

Students want more awareness on sexual abuse

JOHOR BARU: A group of about 200 secondary school students gathered here to call for more awareness on sexual abuse and reproductive health education as part of the *Saya Sayang Saya* initiative.

The students, from 44 schools in Johor, participated in a discussion about sexual grooming, cybersafety, and reproductive health.

The town hall held here yesterday was the sixth in a series of nationwide town halls co-organised by Unicef, Digi Telecommunication, WOMEN:girls, The Star's R.AGE, and was supported by the Royal Malaysian Police's Sexual, Women and Child Investigation division and the Reproductive Health Association Melaka.

"After six town halls, it is clear that young people across the country are facing similar challenges," said Indra Kumari Nadchatram, Unicef Malaysia Communication Specialist.

Philip Ling, Digi Sustainability programme manager, said the students spoke up and called for the Education Ministry and schools to guide them.

"Most of the students said they wanted

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more education on reproductive health and the good thing is that the ministry has plans to introduce it in schools, so that's what we are aiming for," he added.

Saya Sayang Saya is a follow up to Unicef's #ReplyForAll-MY town hall in Kuala Lumpur last year to call for the enactment of sexual grooming laws, which was championed by R.AGE's MPs Against Predators campaign.

The previous town halls in Terengganu, Pahang, Kelantan, Sabah and Sarawak were conducted recently and reached out to more than 1,400 students and teachers.

Saya Sayang Saya will continue with two more sessions in Kedah and Penang.

The session was captured on live stream by R.AGE, and can be viewed at fb.com/ragePMP.