

Headline	Stop stigmatising unwed mums		
MediaTitle	The Star		
Date	20 Sep 2012	Color	Black/white
Section	Letters	Circulation	304,904
Page No	44	Readership	1,026,812
Language	English	ArticleSize	102 cm ²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 2,251
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 6,753



Stop stigmatising unwed mums

I WAS heartened to read your leader "It was shame that killed the baby" (*The Star*, Sept 19) and commend the paper for expressing such humane and intelligent views.

All too often, people blame the unwed mothers but as you note, this is a society-wide problem.

It's not enough to just preach abstinence and then blame the unwed women when they get pregnant.

As a society, it is our responsibility to ensure that there is non-

judgmental sex education in schools that accept that even unmarried people are having and will have sex, and provides reliable information on contraceptive methods.

Safer sex practices should also be taught because unprotected sex can result not just in unwanted pregnancy but also in HIV and other difficult to treat sexually-transmitted diseases.

It should also be stressed that men too have responsibilities when they engage in sexual relationships.

We also need to provide facilities such as non-judgmental shelters for unwed pregnant women and empathetic counsellors who will help them decide on their options.

Some people may disapprove of unwed mothers, but if we want baby dumping or baby killing to stop, we need to do more than just stigmatising them and find effective ways of helping them.

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