

AWARE on the Casino Proposal

Read our letter to the Prime Minister on the casino issue.

Mr Lee Hsien Loong
Prime Minister's Office

Orchard Road
Istana Annexe
Singapore 238823

Dear Prime Minister,

The Association of Women for Action and Research has voiced its concerns more than a month ago on this casino issue in a letter to the forum pages. We are sending a similar document to you to register that our most pressing concern is over the well-being of our families.

AWARE is of the view, that on April 18th, the casino will be getting the go ahead and there will be reassurances to help the gambling addicts. While this seems inevitable, AWARE, would like to draw attention to a disconcerting detail following the survey report in the papers today: - Dr Gillian Koh in her article (that we are citing in our enclosed document here) has argued that having a casino here can give rise to a conservative 1.5 per cent or 38,300 adults who may go on to become problem and pathological gamblers; the survey results reveal a 2.1 per cent incidence rate right now without a casino yet in our midst. We need to be mindful that this figure of 2.1 per cent is already high without a casino here.

Hence AWARE would like to ask the government to conduct periodic systematic studies on the pattern of gambling in Singapore and to pour more specialist resources to help families with members who are addicted to gambling or to help members who do not show signs of addiction but still do spend disproportionate amounts of their salaries on gambling.

We re-produce here our stand on the casino issue to emphasise the need to help families remain intact.

Thank you

With best wishes,

Ms Braema Mathi,
President, Aware
Mrs Lena Lim,
Founder-President, AWARE