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Not fair to discriminate against HIV folks

It is appalling to read "Council: Student told to explain HIV infection or be barred" (*The Star*, June 27) as such discrimination against people living with HIV is simply against human rights as any illness affecting the person cannot be made a measure of his or her performance in activities relating to educational matters.

Despite medical advancements, there are those giving the wrong impression that HIV illness is a direct connection to deviant sexual activity and/or orientation relating to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community.

Some politicians gain political mileage by making misinformed discriminatory connections between the HIV infection and existing LGBT people.

Anyone discriminating against people living with HIV with incorrect statements to the point of pure misinformation are heartless as

these "condemned" are people with emotions and feelings.

Some in society tend to think that people living with HIV are not worthy people having committed sinful sexual crimes.

Granted that people do make mistakes and sometimes at the heat of the moment, one sexual mistake can be costly. Look it another way.

Who does not make mistakes in life?

Who are we to judge and discriminate where the end result could escalate in hate crimes against people living with HIV thus driving them underground?

This discourages people from stepping forward to get tested, thus making it harder to promote safer sexual activities, increasing awareness and education of safer sexual practices including encouraging the use of condoms to reduce the spread of HIV and sexually transmitted diseases

There is a need to better our human rights precedent in dealing with people living with HIV with sympathy, acceptance and understanding to ensure no one would suffer marginalisation and discrimination due to their HIV status, past sexual activities or sexual orientation.

People who are unsure of their HIV status must not be made to fear being tested. They should not be ridiculed and made to feel like outcasts should the test results be unfavourable.

Proper educational issues relating to homosexuality, transsexualism, bisexuality and HIV have to be allowed and continued to be openly discussed rationally with adequate guidance where constructive criticisms and common sense matter.

NG SHU TSUNG
Kuala Lumpur