



**MINISTRY OF WOMEN,
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

KEYNOTE SPEECH

**12TH PUTRAJAYA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHILDREN,
WOMEN, ELDERLY AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES 2021
(PICCWED12)**

THEME:

**POST COVID-19 PHASE AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF CHILDREN,
WOMEN, THE ELDERLY AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

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SHAFTSBURY STELLAR, HOTEL & RESIDENCES, PUTRAJAYA

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh Dan Salam Sejahtera
Greetings,

1. First and foremost, allow me to extend my gratitude for the opportunity to be with the guests today, in conjunction with **The 12th Putrajaya International Conference on Children, Women, The Elderly and Persons with Disabilities (PICCWED12) 2021.**
2. The Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development (MWFCD) through its Department of Women Development (DWD/JPW) has taken the initiative to establish a strategic partnership, hence jointly organised The 12th Putrajaya International Conference On Children, Women, Elderly and People With Disabilities (PICCWED12). This continuous strategic partnership that DWD began since 2018 with the 4th PICCWED and up until now, this collaboration is standing strong for the 12 PICCWED12.
3. As we know that 2020 had been a tough and challenging year to all over the world. Every single person affected by this pandemic especially children, women, elderly and persons with disabilities.
4. The registered persons with disabilities at the Department of Social Welfare, Malaysia in 2018 were 488,948 persons. Persons with disabilities in physical category recorded the highest number which was 41 percent.

5. Economic and social stresses combined with movement restrictions and cramped homes are driving a surge in gender-based violence. Many of these women are now trapped at home with their abusers and are at increased risk of other forms of violence.
6. The number of Malaysian aged 60 years and above is estimated to be 1.4 million and is projected to increase to 3.3 million in the year of 2020. Compared to younger adults, elderly people are at greater risk of requiring hospitalization or dying if they are diagnosed with COVID-19.
7. The elderly generation is being affected tremendously, more than we could ever imagine. The effects of the quarantine can be paramount leading to loneliness, physical distancing from their loved ones, grief, anxiety and chronic stress that can have long-standing psychological effects.
8. In Malaysia, children comprise 28.3 percent of Malaysia's population of 32.7 million in 2020. Therefore, they also face a great impact from this pandemic.
9. Globally, more than 8 in 10 children felt that they were learning little or nothing at all, and the situation becomes even worse when

- the school closed and the children have less contact with teachers and friends at school.
10. The poorest households, households with disabilities, female headed-households and girls, are the hardest hit.
 11. In line with the 2021 budget announcement by the government, more than 400,000 recipients are set to benefit from the increased monthly welfare assistance for people in the vulnerable group following an additional allotment of RM700 million, taking the total allocation to RM2.2 billion.
 12. As a department that is responsible for the wellbeing of women particularly, we will do our best to make sure they receive this help. One of our efforts is by commencing a model called the 4K model. The 4K model consists of four domains which are Keseimbangan (Balance), Kewangan (Finance), Kesaksamaan & Kepimpinan Kendiri (Equity and Self-Leadership) and Kemahiran (Skills).
 13. All these four domains are built to enhance, engage, enable and empower women of all walks of life by harnessing and cultivating their capacity to compete and thrive successfully in their field.
 14. This model is developed to cease their potentials while building better foundations for women to push themselves forward, better than who they're today.

15. We must always bear in mind that future challenges that will confront nations will only get increasingly difficult and complex as time goes by. Therefore, we need to design and develop programs as well as mechanisms not only to equip the Person with Disabilities on the possible complexities of tomorrow but to make possible an inclusive world. To quote Helen Keller **“The welfare of each is bound up in the welfare of all”**.

CLOSING

16. Last but not least, I would like to congratulate the secretariat of the program that has successfully organised the conference today. Also, I would like to thank to all of the guests and presenters for their commitment and participation of this conference.

17. Before I end my speech, I would like to quote the saying from Martin Luther King Junior “Our lives begin to end when we become silent about things that matter”. So, lets us be together in highlighting all these issues related to children, women, senior citizens and the disabled because they are all matters. The time is always right to do what is right.

18. Wabillahitaufig Walhidayah Wasalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.