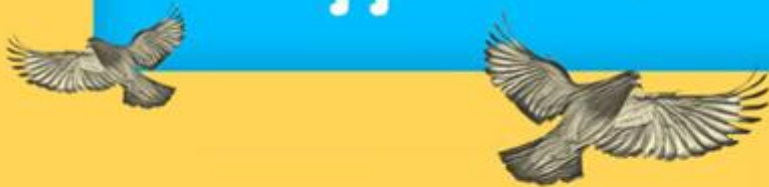


Protecting Trafficked Survivors



Anti-trafficking In Persons

SUKA Society advocates for a victim-centric approach to protecting trafficked survivors. This report details the programme's progress and impact from 2024.



REPORT OVERVIEW

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PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Background

Human trafficking is ranked third among international crimes, after drug trafficking and the illegal arms trade. Unlike drugs and weapons, trafficked humans are treated as commodities—bought, sold, and resold multiple times.

According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), an estimated 27.6 million people are in situations of forced labour globally. Of this, 17.3 million are exploited in the private sector, 6.3 million are subjected to forced commercial sexual exploitation, and 3.9 million are under state-imposed forced labour.¹ These alarming figures highlight the urgent need for comprehensive action to combat human trafficking and forced labour worldwide.



Women and girls account for about 39.4% of all forced labour cases, including 4.9 million in sexual exploitation and 6 million in other sectors like agriculture, domestic work, and manufacturing.²



Children are also disproportionately affected, with over 3 million trapped in forced labour—1.7 million in commercial sexual exploitation and 1.3 million in other forced labour situations.²

The Situation in Malaysia

In 2024, Malaysia was upgraded to Tier 2 in the U.S. State Department's Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report, reflecting its notable progress in its efforts to combat human trafficking with steps such as increased investigations, conviction of traffickers and enhanced public awareness.³ Despite this, significant challenges remain, particularly in victim identification, prosecution consistency, and corruption.

The government confirmed 165 trafficking victims among the 663 potential victims identified in 2024 alone. Of the 165 confirmed victims, 29 were exploited in sex trafficking and 136 were exploited in forced labour, highlighting the ongoing challenges Malaysia faces in combating human trafficking.³ While advancements have been made, sustained and enhanced efforts are crucial to effectively address and eradicate this dire issue.

As a signatory to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), Malaysia has a duty to protect vulnerable women and children from trafficking and exploitation. Victims often endure severe physical and emotional trauma, including depression and post-traumatic stress disorder, necessitating comprehensive care, counselling, and therapy for recovery.

In addition to prevention and prosecution efforts, survivors of trafficking must be made aware of their rights and given proper assistance, including access to legal aid, safe shelter, healthcare, and psychosocial support. Educating survivors empowers them to seek justice and protects them from further harm. All support must be trauma-informed and uphold their dignity and recovery.

¹International Labour Organization (2022). *Global Estimates of Modern Slavery: Forced Labour and Forced Marriage*.

²U.S. Department of Labor (2023). *Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor*.

³U.S. State Department. (2024). *2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Malaysia*.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Programme Objectives

SUKA Society works alongside government protection shelters under the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development (KPWKM) to ensure a victim-centric approach in supporting survivors of human trafficking.

Our Key Focus Areas:



Therapeutic Support

Providing trauma-informed care through art and play therapy, counselling, and confidence-building activities like yoga, martial arts, and creative expression.



Skills Development

Empowering survivors with practical skills such as sewing, cooking, and craftwork to support future employment.



Training for Shelter Officers

Equipping officers with the skills to communicate, empathise, and support survivors effectively.



Education for Children

Offering hands-on learning in English, Math, and Science to children at the Rembau shelter.



Safe Returns Programme

Facilitating the safe reunification of trafficked children with their families and ensuring follow-up care to prevent re-trafficking.



Survivor Support and Assistance

Providing specialised support in helping victims navigate both their trauma recovery and the criminal justice system.



Social Report and Case Assessment

Supporting victim protection, including case assessments, social reports, and access to essential services



Advocacy and Engagement

Pushing for policy improvements and better care standards through active participation in government, UN and NGO-related consultations and workshops.

