



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

**EDITOR, NEWS DESK**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PRESS STATEMENT**

**KUALA LUMPUR (22 SEPTEMBER 2018)** - The Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM) refers to the many media reports insinuating that SUHAKAM is an advocate of same sex / homosexual marriages in Malaysia. SUHAKAM does not support same sex marriage in Malaysia.

SUHAKAM believes that the statement by the Prime Minister follows SUHAKAM's recommendation to the Special Cabinet Committee Meeting that the government immediately accede to the remaining international human rights treaties, as stated in the Pakatan Harapan election manifesto, towards improving the quality of life of Malaysians, that SUHAKAM continuously advocates.

SUHAKAM regrets to say that Malaysia's continued non-ratification is due to the government's lack of determination to live up to its international human rights commitments. SUHAKAM has explained and will continue to emphasise that human rights are basic standards without which people cannot live in dignity and the international treaties that SUHAKAM refers to set minimum standards for how governments should treat their people. Human rights also guarantee people the means necessary to satisfy their basic needs, such as food, clean water, housing, health and education, among others, so they can take full advantage of all opportunities.

SUHAKAM is unaware of any international human rights treaty that if ratified, would oblige the government to legalise same sex marriage. While SUHAKAM believes and subscribes to the universality of human rights, SUHAKAM does not fail to take into account our context specific values. However, SUHAKAM is steadfast in its position that no one has the right to discriminate LGBTs or treat them with hate or violence. The government cannot allow a situation where personal religious beliefs coupled with government inaction and political homophobia become a license for violence against LGBTs. Malaysia has had cases of transgender murders and violence, and SUHAKAM believes that it is time that the government take serious effort to protect all our people with an anti-discrimination law.

SUHAKAM reiterates that all individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity have the same basic rights as enshrined in our Federal Constitution. SUHAKAM hope that the government will regard SUHAKAM as a valued partner in working towards creating a more tolerant and well informed society for sustainable peace, progress and harmony in Malaysia.

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**Tan Sri Razali Ismail  
Chairman  
Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM)  
22 SEPTEMBER 2018**

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***"Human Rights For All"***

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