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Do Not Turn a Child's Identity into Digital Punishment

CMCF: Public anger must not override a child's right to protection, privacy and rehabilitation

Cyberjaya, 7 July 2026 – The Communications and Multimedia Content Forum of Malaysia (CMCF) is deeply concerned by the continued circulation of identifying and highly sensitive material relating to the recent school stabbing incident involving minors.

While mainstream media outlets in Malaysia have, on the whole, exercised restraint and responsibility in their coverage, harmful content has continued to spread through social media, messaging apps and unverified pages presenting themselves as news sources. These include materials that identify the child allegedly involved in the incident, as well as private details that responsible media organisations have rightly chosen not to publish.

We will not repeat or describe the specific content in this statement, as doing so may only draw further attention to it.

The law is clear. Section 15 of the Child Act 2001 prohibits the publication of any information that may lead to the identification of a child involved in criminal or court proceedings. This protection applies because children are entitled to privacy, dignity and the possibility of rehabilitation, regardless of the seriousness of the allegation.

Mediha Mahmood, CEO of CMCF stated, *"A child does not lose the protection of the law because the allegation is serious. In fact, the more serious the case, the more careful we must be, because public anger must not become a permanent digital punishment for a child."*

The viral spread of identifying content causes real and lasting harm. It exposes the child, other students connected to the incident, and their families to public shaming, retaliation, psychological distress and long-term damage that may continue long after public attention has moved on. Where the content involves private or sensitive aspects of a child's life, its circulation can deepen stigma and discourage other young people from seeking help when they need it.

Once such content is shared online, it is almost impossible to fully retract. Every repost, forward or screenshot extends the harm.

This responsibility does not rest with the media alone. It applies to every person who chooses to share, forward or repost such material. It also applies to social media platforms and to pages that publish unverified content without editorial oversight, accountability or regard for the children affected.

CMCF therefore urges:

The public to stop seeking out, sharing, forwarding or reposting any content that identifies the child or exposes personal details. Curiosity is not a public interest justification, especially where children are involved.

Unverified pages and self-styled news portals to immediately remove any identifying or private material involving minors and to stop publishing unverified personal content in pursuit of traffic, engagement or sensationalism.

Social media platforms to act swiftly against content that identifies the children involved or exposes private details, and to strengthen enforcement where such content is being amplified, reuploaded or recirculated.

The media to continue exercising vigilance, particularly where viral content online may create pressure to publish details that should properly be withheld.

The welfare of all children affected by this incident, including the child alleged to have committed the act, the students harmed, their classmates and their families, must remain the priority. Protecting children is not about minimising the seriousness of what happened. It is about ensuring that the response to a tragic incident does not create further harm.

CMCF stands ready to work with platforms, civil society, media organisations and relevant government agencies to reduce the spread of harmful and unverified content online, and to uphold the rights, dignity and welfare of children.

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UNTUK SIARAN SEGERA

Jangan Jadikan Identiti Kanak-Kanak Sebagai Hukuman Digital

CMCF: Kemarahan awam tidak boleh mengatasi hak kanak-kanak terhadap perlindungan, privasi dan pemulihan

Cyberjaya, 7 Julai 2026 – Forum Kandungan Komunikasi dan Multimedia Malaysia (CMCF) amat memandang serius akan penyebaran berterusan kandungan yang boleh mengenal pasti identiti serta berunsur sangat sensitif berhubung dengan insiden penikaman di sekolah baru-baru ini yang melibatkan kanak-kanak bawah umur.

CMCF mengambil maklum bahawa secara umumnya, media arus perdana di Malaysia telah menunjukkan sikap bertanggungjawab dan berhati-hati dalam melaporkan insiden ini. Namun begitu, kandungan berbahaya masih terus tersebar melalui media sosial, aplikasi pemesejan dan halaman tidak sah yang mendakwa diri mereka sebagai sumber berita.

Antara kandungan yang dikongsikan termasuk bahan yang boleh membawa kepada pengenalan identiti kanak-kanak yang didakwa terlibat, selain maklumat peribadi yang sewajarnya tidak didedahkan kepada umum.

CMCF tidak akan mengulangi atau memperincikan kandungan tersebut dalam kenyataan ini kerana tindakan itu hanya berisiko menarik lebih banyak perhatian terhadapnya.

Peruntukan undang-undang adalah jelas. Seksyen 15 Akta Kanak-Kanak 2001 melarang sebarang penerbitan maklumat yang boleh membawa kepada pengenalpastian identiti kanak-kanak yang terlibat dalam prosiding jenayah atau mahkamah. Perlindungan ini terpakai kerana kanak-kanak berhak kepada privasi, maruah dan peluang untuk melalui proses pemulihan, tanpa mengira tahap keseriusan dakwaan yang dihadapi.

Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif CMCF, Mediha Mahmood berkata, "*Seorang kanak-kanak atau remaja bawah umur tidak hilang hak perlindungan undang-undang hanya kerana dakwaan terhadapnya serius. Malah, dalam kes yang lebih berat, kita perlu lebih berhati-hati kerana kemarahan awam tidak boleh dibiarkan menjadi hukuman digital yang kekal terhadap mereka.*"

Penyebaran kandungan yang mendedahkan identiti kanak-kanak boleh membawa kesan yang nyata dan berpanjangan. Ia mendedahkan kanak-kanak tersebut, pelajar lain yang terkesan, rakan sekolah dan keluarga mereka kepada aib awam, tekanan psikologi, kemungkinan tindakan balas serta kesan jangka panjang yang mungkin berterusan lama selepas perhatian masyarakat beralih kepada isu lain.

Apabila kandungan itu melibatkan perkara peribadi atau sensitif dalam kehidupan seorang kanak-kanak, penyebarannya juga boleh memperdalam stigma dan menyebabkan kanak-kanak atau remaja lain berasa takut untuk mendapatkan bantuan apabila mereka memerlukannya.

Kandungan yang telah tersebar dalam talian amat sukar untuk ditarik balik sepenuhnya. Setiap perkongsian, hantaran semula, tangkap layar dan pautan yang dipanjangkan hanya menambah kesan mudarat kepada kanak-kanak yang terlibat.

Tanggungjawab ini tidak terletak pada media semata-mata. Ia turut terpakai kepada setiap individu yang memilih untuk berkongsi, memanjangkan atau memuat naik semula kandungan sedemikian. Ia juga melibatkan platform media sosial dan halaman dalam talian yang menyiarkan kandungan tidak disahkan tanpa penelitian editorial, kebertanggungjawaban atau pertimbangan terhadap kebajikan kanak-kanak yang terkesan.

Oleh yang demikian, CMCF menggesa:

Orang awam supaya tidak mencari, berkongsi, memanjangkan atau memuat naik semula sebarang kandungan yang mendedahkan identiti kanak-kanak tersebut atau butiran peribadinya. Perasaan ingin tahu bukan alasan kepentingan awam, terutamanya dalam hal yang melibatkan kanak-kanak.

Halaman tidak sah dan portal yang mendakwa diri sebagai sumber berita supaya segera menurunkan sebarang kandungan yang mendedahkan identiti atau maklumat peribadi kanak-kanak, dan menghentikan penerbitan bahan peribadi yang tidak disahkan semata-mata untuk mendapatkan trafik, keterlibatan atau perhatian.

Platform media sosial supaya bertindak segera terhadap kandungan yang mendedahkan identiti kanak-kanak yang terlibat atau butiran peribadi mereka, serta memperkukuh penguatkuasaan terhadap kandungan yang dimuat naik semula, disebarkan semula atau terus ditularkan.

Media supaya terus berwaspada, khususnya apabila kandungan tular di media sosial mewujudkan tekanan untuk menerbitkan butiran yang sepatutnya dilindungi.

Kebajikan semua kanak-kanak yang terkesan oleh insiden ini, termasuk kanak-kanak yang didakwa melakukan perbuatan tersebut, pelajar yang cedera, rakan-rakan sekolah dan keluarga mereka, mesti terus menjadi keutamaan.

Melindungi kanak-kanak bukan bermakna mengecilkan keseriusan insiden yang berlaku. Ia bermakna memastikan tindak balas kita terhadap satu tragedi tidak mencipta kemudaratan baharu.

CMCF bersedia untuk bekerjasama dengan platform, masyarakat sivil, organisasi media dan agensi kerajaan yang berkaitan bagi mengurangkan penyebaran kandungan berbahaya dan tidak disahkan dalam talian, serta mempertahankan hak, maruah dan kebajikan kanak-kanak.

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ABOUT CMCF

The Communications and Multimedia Content Forum of Malaysia (CMCF), also known as the Content Forum, is an industry-led forum designated under the Communications and Multimedia Act 1998 and registered with the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC). CMCF is mandated to oversee and promote self-regulation of content disseminated over electronic networks in Malaysia.

CMCF brings together a broad cross-section of the communications and multimedia content ecosystem, including broadcasters, advertisers, advertising agencies, content creators and distributors, internet service providers, audiotext hosting service providers, technology, media and digital service providers, and civic groups. This multi-stakeholder composition ensures that content standards are developed with practical industry insight while reflecting public interest considerations.

As Malaysia's recognised industry self-regulatory body for electronic content, CMCF is responsible for the development, implementation, and enforcement of the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Content Code. First registered with MCMC on 1 September 2004, and most recently revised in 2022, the Content Code sets out governing standards and best practices for content dissemination, providing a framework that supports creativity, innovation, and the sustainable growth of the industry.

CMCF also houses a Complaints Bureau, which receives complaints from both industry players and the public regarding content disseminated over electronic networks. The Bureau is empowered to investigate alleged breaches of the Content Code, facilitate mediation, adjudicate cases, issue published orders, and impose sanctions where appropriate. In addition, it provides advisory guidance on electronic content matters.

Through self-regulation, CMCF aims to complement the existing legal framework by promoting responsible content practices, enhancing consumer protection, and fostering a fair and trusted content ecosystem.

For media enquiries, please contact:

Mawar Abdul Latiff, Senior Manager
mawar@contentforum.my / +6018 262 4822

Afiq Zulhilmi Baharudin
afiq@contentforum.my / +6010 218 8676