

MEDIA STATEMENT HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OF MALAYSIA (SUHAKAM)

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PRESS STATEMENT

KUALA LUMPUR (24 JULY 2023) – The Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM) condemns the unacceptable behavior displayed by The 1975's lead singer, Matty Healy, on all counts. His reckless behavior on stage that had caused the event to be cancelled has had negative consequential economic impact to many other artists and vendors.

SUHAKAM welcomes the Government's initiative to ensure that the other artists and vendors impacted by the cancellation of the Good Vibes Festival, would be provided with some assistance.

While SUHAKAM advocates equality for all and freedom of expression, it is important to stress that these rights must be practiced responsibly and within any restrictions imposed by local laws and cultural considerations. Any limitations on freedom of expression should be proportionate and in accordance with the human rights standards enshrined in the Federal Constitution as national security and public order are vital concerns.

Throughout the years, Malaysia has successfully hosted numerous artists who have demonstrated respect for our local laws and cultural norms during their performances. SUHAKAM commends these artists for their responsible behavior and adherence to our country's regulations.

As a National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) dedicated to promoting tolerance, and a cohesive society, SUHAKAM calls upon all individuals to express themselves responsibly and refrain from engaging in acts of intolerance and hatred. Embracing cultural diversity is essential for fostering harmony in our society.

SUHAKAM concludes by emphasizing the value of maintaining human rights, cultural sensitivity, and legal compliance. By doing so, we are able to build a society that respects everyone's rights and dignity while still valuing our rich cultural history.

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Prof. Dato' Dr. Rahmat Mohamad Chairman Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM) 24 July 2023