Here is a snapshot of our impact from our Anti-Trafficking in Persons (ATIP) Programme 2024

600 

Therapeutic sessions conducted for women, men and girl trafficked survivors

5 

Protection shelters for children, women and men benefitting from our programme

15 

Nationalities of survivors, including Malaysians, benefitting from therapeutic sessions

92% 

Overall positive response from women survivors to both therapeutic programmes and well-being improved

99% 

Overall positive response from children survivors to both therapeutic programmes and well-being improved

89 

Cases assisted as a Victim Assistance Specialist (VAS)

29 

Cases assessed and assisted as a Protection Officer (PO)

10 

Survivors provided safe passage and returns to home country

3 Rounds of training for stakeholders



3 
Events advocating for women's rights and violence prevention

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2024, the Anti-Trafficking in Persons (ATIP) Programme made significant progress in supporting survivors of human trafficking through holistic therapeutic care, case management, and advocacy. The programme provided direct support to 628 survivors from 15 countries, delivering 600 therapeutic sessions across five protection shelters in Malaysia, including expanded services in Johor and Malacca.

SUKA Society introduced a thematic approach to the therapeutic sessions, focusing on a different theme each month. This approach provided survivors with a variety of outlets to express themselves, encouraged their mental and emotional well-being, and provided them with skills and activities contributing to their long-term recovery and personal growth.

Due to delays in the processing of court cases, shelter stays for survivors were often extended. However, this allowed survivors to receive extended care and enabled them to focus on their emotional, psychological, and social well-being.



Beyond therapeutic sessions, the ATIP Programme also provided comprehensive case management support, assisting 118 survivors throughout the year. This support was essential in helping survivors navigate their legal cases, access healthcare, and secure other necessary services, all of which are vital components of their recovery journey. The case management team worked tirelessly to ensure that survivors received the best possible assistance in their reintegration into society.

In addition to the direct support for survivors, the ATIP Programme took part in raising awareness about human trafficking and advocating for the rights and well-being of survivors. SUKA Society was represented in various media platforms, including a live media interview on radio where we shared our perspective on the issue of trafficking and its approach to supporting survivors.

The year 2024 was a testament to the resilience of the survivors and the programme remains committed to continuing its vital work in the years ahead.



THERAPEUTIC ACTIVITIES

SUKA Society has designed and implemented several different therapeutic activities tailored for trafficked survivors to help them heal, foster emotional expression and creativity, process trauma in a safe space and develop empowering skills. These therapeutic activities also ensure the survivors' physical health and mental well-being are supported throughout their recovery journey.

The therapeutic activities are divided into five subcategories: **Healing and Therapy, Health and Emotional Wellness, Resident Relations Program, Education and Enrichment and Skills Development.** Within each subcategory, various activities are conducted to achieve the desired therapeutic effects for the survivors.

Therapeutic Activities Categories	Total
Healing and Therapy	176
Health and Emotional Wellness	117
Residence Relation Program	126
Education and Enrichment	104
Skills Development	77
Total	600

Healing and Therapy

We frequently conduct Art Therapy as an activity for Healing and Therapy. It focuses on helping survivors cope with pain and trauma by allowing them to interpret and express their emotions and thoughts.

Art Therapy usually involves the use of basic techniques such as drawing, painting, collage, colouring, or sculpting, enabling the survivors to express themselves artistically and facilitating emotional healing.



THERAPEUTIC ACTIVITIES

Health and Emotional Wellness

Activities focusing on Health and Emotional Wellness offer survivors therapeutic benefits through physical activity, yoga, singing, dancing, music, and meditation. These pursuits provide survivors with a peaceful or positive way to express themselves. We also hold workshops on personal grooming and health-related topics to highlight the significance of their physical and mental well-being. We host medical awareness events and screenings on a regular basis to inform survivors and encourage a healthy lifestyle.



Volunteers guiding survivors through yoga, meditation and aerobic sessions.



“ As a volunteer with SUKA Society, I have been supporting survivors of human trafficking through yoga, meditation, and other therapeutic activities. My yoga sessions promote physical strength, emotional relief and inner peace through various techniques and exercises. This experience has been deeply meaningful, and has provided me an opportunity to contribute to their healing journey. Seeing the survivors regain hope and joy, even in small ways, has been incredibly rewarding. I am grateful to play a role, however small, in their journey towards healing and renewal.

Darla Ridlon



THERAPEUTIC ACTIVITIES

Resident Relations Program

Activities within the Resident Relations Program subcategories include sports, events, film screenings, and festival celebrations. The goal of these entertaining activities is to assist survivors in developing rapport and healthy connections with one another in their protective shelters. We also create activities that encourage peaceful coexistence and foster teamwork in their daily lives.



Survivors having a friendly competition during Telematch Day.



