



Name : Ivy Nallammah Josiah  
Position : Executive Director of WAO  
Institution : Women's Aid Organisation (WAO), Malaysia

Ivy N. Josiah is the Executive Director of Women's Aid Organisation (WAO) in Malaysia. She is a trained teacher and became a pioneer member of WAO playing a key role when WAO was established in 1982. WAO was the first women's organisation in Malaysia to provide shelter for battered women and their children. The Refuge and counselling services are open to all women living in Malaysia irrespective of race and religion.

Ms Josiah was WAO's past president (1990-1993) before taking on the position as the Executive Director in 1995. She has developed, promoted and implemented the WAO's shelter and counselling services, coordinated its public education programmes and advocacy work on the issue of violence against women and women's human rights. WAO is the leading organisation on the issue of domestic violence and spearheads the work on the implementation of the UN treaty CEDAW in Malaysia.

She helped form two NGO coalitions. In 2004, **Article 11** was formed to uphold freedom of religion and in 2006 the **Migration Working Group** was formed to protect the rights of migrants, refugees and stateless persons. In 2013, she played a key role in organising the **Bersih People's Tribunal**, a citizen's initiative to investigate into Malaysia's 13<sup>th</sup> General Elections.

She has worked for government initiatives when in February 2004, she was appointed as a member of the **Royal Commission to Enhance the Operation and Management of the Royal Malaysia Police**. In 2009 she was appointed to be member of the Ministry of Women's **National Taskforce** to investigate sexual abuse allegations of indigenous women (**Penan Community**) in Sarawak.

At the regional and international level, Ivy is a regional council member of the Asia - Pacific Forum on Women, Law & Development (**APWLD**) and a resource person with International Women's Rights Action Watch (**IWRAP AP**).

Ivy is a member of the arts community in Malaysia being a member of **Five Arts Centre** and a theatre judge for the BOH Cameronian Arts Awards hosted by **Kakiseni**.