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A youth-led organisation which aims to encourage women's political participation in Malaysia.

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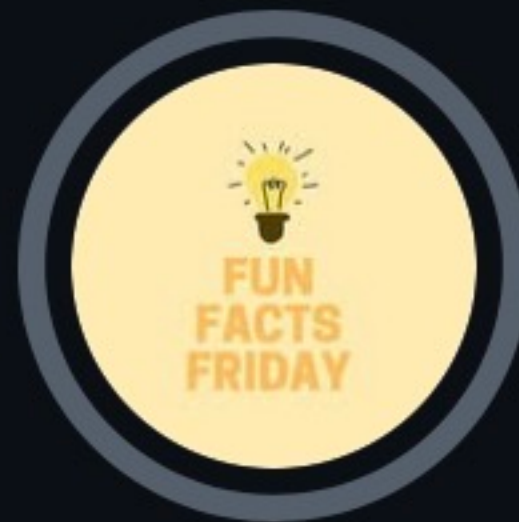
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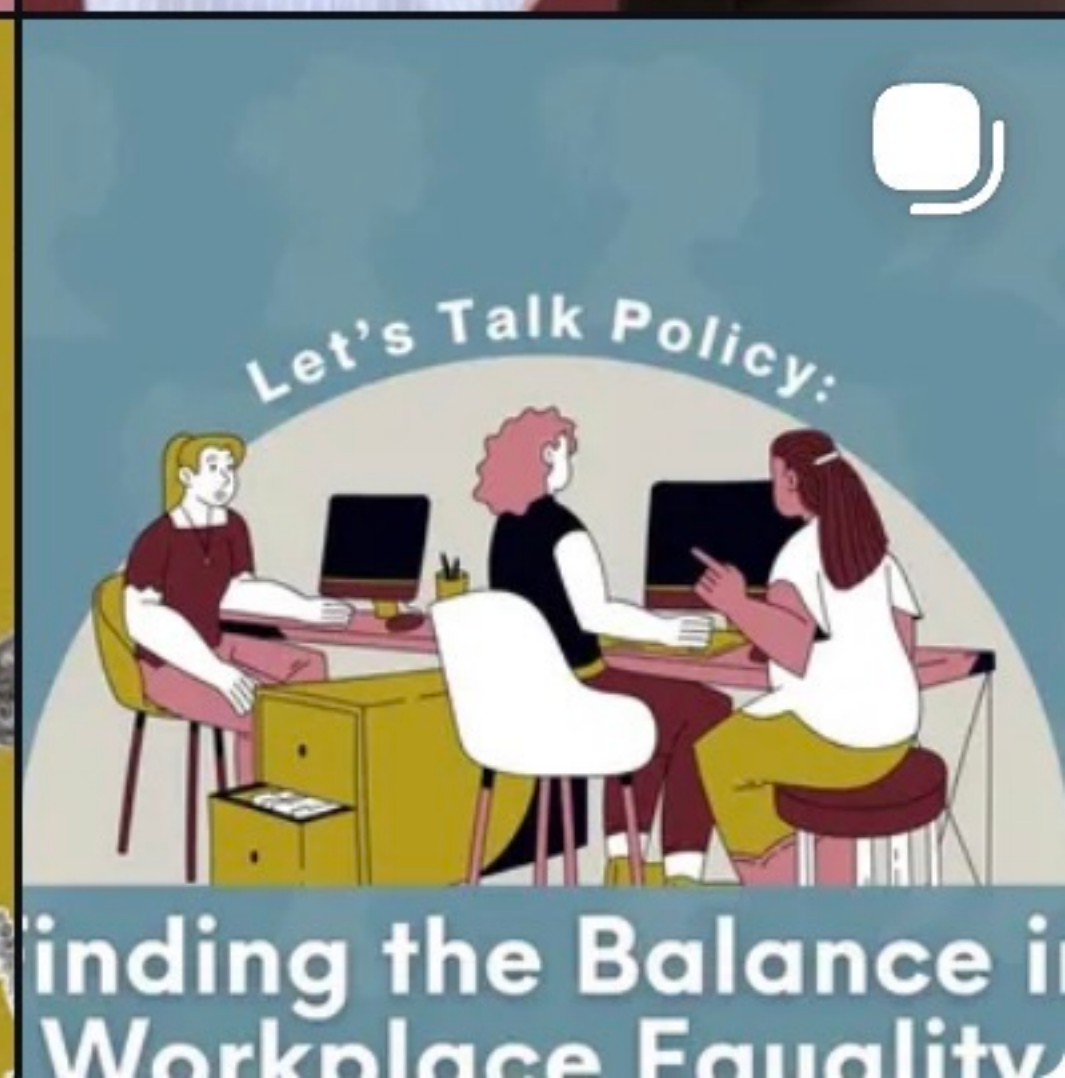
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WOMEN CRUSH WEDNESDAYS

DATO' AMBIGA SREENEVASAN

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117 10

parliwomen ✨ This month, we honor Dato' Ambiga Sreenevasan as our [#WomanCrush!](#) 🇲🇾

A trailblazing lawyer and fearless human rights advocate, Dato' Ambiga has dedicated her life towards fighting for justice, democracy and electoral reform in Malaysia.

