

#MAKESCHOOLASAFERPLACE: STUDENT-LED MOVEMENT INFLUENCES GOVERNMENT TO TAKE ACTIONS AGAINST SEXUAL ABUSE

Children advocating, mobilizing, raising awareness, informing and communicating.

Asia and the Pacific: Malaysia

In Malaysia young students raised awareness, and advocated for safety and protection from sexual assaults in schools. They also sparked an online movement with the #MakeSchoolASaferPlace, led by young people on social media. To amplify these voices, and to have a space specifically dedicated for students to express themselves, an online sharing platform was established for students and former students to share their stories of sexual abuse and harassment in schools (@savetheschoolsmy). Additionally an online petition was circulated to support #MakeSchoolsASaferPlace, signed by Civil Society Organizations, and endorsed by Members of Parliament.

As result, the Ministry of Education (MoE) has since banned 'period spot-checks' conducted in schools (which reportedly enabled abuse of authority where sexual harassment and physical assault towards female students was experienced). The ban was issued via a circular by MoE. Civil society has called for clearer details on the circular, particularly around actions taken against those that conduct spot-checks, and the type of support offered to students that experience it, and whether the directive includes all education institutions (private, state government institutions etc.)

Part of those students are youth representatives from the Dewan Muda Malaysia Programme.

[Click here for support website](#)