

STOP BULLYING
11 APRIL 2025 | 12 SHAWAL 1446H

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الْقَائِلِ:
وَالَّذِينَ يُؤْذُونَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ بَغَيْرِ مَا اكْتَسَبُوا فَقَدْ احْتَمَلُوا بُهْتَانًا وَإِثْمًا مُبِينًا ٥٨

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ.
اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.
أَمَّا بَعْدُ،

فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَأَوْصِيكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

Let us all increase our devotion towards Allah the Almighty by performing all that He has decreed and abstaining from all that He has prohibited. Hopefully, we will be blessed in this world and in the Hereafter.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we all know, bullying is a worrying social occurrence in our country today. Bullying refers to the act of a person or several people using force or violence to intimidate, harass, humiliate or hurt another person through various methods, whether physical, mental or emotional resulting in physical injury or emotional distress. Types of bullying that can occur among adults and children include physical, verbal, non-verbal and cyber bullying.

In the context of bullying among children and adolescents, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) reported in 2023 that Malaysia ranked fifth in the world, and second in Asia in cyberbullying cases. ON 22 March 2024, *Berita Harian* reported the death of a college student due to being bullied by 13 of his peers. Although the Court of Appeal sentenced the six

bullies at the public university to death in July 2024, bullying cases still occur seemingly without end.

We must remember that even the smallest matter will be brought to trial in front of Allah the Almighty, as He says in the Quran in Chapter 18 (*Surah Al-Kahf*) Verse (*ayat*) 49:

وَوُضِعَ الْكِتَابُ فَتَرَى الْمُجْرِمِينَ مُشْفِقِينَ مِمَّا فِيهِ وَيَقُولُونَ يُوَيْلَتُنَا مَا لِهَذَا الْكِتَابِ لَا يُغَادِرُ صَغِيرَةً وَلَا كَبِيرَةً إِلَّا أَحْصَاهَا وَوَجَدُوا مَا عَمِلُوا حَاضِرًا وَلَا يَظْلِمُ رَبُّكَ أَحَدًا ٤٩

Which means: *“The record of their deeds will be laid open and you will see the guilty, dismayed at what they contain, saying, ‘Woe to us! What a record this is! It does not leave any deed, small or large, unaccounted for!’ They will find everything they ever did laid in front of them: your Lord will not be unjust to anyone.”*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Why does this happen?

First, the weakness of the family institution. Lacking parental upbringing and love, being in broken homes, and being abandoned cause children to become bullies.

Second, external influence, whether it be peers or social media. Apart from peer influence, violence, obscenity and mockery of a person’s physical appearance which are constantly displayed on social media normalise bullying. This is something that is exposed to the more than 28 million Malaysians who use social media.

Third, the selfish attitude of individuals. Ego, hot-temper, feelings of superiority, mocking, looking down on others and lacking compassion lead to cases of bullying in society.

The act of bullying has a huge impact on the victim, the bully and the families. The victim of bullying will experience stress and emotional distress throughout their lives, especially when bullied emotionally and psychologically.

The bully should think about their future and their family before they are sentenced to prison or caning, which can affect their dignity. They should not waste their lives in vain, just for fun and for a temporary solution.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Islam has suggested a few solutions to overcome this cruel act of bullying.

First, nurture love in children by providing them with ample religious education based on the Quran and *Sunnah*.

Second, provide a good environment for family members and give them the best care from an early age.

Third, be a role model for children by showing them good examples. As the saying goes, "like father, like son".

Fourth, victims of bullying and witnesses of bullying should report incidences to their parents, teachers or authorities. Act accordingly and do not hide because the victims are protected by law.

The bullies must change! Stop bullying and repent! Remember the *hadith qudsi* narrated by Imam Muslim which means:

“The Prophet (peace be upon him [PBUH]) reported that Allah the Almighty said: "My slaves! I have forbidden injustice for Myself and I have made it forbidden among you, so do not wrong one another.”

Therefore, every member of society should ensure that they and their family members are not involved in bullying or do not become victims. Observe changes in the attitudes, behaviors and lifestyles of family members. If there is depression, prolonged sadness, suppression of feelings, or aggressive behavior, it is very likely that they are involved in bullying. Befriend and get to know them so that they do not feel alone. Remember the Prophet’s (PBUH) *hadith* narrated by Imam Al-Bukhari and Imam Muslim which means:

“None of you will have faith till he wishes for his (Muslim) brother what he likes for himself.”

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

To conclude, let us reflect upon the lessons from this *khutbah* (sermon):

First, bullying is a sin and a crime that should be avoided.

Second, individuals, parents and teachers need to work together to build a caring and morally upright generation.

Third, members of the community must be alert and report any incidents of bullying to the authorities.

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ بِالْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ
إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ. أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ
وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.