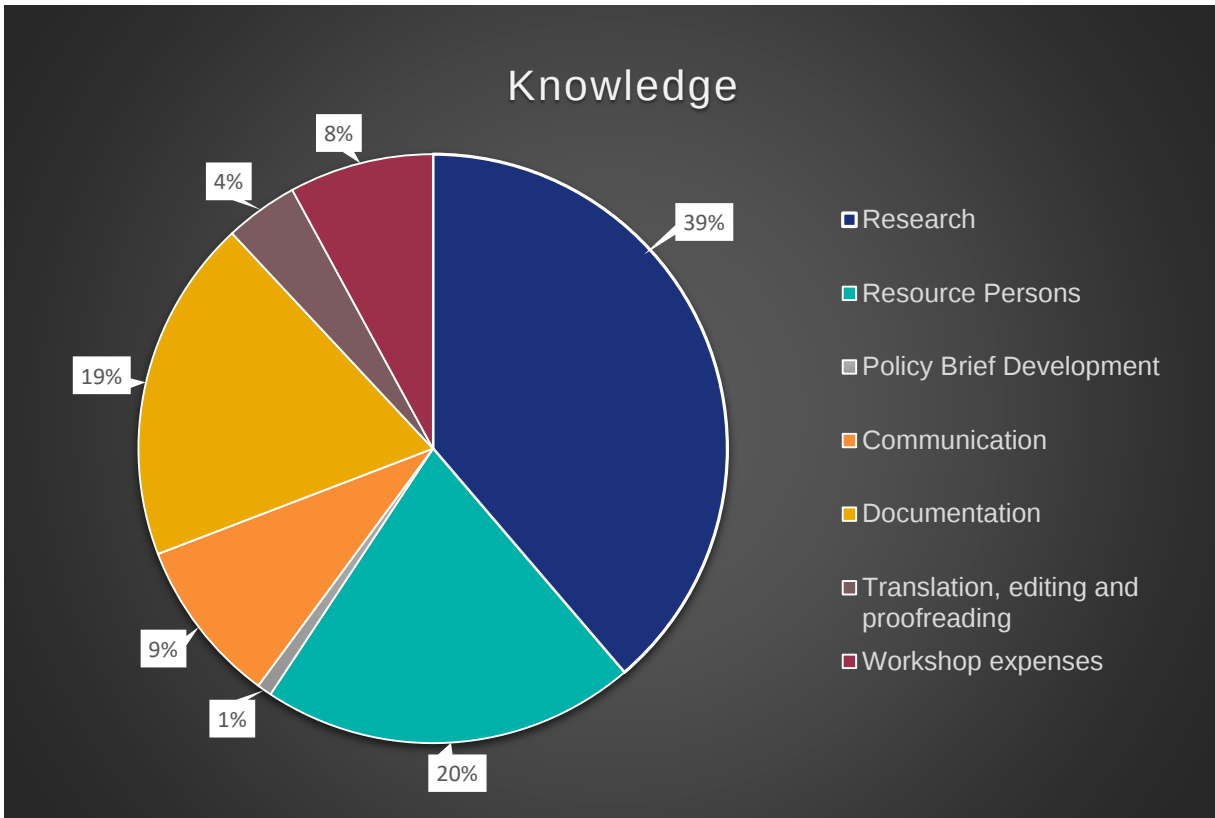
Financials

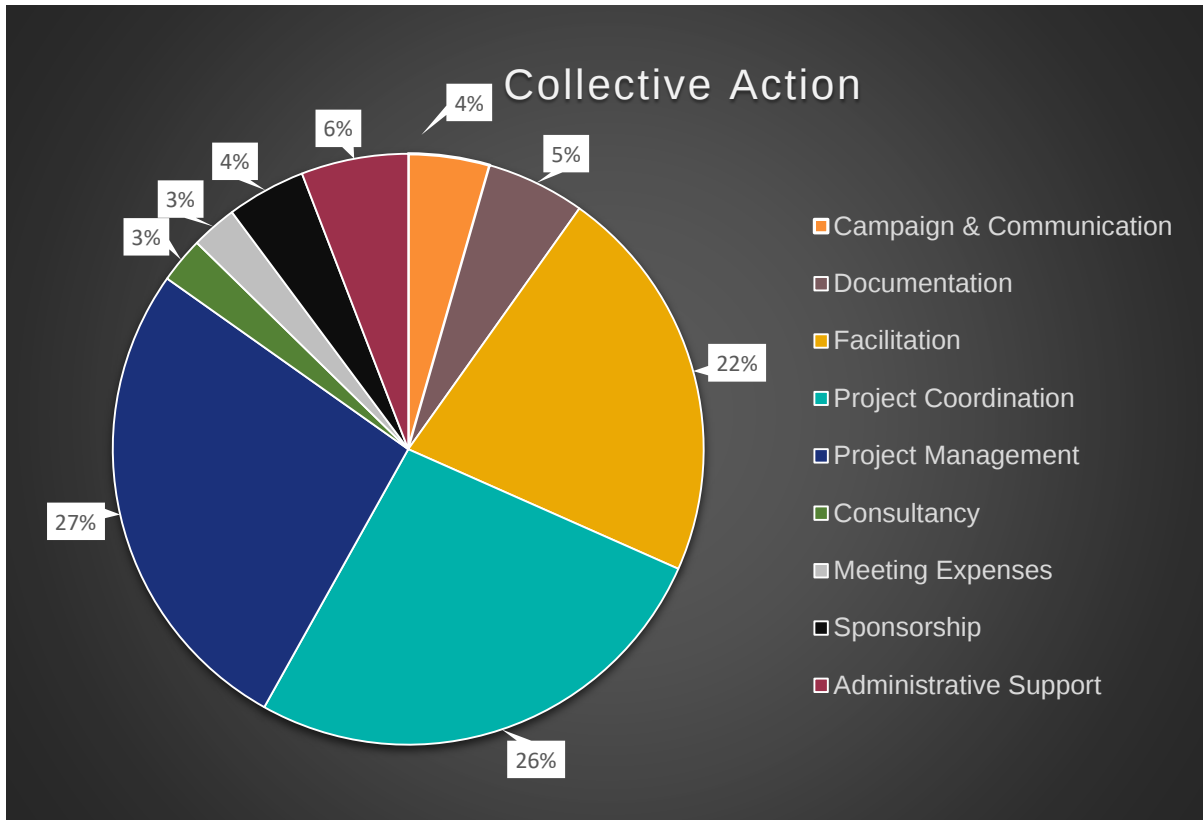
We managed a total of MYR451, 713 for the year with the following breakdown of how funds were used to support our strategic approaches:

1. **KNOWLEDGE** – MYR189,904 or about 42 per cent
2. **VOICE** – MYR63,905 or about 14 per cent
3. **COLLECTIVE ACTION** – MYR91,162 or about 20 per cent
4. **OPERATIONS** – MYR106,742 or about 24 per cent



Strategic Approach Expenses

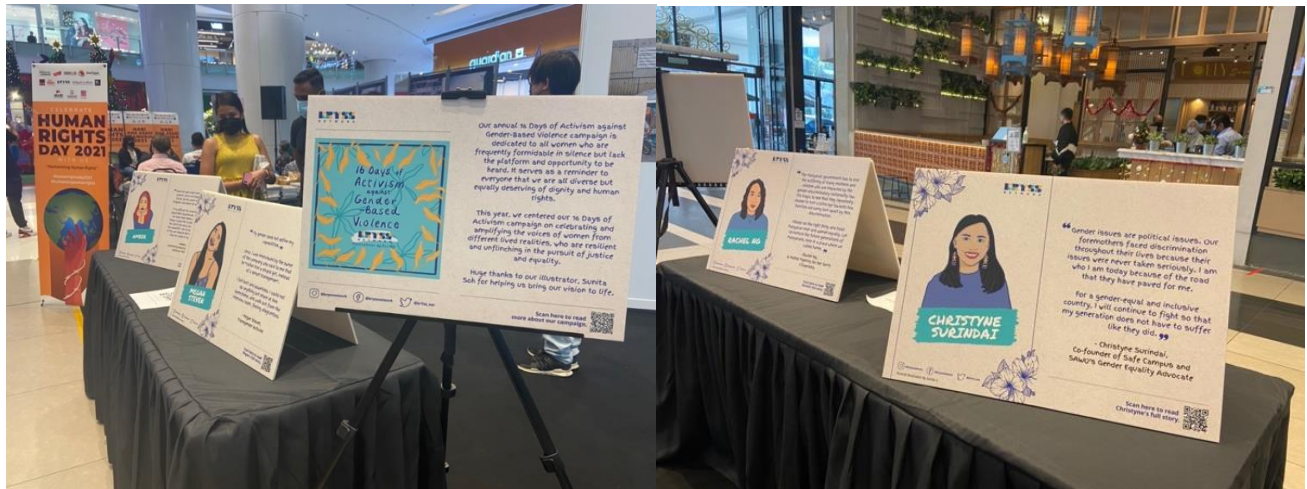




Brief Snapshots of the Year



KRYSS Network's first ever retreat in Penang with PAC member, Melissa Mohd Akhir and our digital security mentor, Declan Loke. We also had mini birthday celebrations for both Jane and Serene.



KRYSS Network participated in the International Human Rights Day Exhibition organised by the Freedom of Expression group at Nu Sentral – exhibiting and amplifying our 16 Days of Activism campaign.



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