



**STRENGTHENING RACIAL HARMONY: A CALL TO ACTION FOR A MORE UNITED
MALAYSIA**

KUALA LUMPUR (3 MAY 2025) - The Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM) refers to the publication of the Malaysia Racism Report 2024 by Pusat KOMAS in March 2025. The report provides valuable insights into the ongoing challenges of racism and racial discrimination in Malaysia. The report serves as a timely reminder that, despite 68 years of independence, sadly, the roots of racism and racial discrimination remain deeply embedded in our institutions, public discourse and societal attitudes.

SUHAKAM believes it is both important and urgent to address the growing concerns surrounding racial harmony and discrimination in Malaysia. In line with SUHAKAM's mandate to promote awareness and advocate for human rights, this statement serves as both a salutary reminder and a call to action for all Malaysians to unite in addressing the persistent issues of racism and discrimination.

Malaysia is a nation built on diversity. Our multicultural and multi-religious heritage is not a weakness but a strength; one that must be nurtured with understanding, mutual respect and a shared commitment to equality. Racial harmony is not merely a national aspiration, it is an essential foundation for national unity, sustainable development and happiness.

SUHAKAM remains steadfast in its stand that racism in any form whether institutional, cultural, or interpersonal has no place in modern Malaysia. Racial discrimination breeds inequality, resentment and division. It undermines the dignity of individuals and communities and erodes the social fabric that binds our nation.

The Federal Constitution offers clear and valuable guidance on the principles of equality and justice. For instance, Article 8 declares that all persons are equal before the law and entitled to equal protection of the law, regardless of race or religion. Article 12 further reinforces the right to equality by affirming the right to non-discrimination in any educational institution maintained by a public authority, thereby fostering an environment where every citizen has equal access to education.

These constitutional guarantees are reflected in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), to which Malaysia is committed, to the extent that its provisions are consistent with the Federal Constitution. Article 1 of the UDHR states that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.

SUHAKAM recognises that meaningful progress requires more than statements of intent. It demands sustained commitment from all sectors of society government, civil society, political leaders, media practitioners, educators and ordinary Malaysians. Everyone has a role in rejecting hate speech and divisive rhetoric. Everyone has a role in upholding inclusive values and promoting policies that enhance equality and justice.

In this regard, SUHAKAM respectfully urges the Government to introduce a National Harmony Act, a dedicated legislative framework aimed at fostering mutual respect, promoting inclusivity and protecting all communities from hate speech, incitement and discrimination.



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

We call on all stakeholders to continue engaging in constructive dialogue, implementing educational and policy reforms, and cultivating empathy and understanding across communities. By doing so, we can lay the groundwork for a more just, equitable and united Malaysia.

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The Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM)

Date: 3 May 2025