More sensible tack please

By Nur Amira Abdul Karim

There is very little new or refreshing about the Malay community’s approach to culling sexual promiscuity among its youth.

It is trudging along the same path it has taken since time immemorial.

Yet, has the oft-repeated stance of abstinence imbued with religious righteousness been able to persuade young Malays into celibacy?

No.

That is why I find it strange that the campaign to decrease pregnancy, abortion and the transmission of venereal diseases is premised on a message that has never won the hearts or minds of the target audience.

A far more sensible campaign tagline should be “Say Yes to Safe Sex, It’s Sexier”. It is more honest and it helps to move the community beyond the current state of denial about its young people having sex.

Far more importantly, it will save young Malay lives from being wasted in the vicious circle of early parenthood and perpetual poverty.

It is also a grave mistake to assume that the problem exists exclusively among Malay youth.

Young people have sex, irrespective of their race, religion or income strata. Some are just better at concealing it.

That is why we may not have so many facts and figures about young, affluent, non-Malay youths who are having sexual relations, becoming pregnant and choosing to have abortions.

Like disease, desire does not discriminate.

All young people with raging libidos can tell you that.

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