

Headline **Protect the rights of young ones**
Date **10 Dec 2009**
MediaTitle **The Sun**
Section **National**
Journalist **N/A**
Frequency **Daily**
Circ / Read **174,179 / 171,000**

Language **English**
Page No **25**
Article Size **215 cm²**
Color **Full Color**
ADValue **4,161**
PRValue **12,483**



Protect the rights of young ones

WHEN US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was First Lady, she had the occasion to declare the African proverb, "it takes a village to raise a child". We all know that we share in a collective responsibility in the upbringing of children in our society. To provide them with a decent place to live and call home. To nourish them in body, mind and spirit. To protect and keep them safe. And to equip them with the living skills necessary to survive and navigate their way through life.

Some of our children are fortunate to receive a good head start. Others need help. And this is where you and I come into the picture. Government alone cannot rectify and remedy each and every situation. We need to step in and do our part to help those whom society seems to have passed by on the side.

All Malaysians must strive to help orphans, children from difficult family situations, children coping with health

challenges, and youngsters from communities which have somehow been marginalised. Collectively we can make a difference in their lives.

Engage with your local councillor, state assemblyman and member of Parliament. Join a citizens' advocacy group or residents' association. Take part in activities to improve your neighbourhood. And in the process look out for those

whom society has passed by and lend them a helping hand. Let no person, be it a child or an

adult, be left behind. Each of us is a unique individual, conferred with human rights, worthy of respect, deserving of help in times of hardship. In coming to the assistance of others, we affirm our basic decency and common humanity. And we help, a little bit at a time, to make this world a better place to live for all.

While we prosper as a nation, many homes that provide care to disadvantaged children are still struggling to meet the basic needs of children who are orphans, refugees, living with physical and learning disabilities, as well as those afflicted with HIV/AIDS and other terminal diseases.

Although faced with such adversity, these children have every potential and ability to become leaders of our country, if they are given the proper guidance and opportunity to do so. It is our duty to ensure that they are given equal opportunity to brave these challenges and eventually play a productive and constructive role in our society.

In conjunction with International Human Rights Day today, the Bar Council Human Rights Committee is organising a fundraising dinner for seven selected children's homes in Selangor and Federal Territory: Desa Amal Jireh, The Pure Life

Society, Gulpuri Foundation, Rumah Solehah, Rumah An-Najjah, All Ethnic Group Refugee Children Education Centre and Rumah Sayangan.

"Our Children. Our Hope.

Our Future" is a one of its kind initiative by the Human Rights Committee. It is in recognition of the role of all Malaysians not merely as custodians of society but also as those who shape its values. We believe that every child has economic, social and cultural rights, related to the conditions necessary to meet his or her basic human needs such as food, shelter, education and healthcare.

Donations will help to maintain and improve the conditions of the homes and create a better environment for the children, some of whom are orphans or living with HIV/AIDS and other forms of terminal disease and disability.

Please come and support this event because it is up to all of us to make it right for our children. For tickets and further information, contact Lim Ka Ea (03-20313003, ext 127, email: kaea@malaysianbar.org.my), or Siti Kasim, email: sitikasim@gmail.com.