Volunteers teaching survivors the line dance during the Christmas Celebration.



Survivors enjoying a film together with snacks and drinks.

Education and Enrichment

We conduct weekly lessons for survivors to help engage their minds and to bridge the education gap for child survivors. The lessons cover three core subjects: *English*, *Mathematics* and *Science*. We use creative and engaging teaching methods to encourage active participation and to make learning an enjoyable experience.



Survivors focusing during a Mathematics lesson on multiplication.



Survivors studying the human anatomy for a Science lesson.

THERAPEUTIC ACTIVITIES

Skills Development



A display of DIY coffee body scrub made by survivors.

Activities such as cooking, baking, jewellery making, sewing and quilting provide survivors with practical skills to support their reintegration when they return to their native countries. Survivors find these skills highly beneficial, offering them the opportunity to become self-sufficient and create sustainable livelihoods. For those interested in entrepreneurship, they can serve as a foundation for establishing home-based businesses.



Survivors learning how to bake banana bread together.



Survivors learning how to make a hand pouch using a sewing machine.



“ My time at the shelter left me with a lot of sweet memories. From sessions where we cooked, did craft, made bracelets, danced and learned to become successful people, everything has been a valuable and enjoyable experience. We were also treated with care which made me feel appreciated and not alone. All the advice, wisdom, encouragement and kindness that I received at the shelter has made me a more confident and better person.

Sofia, Indonesian Survivor



PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS



Survivor Cohesion Day

On 27th February, we arranged a trip to Pantai Puteri in Melaka for 47 male survivors of human trafficking. The day was filled with fun and physical, cooperative activities such as Captain Ball, Volleyball and building sand castles. We also included an Emotional Freedom Techniques (EFT) session, to provide survivors with a practical, evidence-based modality for emotional release and healing. The trip helped to strengthen bonds between the survivors while offering many a healthy outlet for their emotions.

International Women's Day

We held a celebration for International Women's Day for 24 survivors at the RPWZT shelter on 6th March. The celebration was a blend of empowerment and healing, designed to make the women feel seen, valued, and hopeful. It integrated practical knowledge about justice and rights with a profound therapeutic focus, highlighted by a moving Guided Affirmation and Chakra Healing session that nurtured their health and emotional wellness. Survivors felt strengthened, understood and ready to continue their healing journey together.



World Day Against Trafficking in Person

On 30th July and 29th August, we commemorated World Day Against Trafficking in Persons across all four shelters, focusing on the theme "Leave No Child Behind in the Fight Against Human Trafficking". We held activities like healthcare services, self-care sessions, beadwork, and team building telematch games. The celebration raised awareness about human trafficking, while honouring the survivors' resilience and provided spaces for healing, joy and solidarity.

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

World Children's Day

On 20th November, Ariston Club from Heriot Watt University collaborated with us to hold the highly engaging “Job Explorace” event. The event encouraged the five girls of the shelter to tackle challenges in an occupation-themed station game, which included an Engineer Building Challenge and a Police Scavenger designed to foster problem-solving strategic thinking and teamwork. The girls were then challenged to create masterpieces representing their dream careers. The event inspired their creativity while strengthening their self-confidence.



16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

On 27th November, we held an informative and therapeutic session at the Women's Shelter for 35 survivors of human trafficking to commemorate the annual 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. Registered counsellor and former JKM staff member Mr. Raymund led an interactive presentation on Gender-Based Violence (GBV), which encouraged survivors to share their personal experiences and learn about their rights and available support systems. We also held a therapeutic art session for survivors to gain a sense of empowerment by expressing themselves through art. The event raised awareness of GBV, fostered solidarity among the survivors and provided them practical knowledge and emotional tools to prevent and address future violations.



MONITORING & EVALUATION OF THERAPEUTIC SERVICES

As an organization, it is crucial that the work we do produces the desired improvements and change. To ensure that the support we provide translates into tangible improvements in the lives of survivors, we have integrated monitoring and evaluation (M&E) practices into our therapeutic services.

One key method of gathering feedback is through exit interviews conducted with survivors leaving the protection shelters. These survivors will leave the shelter after their case has been settled and are either returning home to their home countries, or have found other arrangements. The exit interviews serve to assess the effectiveness of our services, identify areas for improvement, and understand the emotional and psychological well-being of those we serve.

