

**Women's Wing Mother's Day 2024: Opening Remarks by PAP Women's Wing  
Chairwoman Sim Ann**

Ms Theodora Lai, Organising Chairwoman,  
Woman Members of Parliament and Branch Chairs,  
Retired Woman Members of Parliament,  
Women's Wing Activists,  
Partners and Friends,

Happy Mother's Day!

**Singapore's progress on tackling gender inequality**

Yesterday, the Ministry of Social and Family Development released a report showing that Singapore is now ranked 8<sup>th</sup> in the world for low gender inequality and first in Asia Pacific. A wonderful Mothers' Day gift for all of us.

Resident employment rates for women aged 25-64 improved from 69.2% in 2013 to 76.6% in 2023. More women in Professional, Managerial, Executive and Technician (PMET) occupations, growing from 42.3% in 2013 to 46.7% in 2023. Very importantly, the adjusted gender pay gap has narrowed, to 6%.

**Women's Health and Well-being**

All these mean good progress, and more opportunities for women to pursue their aspirations, especially when it comes to careers. But much work remains to be done in the field of advocating for women's development, which is what the PAP Women's Wing has been consistently doing.

With more women in the workforce, it also means juggling multiple roles – at work, in the family, and in the community – will be experienced more widely by Singapore women. As mothers we know this well!

Mothers nimbly balance caregiving, work, and personal aspirations, all while nurturing future generations with resilience and empathy. But in order to do so successfully, mothers must also give due attention to our own health and well-being.

The PAP Women's Wing would like to remind every mother that caring for oneself is a profound act of love for your family. When mothers invest in their health, they set the foundation for the family to thrive. Earlier this year, Women's Wing announced our commitment to prioritise women's health and well-being as the focus for our activities for the year ahead.

**Partnership with OGSS**

Promoting women's health and well-being is something best done with partners. Fortunately, we have found good partners who share our commitment. In particular, I wish to highlight the Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society of Singapore (OGSS), led by its President Dr Jason Lim. We have been journeying together since last year, for instance by organising a webinar on respiratory health concerns of pregnant women, and by inviting OGSS members to talk to us about menopause during our International Women's Day commemoration event. In a while, we will be exchanging letters to affirm our mutual intent to jointly reach out to women in the community on health issues.

In fact, we target to impact 3,000 women over 3 years. Together, Women's Wing and OGSS hope to encourage more women to prioritise self-care, through events such as health talks, dialogues, and workshops. Covering topics including reproductive health, maternal care, mental wellbeing and healthcare access.

We also plan to share insights with one another on the community's concerns relating to women's health.

### **Women's Wing's Work**

Even as we focus on women's health and well-being. Women's Wing will continue to bring together the best partners to champion causes that matter most to our women.

This includes recommending measures to protect women from workplace discrimination and harassment, establishing robust support networks for women to re-enter the workforce and promoting equal sharing of caregiving responsibilities.

### **Support for vulnerable mothers**

I now turn to another cause close to our hearts – supporting vulnerable women and mothers in our community.

Last year, Women's Wing raised \$347,000 in partnership with PAP Community Foundation, used towards supermarket vouchers for more than 4,000 mothers who need some extra help in the community.

Cost of living concerns continue to loom. We have therefore continued with this initiative this year. I'm happy to share that we have already received more than \$400,000 in pledges from generous donors including Kuan Im Thong Hood Cho Temple. This means more mothers and more families can be helped!

With this extra boost to their household budgets, we hope to provide a bit more breathing space for these mothers. And let them know they are cared for, and that they are part of a community that leaves no one behind.

## Closing

Let me close by acknowledging the importance of our partners, especially those contributing to today's event:

- Dr Jason Lim and Dr Judith Ong from OGSS
- Our panellists Dr Chen Yan Yun, Joanna Goy, Lina Ng and Angie Ng, as well as our moderator Sara Ann Shuen Krishnamoorthy
- Pulse TCM + PULSE Allied Health
- Ms Wu Waiteng, Founder, Soaprice

By empowering our women and helping them to realise their fullest potential, we are investing in the backbone of our community, our economy, and our future. Together, let's nurture the nurturers and, in doing so, strengthen the very foundation of our society.

Happy Mothers' Day!