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Forum to discuss women issues

FORUM by women for women

Women, when was the last time you asked yourself what you wanted?

It is with this in mind, that the Body Shop and Marie Claire magazine are coming together to organise a forum on "What Women Want" on March 19. Held in conjunction with International Women's Day, the one-day seminar will address all issues ranging from women in politics to women in syariah courts and also women's rights in day-to-day issues.

The forum will see the participation of Datuk Shahrizat Jalil, Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir, Datuk Maznah Jalil, Zainah Anwar and Marina Chin Abdullah.

Speakers from other countries include Shoba De from India and Dr Kalwanjit Soin and Claire Chiang from Singapore.

The forum, which was launched at the Suria KLCC recently, heard strong voices demanding that women's wants be heard.

Managing director of Body Shop Malaysia, Mina Foong, says that although women are now slowly benefiting from the changes in policies that support women's rights and celebrate women's empowerment, there is still much to be done.

"This forum will serve as the platform for the gathering of all the thoughts and views of women. These will then be presented to the higher authorities who make the decisions," says Foong.

General manager of MI Publishing Malani Gunaratnam says that the media plays an important role and called for support from all sectors to make the forum a success.

Marina Chin Abdullah says that women's rights are human rights and thus it is the responsibility of all to make sure that women's rights are given to women.

"Without taking issues of women into consideration, we would be excluding more than 50 per cent of the nation," says Marina, who stresses that women must ensure that in 10 years' time, they will be in a better position.

The forum, which is open to the public, will be held at JW Marriott Hotel, Kuala Lumpur and is scheduled to be officiated by Minister of International Trade and Industry Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz.

The tickets are priced at RM70 and are available at all Body Shop outlets and the Marie Claire office.

For more information, please call Pamela Noor at 4304855 or Jess Siew at 7324313.

The forum website is at www.wwwmarieclaire.com.my

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