In 2024, we conducted exit interviews with a total of thirty survivors. Seven of them were from the shelter in Rembau, consisting of four respondents from Myanmar, one Indonesian, one Malaysian and one Vietnamese. We also conducted exit interviews with 23 survivors at the women's shelter in Damansara, of which 17 from Indonesia, four from Myanmar and two from Thailand.

The following section presents a comparative analysis of the data collected from exit interviews the Rembau and Damansara shelter. This data highlights survivor feedback, with a particular focus on the therapeutic outcomes of our Anti-Trafficking in Persons (ATIP) activities.



SUKA Society's ATIP Programme staff speaking to a survivor at a protection shelter to better support them.

MONITORING & EVALUATION OF THERAPEUTIC SERVICES

Positive Feedback	<p>Rembau Shelter Findings: All seven survivors provided positive feedback regarding the therapeutic activities conducted by SUKA Society, with some sharing they looked forward to the weekly sessions. They also highlighted the effectiveness of the (ATIP) activities in offering temporary therapeutic relief, reducing anxiety and stress, and promoting a positive personal state.</p> <p>Damansara Shelter Findings: All 23 survivors provided positive feedback, reflecting their satisfaction with the ATIP programme. Many shared that they were always keen on participating in the activities and looked forward to them. Some noted enjoying activities that helped them relax and rebuild social bonds while others appreciated skill-based activities which gave them a sense of empowerment and productivity.</p>
Negative Feedback	<p>Rembau Shelter Findings: One respondent expressed dissatisfaction towards some of the activities as they disliked said activities. They also shared that they experienced unhappiness as they would occasionally revisit their past distress during their time at the shelter, despite the therapeutic activities held.</p> <p>Damansara Shelter Findings: A total of nine survivors expressed dissatisfaction with the conducted therapeutic activities. Seven of them shared dislike for certain activities, with most citing boredom. One respondent expressed disliking physical activities as they had medical constraints due to multiple surgeries. Two survivors also continued to feel distress and anxiety while another three shared that they would occasionally revisit their past distress.</p>
Neutral Feedback	<p>Rembau Shelter Findings: No neutral feedback was recorded.</p> <p>Damansara Shelter Findings: One respondent expressed neutral feedback regarding the therapeutic activities conducted by SUKA Society. They felt there was little to no change in their mood and outlook. The respondent alluded that they were unwilling to share their feelings with others as it made them uncomfortable.</p>



A survivor painting a sculpture during an Art Therapy session to relieve stress.

CASE ASSESSMENT AND SURVIVOR SUPPORT

SUKA Society has certain key roles which enable the organization to directly support and advocate for victims.

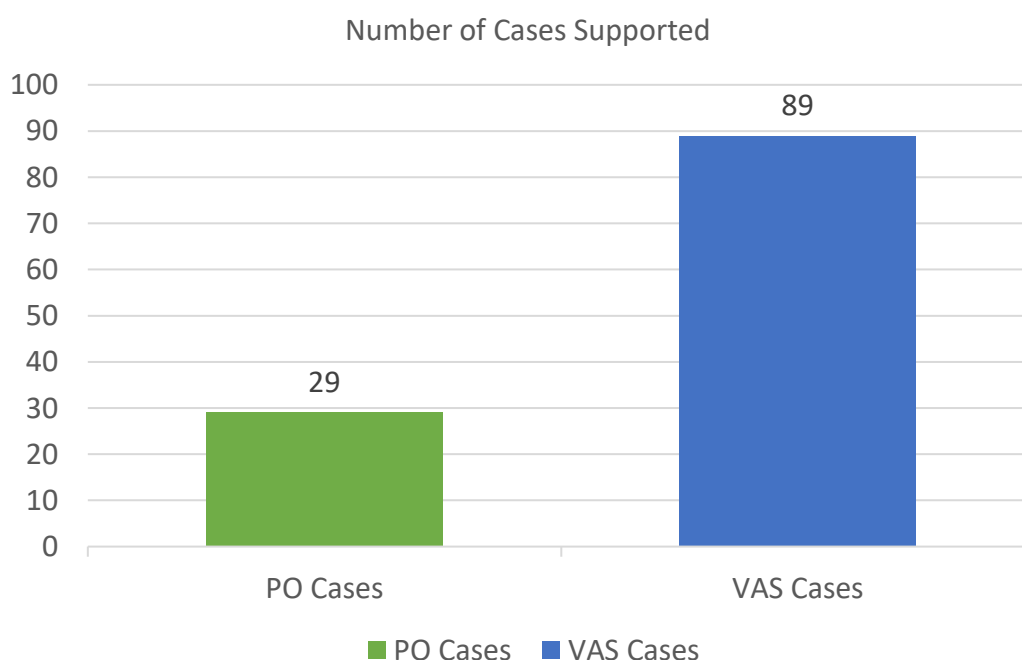
Under Section 43 of the ATIPSOM Act 2007, SUKA Society has been appointed as a Protection Officer. This role has enabled SUKA Society to support victim protection, including case assessments, social reports, and access to essential services.

