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KUCHING: More crime awareness programmes for women should be held in private and public universities and colleges.

Welfare, Women and Family Development Minister Datuk Fatimah Abdullah (pic) said her ministry would be more than willing to lend a hand in organising such programmes and seminars at universities and colleges, as long as the higher learning institutions gave the green light.

"We need all the efforts we can get in instilling awareness among the people of equal rights of women as well as their well-being.

"The funds to organise the programmes shall be provided by the Government upon application," she told reporters after closing the Anti-Crime Women seminar at Universiti Malaysia (Unimas) here yesterday.

Earlier, Fatimah said while anyone was subjected to become victims of crime, women — unfortunately — remained the most vulnerable based on statistics.

"According to police's nationwide statistics for 2011, there were 2,419 sexual crimes involving female victims aged 16 and below.

"This was a rise of 36.1% or 642 cases since the previous year. If nothing is done, the numbers will keep on increasing," said Fatimah.

She also revealed that according to the National Survey, 2.7 million people were victims of human trafficking worldwide, of which 80% were women and children.

Meanwhile, Unimas deputy vice-chancellor Prof Mohd Fadzil Rahman said apart from sexual crimes, women were also victims of drug trafficking by way of being used as drug mules.

"I hope that a seminar or forum such as this would give more awareness to our young women so as not to be victimised by criminals," he said.

Fadzil also revealed that in Unimas, about 65% of the students were females.

extracted from thestar.