



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

**EDITOR, NEWS DESK**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**SUHAKAM REAFFIRMS CONSTITUTIONAL EQUALITY AND REJECTS  
PREJUDICE IN PARLIAMENTARY DISCOURSE**

**KUALA LUMPUR (28 FEBRUARY 2026)** - The Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM) views with serious concern recent remarks made by Members of Parliament which have denigrated certain groups of individuals through unfounded and scientifically unsubstantiated claims, including characterising persons of diverse sexual identity and sexual orientation as deviant cults and suggesting that work-related stress may contribute to an individual's sexual identity or sexual orientation. SUHAKAM considers such statements to be inappropriate, misleading and unethical. The propagation of harmful stereotypes and misinformation risks deepening prejudice, normalising discrimination, and may ultimately expose affected individuals to stigma, harm and threats to their safety and wellbeing.

It is unbecoming of Members of Parliament representing the rakyat, or holders of important positions in the Cabinet, to continue to spew toxic language in the legislative house. Parliament must remain a forum of principled debate, guided by respect for human dignity and constitutional values. SUHAKAM emphasises that all individuals, regardless their sexual identity or sexual orientation, are entitled to be treated with dignity and respect.

Fundamental liberties are the cornerstone of Malaysia's constitutional framework. Article 5 of the Federal Constitution provides for the right to personal liberty, whilst Article 8 guarantees equality before the law and equal protection of the law. As lawmakers, Members of Parliament must adhere to Article 8 of the Federal Constitution, which upholds equality before the law. Article 8 clearly prohibits discrimination based on gender and this constitutional commitment is reinforced by Malaysia's ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1995. CEDAW and the Federal Constitution call for non-discrimination that recognises intersecting layers of oppression and vulnerability, rather than reducing individuals merely to facets of their identity, orientation, or background.

Public discourse, particularly within Parliament, must reflect this constitutional and international commitment to equality and dignity. SUHAKAM further emphasises that statements made by public officials, particularly in official forums such as Parliament, must be responsible, cautious, and grounded in accurate information, while reflecting respect for human rights principles. Statements that lack scientific clarity or that may promote prejudice can significantly shape negative public attitudes and contribute to a culture of discrimination.

SUHAKAM remains committed to promoting the understanding that human rights apply to all, in line with the spirit of the Federal Constitution and universal human rights principles. In this regard, SUHAKAM stands ready to conduct capacity-building initiatives with the Parliament of Malaysia on human rights principles and constitutional obligations, towards fostering a more informed and responsible lawmaking institution.

**-END-**

**Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM)  
28 February 2026**