SUKA Society is also appointed as a Victim Assistance Specialist (VAS). This role has enabled SUKA Society to provide specialised support in helping victims navigate both their trauma recovery and the criminal justice system. Key responsibilities include:

- Providing urgent emotional and psychological support to victims
- Helping victims understand the legal process and what to expect
- Liaising with Case Officers to coordinate access to services such as healthcare, counselling, shelter, and legal aid
- Conducting needs assessments and acting as a bridge between victims and service providers
- Supporting victims during interviews, investigations, and court proceedings

A VAS works collaboratively with various stakeholders including law enforcement, prosecutors, social workers, NGOs, and other service providers, always advocating for the victim's best interest.

SUKA Society's Protection Officer handled 29 cases in 2024, ensuring trafficking victims receive safety and support. In their role as a VAS, SUKA Society has directly supported 89 cases involving victims of trafficking.



SAFE RETURNS PROGRAMME

Safe returns entails the repatriation and reintegration of trafficked victims with their community and ensuring they are not trafficked. Repatriation involves returning survivors to their country of origin, while reintegration ensures they can re-establish social, economic, and psychological stability.

For foreign nationals, if further care is required, survivors may be placed in a safe refuge until they are ready for repatriation. For Malaysian citizens, survivors are released from protection once a Protection Order expires or is revoked.

Reintegration of survivors, whether foreign nationals or Malaysians requires comprehensive support to ensure recovery and social inclusion. SUKA Society's support in Repatriation and Reintegration focuses on:

- **Trauma-Informed Care:** Ongoing collaboration with countries of origin to ensure survivors receive continued trauma-informed support, including medical, educational, and psychosocial care throughout the repatriation and reintegration process.
- **Information and Guidance:** Preparing survivors for return by providing clear information on factors to consider before repatriation, travel logistics, immigration procedures, and onward travel to their final destination—often requiring escorts to smaller towns or villages.
- **Service Referrals:** Supporting survivors with securing travel documents and referring them to local NGOs or services upon return, ensuring access to health, counselling, and livelihood support for sustainable reintegration.

Over the course of 2024, SUKA Society helped with a total of 10 repatriation and reintegration cases. The survivors included six women and four children. Six survivors returned to Indonesia, three were repatriated to Myanmar and one returned to Vietnam.



“

I was happy and excited when I was told that I could go home after 10 months. Because, while I was at the shelter, I had missed important milestones such as my child's birthday. He is a leap year baby, so for his birthday, which comes once in four years, I pleaded to be allowed to contact him. I knew he would have wanted to be with me. Sadly, I couldn't speak to him and I felt devastated. So, when I found out I could go back to Indonesia, I was so excited, I couldn't even sleep! I was looking forward to seeing my child.

”

Ina, an Indonesian survivor

CAPACITY BUILDING & ADVOCACY

SUKA Society plays a key role in strengthening anti-trafficking efforts through targeted training, advocacy, and collaboration with key stakeholders. Through our initiatives, we aim to promote a victim-centric, trauma-informed, and rights-based approach across sectors.

Training Programmes

We conduct specialized training to equip both shelter staff and stakeholders with the necessary skills to provide victim-centric care for survivors. This supportive training is key, as a survivor's recovery is best facilitated by a highly-skilled and empathetic approach to their treatment.

For shelter staff, training sessions focus intently on victim care and include essential topics like stress and conflict management, basic helping skills, and team building.

For stakeholders, including government protection officers, enforcement officers, NGOs, CSOs, and frontline responders, sessions cover specialized subjects such as victim identification, trauma-informed care, and effective interviewing techniques.

Among the training conducted in 2024, three sessions of specialised training were held for stakeholders covering topics such as interviewing methodology for protection officers, victim assistant specialists and social workers, and a workshop regarding facilitating cross-border meetings.



Training new Protection Officers and Victim Assistant Specialists on the Interviewing Methodology in Victim Identification.

