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- **Rasah Jaya Community Centre**  
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- **Sitiawan Community Centre**  
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## The European Union

*"The European Union is made up of 25 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders".*

## The Friedrich Naumann Foundation

*The Friedrich Naumann Foundation is a German Foundation promoting political liberalism with the aim of realization of freedom and human dignity in all areas of life. The organization tries to achieve this – in the reunited Germany and in co-operation with partners abroad - through civic education, political consultancy and political training and dialogue programmes.*

## ERA Consumer Malaysia

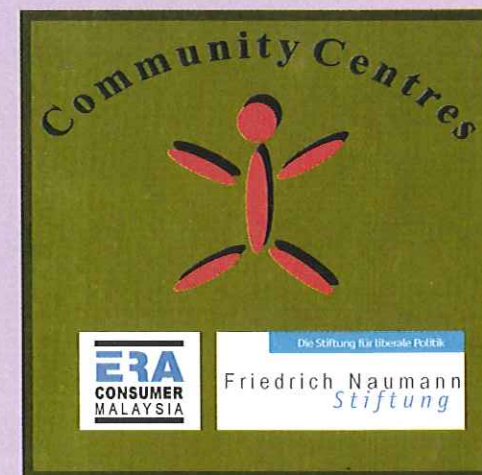
*The Education and Research Association for Consumers, Malaysia or better known as ERA Consumer Malaysia is a voluntary, non-profit and non-political civil society organization, which is registered under the Malaysia Societies Act of 1966.*

*ERA Consumer Malaysia envisions a self-reliant, empowered community based organizations and grass root community actively participating in protecting and asserting themselves as consumers, practicing sustainable livelihood and consumption and participating equitably in the governance process. ERA Consumer acts as a research, education and advocacy group. It builds linkages and works in partnership with community-based organizations and grassroots' communities to strengthen their capacity and empower them to participate through initiatives in socio-economic, accountable governance, sustainable agriculture and ecological endeavors.*

*One of the active desks in ERA Consumer is the Gender Equity, Accountable Governance and Human Rights Desk. Under this Desk, human rights training programmes have been conducted since 1998 till now as this is one of the major programmes throughout the year. Most of our training programmes are held in rural and outskirt areas, reaching out to the most vulnerable communities.*

*In 2003, ERA Consumer began to conduct human rights training programme for the Indian women in the rural areas, focusing on the issue of domestic violence as the percentage of Indian women who faced this problem was rather disturbing. Trainings were conducted in 5 main areas, which include, Setapak, Sentul, Sitiawan, Johor Bahru and Wangsa Maju. The main objective of these training programs was to enable Indian women to understand their rights and empower them to report and cope with acts of violence against them.*

# Community Centres for the Empowerment of Indian Women in Malaysia



A project implemented by  
**ERA Consumer, Malaysia, and  
the Friedrich Naumann Foundation**



**DISPLAY  
ONLY**

This project is co-funded by the  
**EUROPEAN UNION** and the  
**FRIEDRICH NAUMANN FOUNDATION**

# Community Centres for the Empowerment of Indian Women in Malaysia

## The concept

The Friedrich Naumann Foundation has obtained financial support from the European Union to establish 10 Community Centres for the empowerment of Indian women in Malaysia. The European Union has approved this and other projects to support the implementation of the Declaration of the 2001 World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance.

ERA Consumer, Malaysia, a national civil society organisation and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation are jointly implementing this project

## The objectives

The main objective of the proposed project is the empowerment of women of the Indian community (who comprise 3.85 % of the total Malaysian population) in Malaysia. The project specifically addresses discrimination and violence against Indian women. The project seeks to enhance the ability of Indian women in Malaysia to exercise power in the social institutions that govern their daily lives: the household and extended family, local community councils and associations, local elite, local markets, and local government.

In order to achieve these objectives, the project envisages establishing 10 "Community Centres" in selected sites in West Malaysia with a high proportion of Indian population.

The main aims of the Community Centres will be:

- ✓ to build confidence among Indian women and to build awareness of gender issues in the urban and suburban Indian communities.
- ✓ to raise the socio-economic status of Indian women by enhancing capacities of Indian women to sustain their own living and to participate in self-help groups of the community
- ✓ to improve legislative provisions on women's rights in Malaysia through organising campaigns, seminars and other activities.

The project also seeks:

- ✓ Indian men's participation in the activities of the Community Centres
- ✓ Involvement of families and the community as a whole
- ✓ Involvement of Malays, Chinese, and other members of the local community.
- ✓ Support of the national dialogue about improving legislative provisions on women's rights in Malaysia.



## The target groups

The Community Centres will be established in districts with a minimum of 20,000 Indians. There, neighbourhoods of the Indian community usually consist of 100 – 600 families. The project aims at reaching about one woman of each of the families, i.e. an average of 300 – 400 women per Centre. The 10 Community Centres will therefore reach about 3,000 to 4,000 Indian women in impoverished areas of urban and suburban West Malaysia.

The Centres will seek a minimum of 20% male participation in their activities.

The Centres will also involve participation of other ethnic groups in the local community i.e., Malays, Chinese, etc.

## Programme components

Provide psychological and legal counselling for women

Conduct seminars, training courses and other activities for women and men to:

- ✓ Build confidence among Indian women and build awareness of gender issues
- ✓ Raise the socio-economic status of Indian women by enhancing their capacities to sustain their own living and to participate in self-help groups
- ✓ Improve legislative provisions on women's rights through organizing campaigns, seminars etc.

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*This programme is implemented by ERA Consumer, Malaysia and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation. The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Commission.*

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