



# NEWS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **A Community Effort to Keep Our Women and Children #CyberSafe**

*CyberSafe Seminar organized by NCWO & CyberSecurity Malaysia in an effort to raise awareness on the pressing issue of security in cyberspace*

**KUALA LUMPUR, 22 OCTOBER 2017** – The National Council of Women's Organisations Malaysia (NCWO) in collaboration with CyberSecurity Malaysia today organized a seminar with the theme "Keep Our Women and Children #Cybersafe". This seminar was a follow up to the "National Seminar on Sexual Offences Against Children - Stop!!" which took place at Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) on the 13th and 14th March 2017.

According to Forbes, the explosive growth of social media, driven by the proliferation of smartphones and other digital devices are transforming the lives of Gen Z in schools and at home. Therefore, it is of paramount importance that young digital citizens equip themselves with the knowledge, skills, and attitude to leverage the potential benefits of digital technologies, while being resilient to their risks and dangers.

One of the issues that arose in the recent National Seminar on "Sexual Offences Against Children - Stop!!" was the use of computers, smartphones, the Internet and various social media applications for sexual grooming and pornography to violate the honor of children. It is also reported that nearly 54% of Internet users are those under the age of 30, including children as young as 6 years old. Every child will at least have one smartphone when they reach 15 years of age. Most of today's children have their own Facebook account to expand their social

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circle as early as 10 years old, and 80% surf the Internet between 1 to 4 hours per day. More alarming is the finding that 70% of children reported receiving negative messages.

"While the government and private institutions have made great progress to the Plan of Action on Child Online Protection launched in 2013 towards our quest to make the internet a safer place, we recognize that risks and dangers remain. Women and children are most vulnerable to the cyber threats and risks associated with the Internet. It is therefore important for the community, teachers, and parents to play a more proactive and collective role in inculcating awareness and promoting the positive and responsible use of the internet. Therefore, we, as a community need to do something to raise the awareness and educate the public in our effort to protect our women and children in the cyber world," said Dato' Sri Hajah Rohani Abd Karim, Minister of Women, Family and Community Development.

"The objective of this seminar is to raise awareness about this pressing issue so public can work together in combating the problem and to minimize any risk our women and children face when they go online," added Professor Emerita Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr. Sharifah Hapsah Syed Hasan Shahabudin, President of National Council of Women's Organisations (NCWO).

Meanwhile, CyberSecurity Malaysia CEO Dato' Dr. Haji Amirudin Abdul Wahab said, "The Internet has revolutionized the way our children learn, play and interact with one another. The shift in communication and social interaction has given rise to many challenges such as online games and social media addiction, cyber-bullying, and cyber-stalking. Based on CyberSecurity Malaysia's statistics, 379 cases of cyber harassment were reported in the first six months of 2017. If left unchecked, the social problems will spiral into a serious menace that will harm our future generation. We must find a balance in empowering and protecting our children online."

The seminar saw a few big names such as Harith Iskandar and Lisa Surihani as CyberSAFE ambassadors who also acted as moderators. Joining the speakers

were Ir Md. Shah Nuri bin Md. Zain (Chief Executive, National Cyber Security Agency), Dato' Dr. Haji Amiruddin Abdul Wahab (Chief Executive Officer, CyberSecurity Malaysia), Puan Julia Ibrahim (Head, Commercial and Cyber Crimes Unit, Attorney General Chamber), Encik Zulkarnain Mohd Yasin (Chief Officer, Network Security and Enforcement Sector for Malaysian Communication and Multimedia Commission), SAC Ahmad Noordin Ismail (Deputy Director Cyber Crime & Multimedia Investigation for Royal Malaysia Police), ASP Nor Elyanis binti Mohd Yusoff (Head, Sexual Offences Against Children Cyber Crime Investigation Unit, Criminal Investigation Division for Royal Malaysia Police), Dr. Mohammad Rahim Kamaluddin (Senior Criminologist, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities, National University of Malaysia), Prof. Madya Dr. Suzaily Wahab (Consultant Psychiatrist, UKM Medical Centre), Philip Ling Oon Hun (Principal DIGI CyberSAFE), Dr. Geshina Ayu Mat Saat (Senior Criminologist and Psychologist, University Sains Malaysia) and Shazril Helmi Samsudin (Educational Technology Division, Ministry of Education Malaysia).

The seminar was participated by representatives from Women's Organisations, Parent-Teacher Association, public & private sector officials, university students, youths at risk, and children from the Children's Council and PERMATA program. Among the VIPs who supported the cause and attended this seminar were:

1. YABhg Datin Paduka Seri Rosmah Mansor, Patron of the PERMATA Programmes, who gave the keynote address and officiated its opening;
2. YB Dato' Sri Hajah Rohani Abd Karim, Minister of Women, Family and Community Development;
3. YB Dato' Sri Azalina Dato' Othman Said, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department;
4. YB Datuk Wira Dr. Abu Bakar Mohamad Diah, Deputy Minister of Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI).

**-END-**

## Appendix 1

**For media inquiries, please contact:**

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### **ABOUT NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS' MALAYSIA (NCWO)**

The National Council of Women's Organisations Malaysia, (NCWO) was officially established in 1963 to act as a consultative and advisory body to advance the status of women and enhance their participation in national development. It has 100 national affiliates, and more than 100 at the State level. Each affiliate is an independent entity with its own goals and programmes but collaborating in solidarity with NCWO to advance the cause of women.

### **ABOUT CYBERSECURITY MALAYSIA**

CyberSecurity Malaysia is the national specialist centre for cyber security, under the purview of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI).

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