CAPACITY BUILDING & ADVOCACY

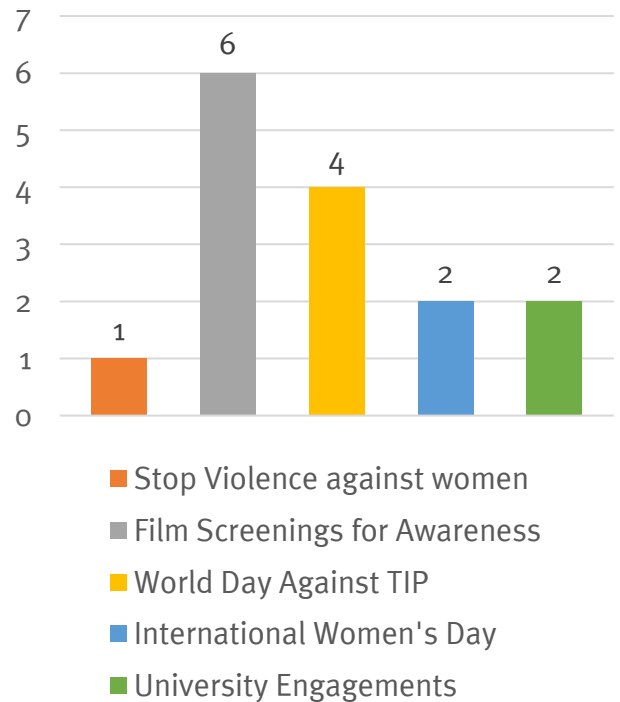
Awareness & Advocacy

SUKA Society is also committed to awareness and advocacy efforts which foster a more informed and responsive society.

By participating in roundtables, interviews, and speaking engagements, we raise awareness on trafficking challenges and advocate for survivor-focused responses. We have youth and community engagement efforts, delivering talks and seminars to mobilise community awareness and action against trafficking. We also collaborate with partners such as universities, to deliver impactful awareness sessions.

Another important endeavour is empowering survivors to understand the issue of human trafficking and equip them to better respond to it. Our ATIP programme includes activities and campaigns such as “Stop Violence against Women”, “World Day against TIP” and film screenings to help women and children and the shelter understand what they have gone through and provide them ways to rebuild their lives after the abuse they suffered.

Awareness & Advocacy Events in 2024



Holding an Awareness Talk on Human Trafficking from an NGO's perspective with students from Taylor's University.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SUKA Society would like to extend our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all our partners and supporters for their commitment towards the Anti Trafficking in Persons programme. We are especially thankful to the Anti-Trafficking in Persons and Anti-Smuggling of Migrants Council (MAPO), Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development (KPWKM), and all SUKA Society volunteers for their assistance, partnership and support in our efforts in combating human trafficking in Malaysia.

We would also like to acknowledge our corporate sponsors Altosenso Hair Saloon, Ariston Club, Asian Football Confederation, Assembly Soup Kitchen, Bookku, Careclinics Klinik Damai, City Eye Optometry, FBS Malaysia, Grace Community Services, Monash University, National Cancer Society Malaysia, Red One Saloon, SK Homemade Confections, Spoonful of Hope, TECH Community Network, Ting Dental Surgery and WhatAWaste for their partnership and support in providing various supplies, goodies and services for the survivors.

Last but not least, our heartfelt thanks go to our individual sponsors Ms. Darshini, Ms. Harveena, Mr. Joshua, Ms. Mutiara, Ms. Sauvrina, Ms. Sheila Varghese, and Ms. Shirlyn for their generosity in supporting our work with much needed supplies.



PROGRAMME EXPENSES

Anti-Trafficking In Persons


No	Details	Total (MYR)
01.	Awareness	3,668.00
02.	Personnel Cost	218,542.00
03.	Casual Wages	4,000.00
04.	Therapeutic Services	11,815.00
05.	International & Festive Events for Trafficked Survivors	11,408.00
06.	SOCSO & EIS	2,242.00
07.	EPF	40,5115.00
08.	Welfare	135.00
Total Yearly Programme Cost		292,325.00


How Can You Help?


If you're interested in helping out, our ATIP programme usually runs weekly activity sessions for human trafficking survivors, and we're delighted to have volunteers join us! These sessions are conducted to help provide therapeutic relief from their traumatic experiences. We also welcome donated resources for workshops, arts & craft sessions and festive occasions. You can also conduct fundraising and awareness events to advocate for the protection and care of trafficked survivors.


Contact Details

For more information regarding the ATIP programme, please contact us at enquiry@sukasociety.org.

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