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Campaign promotes respect for women

INTERNATIONAL Women's Day 2004 will adopt the theme "It Begins With Respect," and activities will be held to drive home important messages on self-esteem and respect.

International Women's Day (IWD) falls on March 8 and five non-governmental organisations will team up with 3R, an infotainment TV programme, to organise month-long activities aimed at empowering women and raise awareness of women's issues.

"Women should be respected. They should not think it is a bonus but it is their right to receive respect," said Malaysian AIDS Council president Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir during a Press conference at Hartamas Square in Sri Hartamas.

The other four NGO's involved are Sisters In Islam, All Women Action Society, Amnesty International and Women's Aid Organisation.

The first activity is All Women's Futsal, to be held today at Sportsplanet Sunway (for enquiries, call 016-3178769). It is followed by charity screening of The Missing, a movie on women empowerment, on Feb 29 and a Mandarin movie 20,30,40, dealing with different stages of life, on March 8. Both screenings will be held at GSC Mid Valley Megamall. For tickets, call 019-6629409. The third event will be video workshops on making effective social video programmes, to be held on March 20 and 21. For details, call 012-9707866.

The highlight will be the "Girls Day Out" exhibition on March 13 and 14 at Mid Valley Megamall. Various NGOs will set up booths to educate women on ways to defend themselves in dangerous situations. There will be quizzes, polls, clinics for legal advice and information booths, among others.