

Hate Speech Training

Malaysian Centre for Constitutionalism and Human Rights (MCCHR) Youth Capacity Building on Hate Speech and Atrocity Prevention in Malaysia

October 2 to 5, 2025

From 2-5 October 2025, the (MCCHR), supported by the Asia-Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (APR2P Centre), facilitated a four-day training workshop in Kuala Lumpur to develop youth capacity to identify and counter hate speech as part of broader atrocity crimes prevention measures. The interactive initiative equipped young people with the tools to combat hate speech and disinformation to promote social harmony. Twenty-one Malaysians aged between 20-25 and reflecting a diversity of backgrounds, genders and communities, participated in the training.

Across the four-day program, nine training sessions were delivered. Participants were introduced to the concepts of hate speech and disinformation and the relationship to freedom of speech. Participants engaged in interactive tasks that saw them identify and categorise examples of hate speech, assess whether relevant Malaysian legal provisions align to international standards, and were tasked to consider ways that hate speech can be countered by different stakeholder groups like the state, civil society and youth. This led to a session where participants discussed the issue of book banning, a current political problem in Malaysia.

A session on the concept of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) and the importance of recognising the risk factors of atrocity crimes highlighted how hate speech can exacerbate the onset of atrocity crimes. Participants were encouraged to reflect on Malaysian history and on the vital role that civil society actors play in atrocity prevention. Participants heard from civil society organisation Sisters in Islam (SIS) about the impact of hate speech on their advocacy efforts, and from an MCCHR team member and two refugee participants about the damaging impact of hate speech on refugees in Malaysia.

Across the remaining sessions participants engaged in training about the role of technology and hate speech, the intersectionality between hate speech and gender, and spent time developing an associated action plan to counter hate speech in the Malaysian context. Participants also explored how different forms of storytelling can be meaningfully utilised to counter hate speech, with a session conducted by the Cindayu Shadow Puppet Association that highlighted how this form of storytelling is being used to showcase Malaysian history.

Advocacy Campaigns

As part of this four-day training participants were divided into two groups and each tasked with preparing an advocacy campaign that they later presented on 5 and 6 December 2025 at *Pesta Rights-Yat*, a collaboration event between MCCHR, civil society organisation SUARAM, and Sisters in Islam. The two campaigns were titled Harmony Advocacy and School of Empathy Malaysia.

The campaign '[Harmony Advocacy](#)' produced nine educational social media posts focused on promoting interfaith dialogue. This group organised a formal visit and dialogue with the Ministry of National Unity in November 2025, where they shared campaign objectives and insights from their social media outreach, and discussed the role of public education in

mitigating the risks of hate speech and disinformation. Harmony Advocacy also organised an interfaith dialogue panel during *Pesta Rights-Yat* where panellists shared their perspectives. The event also provided a platform for youth attendees to engage with the topic of hate-driven narratives.

The campaign '[School of Empathy Malaysia](#)' produced weekly myth-busting social media posts that addressed common misconceptions about refugees in Malaysia and the hate speech these refugees face as a result. This campaign engaged directly with the public by interviewing people on the street about disinformation and hate speech in relation to refugees. The group hosted a booth at *Pesta Rights-Yat* and facilitated interactive activities to educate the public about refugee rights and the hate speech these persons experience on a daily basis.