



**MEDIA STATEMENT
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OF MALAYSIA (SUHAKAM)**

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PRESS STATEMENT

KUALA LUMPUR (23 AUGUST 2022) - The Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM) wishes to express its support for the stand taken by the Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Parliament and Law) that caning is considered as an excessive punishment and that, the Government through the Legal Affairs Division and the Attorney-General's Chambers (AGC) is studying alternative punishments to replace the corporal punishment which is seen as excessive in its implementation.

SUHAKAM has taken various steps to advocate for the elimination of corporal punishment and all other excessive forms of punishment and has recommended the Government to prohibit corporal punishment by abolishing all domestic laws warranting the imposition of corporal punishment such as whipping and caning, which are all inconsistent with international human rights principles.

SUHAKAM calls on the Government, as duty bearer to ensure the prohibition of torture and to expeditiously institute measures nationwide, including a comprehensive Plan of Action for Torture Prevention be developed, taking into account three interrelated elements including a legal framework that prohibits torture, effective implementation of the legal framework and mechanisms to monitor the legal framework and its implementation.

SUHAKAM reiterates its strong commitment to the fight against torture and continued advocacy for the accession to the United Nations Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (UNCAT) and its Optional Protocol, and the prohibition against torture as is enshrined in both Article 5 of the Federal Constitution and Article 3 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

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**Prof. Dato' Dr. Rahmat Mohamad
Chairman
Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM)
23 August 2022**