

THE STEPS THAT LEAD TO AVOIDING NEW VICTIMS

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I refer to your news, “**Suspicion of Incest and Rape of 2 Children, Senior Citizen Detained**” (NST, July 5) and I feel something must be done by Malaysian government to curb this problem. We are shocked by the news of rape cases leading up to the number of attempted suicides every year in our country.

According to RAINN (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network) which is one anti-sexual violence organization, rape is a form of sexual assault and is often used as a legal definition to specifically include sexual penetration without consent. It is a situation in which the attacker pressures the

victim to participate in an unwanted sexual activity with force. Force does not always refer to physical pressure, but the perpetrator may also use emotional and psychological persuasion and even use threats to force a victim into non-consensual sex.

Undoubtedly Malaysian government has long played an important role in handling the issue, but I would like to share the steps that the government and Malaysian as a whole can take to combat the rape cases.

Firstly, Malaysian government should highlight on preventive education and general awareness programs so that everyone is aware of what need to be done to prevent this unwanted sexual assault. Reports of the violent incidents need to be regularly compiled and made available to demonstrate the seriousness of sexual abuse for an effective response.

Secondly, the government should also take a step to ensure that women and young girls in Malaysia who are victims of sexual violence receive adequate protection. Furthermore, providing adequate treatment centers at each state and district should also be considered by the government. This can be a one-stop center for the victims of sexual assault who are surely traumatized to get the counselling session.

The victims need a safe environment to free themselves from a continuous trauma and help in upholding the justice system. So we have to understand that building a harmonious society that is capable of regulating the crime of rape is the duty of every person and community.

Thirdly, establishing an agency which its sole aim is to counter this violent crime. For instance, Citizens Against Rape founded in Kuala Lumpur in 1987 in the aftermath of a rape and brutal killing of a nine-year-old, Ang Mei Hong which offers a path and hope for the victims regardless of gender, age, nationality, religion or race.

If Malaysian community were to take precaution and guard against this violence, Malaysia will eventually give birth to the pure genres of this horrific impurity from widespread.