Her unwavering commitment to social justice and human rights has inspired many and made a profound impact on our society ✨💪

Designed by : [@eh.lissa](#)
Researched by : Alissa



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#womensrights #malaysia #podcast #stayinformed
#empowerment #parliwomen #advocacy #awareness
#womeninpolitics #womenempowerment #education
#equalrights #equality #inclusivity #malaysiamadani
#inspiration #humanrights #trailblazer #parliwomen

12 June 2024

ACADEMIC & CAREER

BACKGROUND

2/10

She is a widely respected Malaysian lawyer and human rights activist who advocates for:

Judicial Reform

Clean and Fair Elections

Women's Rights

Religious Freedom

- Attended Convent Bukit Nanas in Kuala Lumpur, where she also served as head prefect in 1975
- Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) (Hons), 1979
- Barrister-at-Law (Gray's Inn), 1980
- Advocate & Solicitor of the High Court of Malaya, 1982



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THROUGHOUT HER CAREER 3/10 AT THE MALAYSIAN BAR

Dato' Ambiga began practising law in 1980, with an emphasis on **commercial and business litigation**. She has appeared at all levels of Malaysian courts throughout her **40-year career**.

She is regarded as one of Malaysia's most outstanding trial and appeal lawyers, owing to her effective and brief representation and strategic advice aimed at attaining the best possible outcome for her clients.

She led as senior counsel in a number of civil and commercial issues, including:

intellectual property

banking and securities

land

employment conflicts

This has inevitably resulted in her challenging important decisions that have shaped the jurisprudence in these areas.

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THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SREENEVASAN

