

Headline	Don't hate those with HIV AIDS		
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# Don't hate those with HIV/AIDS

## Final year students hold campaign to end discrimination

**I**N conjunction with the AIDS Awareness Month, final year students of SEGi College Subang Jaya held an awareness campaign at Jaya One in Petaling Jaya recently to help put a stop to discrimination against those living with HIV/AIDS.

The event was attended by representatives from the Malaysian AIDS Council as well as a HIV victim who shared his experience about dealing with HIV.

"I was diagnosed with HIV in 1996. At first, I was very sad to have been diagnosed with the illness but looking back, there must have been a reason behind it as it encouraged me to get my act together and lead a better life," said Syed (full name omitted), who is married with children.

"The stigma surrounding those infected with HIV some 15 years ago was very high and I am very grateful for the support I received from my family as it helped me get through the rough patch of having to deal with those who avoided me for fear of getting infected just by being close to me. Back then, people were not properly informed about the modes of transmission as there was a lot of misinformation being spread about the illness.

"Events like this are important to educate the public on HIV and AIDS and to create awareness to stop discrimination against those living with it," he said.

Besides that, the event was also filled with performances by local music acts like Amir Jahari and Salammusik.

The president of the group Josie Yoke thanked the Malaysian AIDS Council for coming on board and being a part of the event.

"It may be impossible to stop discrimination and hatred towards people living with HIV/AIDS, but through this awareness campaign, we want to make an effort to aspire change.

"We are hoping to reconstruct the word 'victim' because they are not victims, they are still people, like you and me," she said during the opening ceremony of the event.

An information counter was set up by the Malaysian Aids Council to provide information on HIV/AIDS. Original Kayu Nasi Kandar, which set up a booth, donated RM1 to the Malaysian Aids Council for every sale they made that day.

All funds raised were donated to the Malaysian AIDS Council — the main beneficiary of the event.

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**Message in music:** Salammusik performing during the event



**Celebrity supporter:** Adam Scott from Fly FM (left), who was the emcee for the event, showing his support for the awareness campaign.