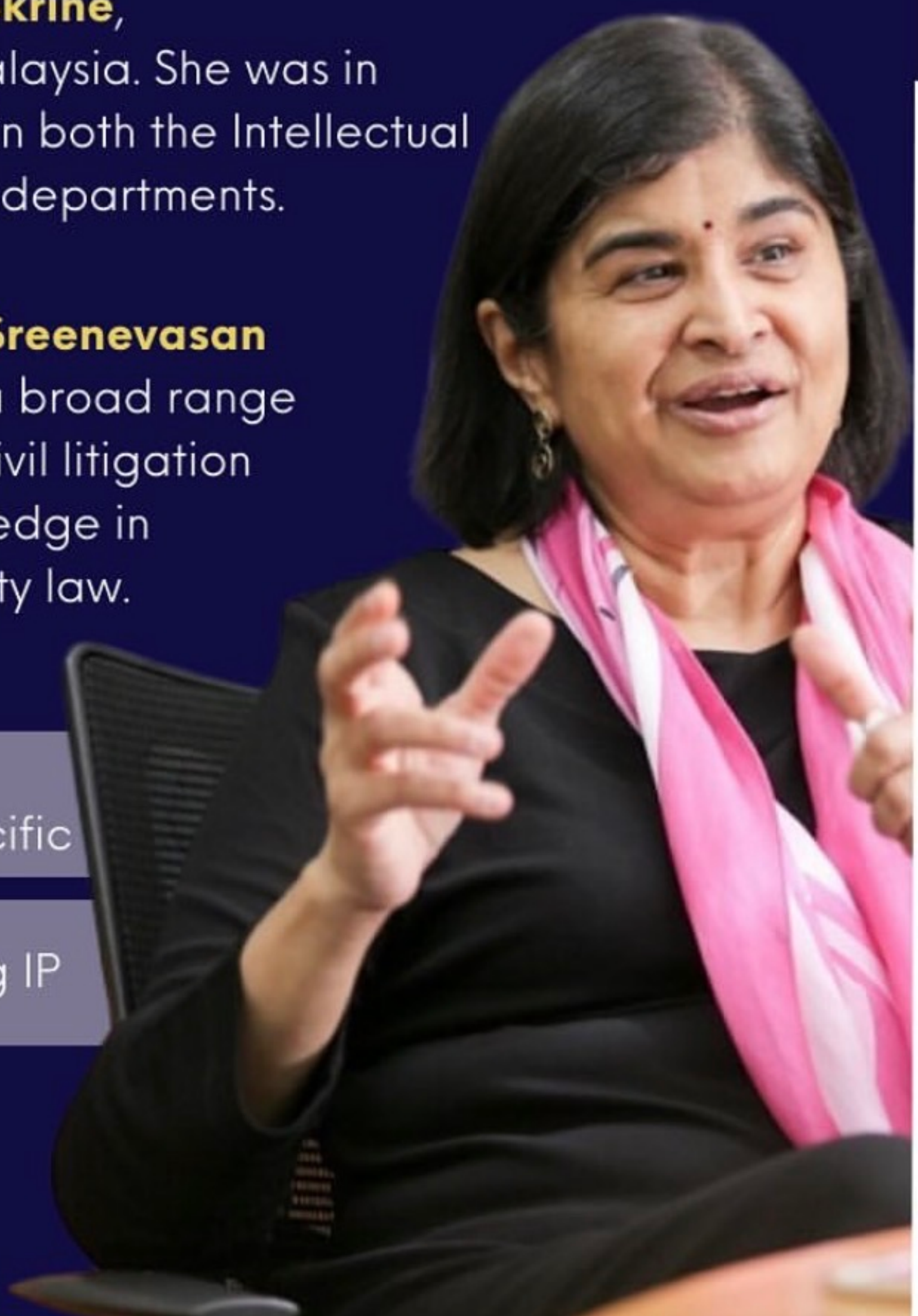
4/10

Dato' Ambiga was a partner at **Skrine**, one of the largest law firms in Malaysia. She was in charge of the litigation divisions in both the Intellectual Property and Industrial Relations departments.

Dato' Ambiga then **established Sreenevasan with forty years of expertise** in a broad range of corporate, commercial, and civil litigation cases along with in-depth knowledge in industrial and intellectual property law.

Band 1 Practitioner for Dispute Resolution by Chambers Asia Pacific

IP Star (Trademark) by Managing IP



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PRESIDENT OF THE MALAYSIA BAR COUNCIL

Dato' Ambiga was the **second woman** to hold the position of the President of the Bar Council from 2007 - 2009.

March for Justice

She orchestrated the **"March of Justice"** involving 2,000 attorneys **demanding judicial reforms** with an inquiry into a videotape purportedly depicting a prominent attorney manipulating judicial appointments and case assignments for judges.

Royal Commission

She established a **Royal Commission that advocated for remedial measures**. The esteemed panel examined the judicial crisis of 1988 and published the initial report of its kind, setting a significant precedent for other organisations to establish similar panels to probe accusations of power abuse.

She has also consistently defended the rights of marginalised and disadvantaged communities in a variety of public interest and human rights lawsuits.

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CHALLENGES FACED BY DATO' AMBIGA

As a consequence of Dato' Ambiga's efforts to tackle issues that continue to produce inter-ethnic tensions and constitutional concerns:

She was subjected to hate mail, death threats and had a Molotov cocktail thrown at her residence.

Hundreds of religious leaders and conservative politicians rallied at the Bar Council building, calling for her arrest.

In 2009, the U.S Secretary of State bestowed upon her the **International Women of Courage Award** in recognition of her remarkable bravery, fortitude, and leadership in affecting constructive transformations in Malaysia, of which it came at the expense of substantial personal peril and adversity.



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COALITION FOR CLEAN AND FAIR ELECTIONS

7/10

She led the **Coalition for Clean and Fair Elections (BERSIH 2.0)**, which organized the 20,000-strong rally in KL in July 2011 to push for **Malaysian citizens' right to free and fair elections**.

1 Dato' Ambiga outlined the primary concerns expressed by BERSIH, including discontent regarding the Sarawak election, corruption, and the insufficient autonomy of our institutions.

2 She justified the second rally by saying that the demands voiced at the first one in 2007 had gone unfulfilled.

3 Dato' Ambiga stated that the rally debunked numerous misconceptions in Malaysia, such as the middle class being too complacent to assume responsibility and the idea that individuals of diverse religious and ethnic backgrounds were incapable of cooperating.

Her efforts in this domain resulted in significant improvements to the electoral process in Malaysia.

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MOST NOTABLY:

Institutional Reforms Committee

She served on the **Institutional Reforms Committee**, which was formed in 2018 and appointed by the Council of Elders under the leadership of former 4th and 7th Prime Minister Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad to advise the government on necessary reforms for key public institutions.

International Commissions of Jurists & International Labour Organisation's Committee of Experts

She was also appointed as a **Commissioner of the International Commissions of Jurists** and, more recently, to the **International Labour Organisation's Committee of Experts**.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg Medal of Honor

She was recently honoured with the **Ruth Bader Ginsburg Medal of Honor** in 2023, a distinction bestowed by the World Jurist Association **in recognition of her exceptional legal contributions and efforts to dismantle the gender barrier in her professional trajectory** for her outstanding legal work and breaking the glass ceiling in her career, as well as being on Forbes' 50 Over 50 Asia List.

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