

SPEECH TEXT

Parliamentary Briefing on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC): "*Parliament for Every Child: Advancing Malaysia's Commitments on Child Rights*"

8 October 2025 | Parliament of Malaysia

SALUTATIONS

- (i) Yang Berhormat Tan Sri Dato' Dr. Johari bin Abdul
Speaker of the House of Representatives;
- (ii) Yang Berhormat Senator Dato Awang Bemee bin
Awang Ali Basah
President of the Senate;
- (iii) Yang Berhormat Datuk Seri Dr. Noraini binti Ahmad
Deputy Minister of Women, Family and Community
Development

- (iv) Yang Berusaha Ms. Saskia Blume, UNICEF Deputy Representative,
- (v) Yang Berhormat Members of Parliament,
- (vi) Yang Berbahagia Datuk Dr. Maziah Che Yusoff, Secretary-General, and her delegation from the Ministry of Women, Family & Community Development
- (vii) Representatives from UNICEF Malaysia, our Children Representatives, members of the media, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Assalamualaikum and Salam Malaysia Madani,

1. It is my great pleasure to welcome all of you to this Parliamentary Briefing on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).
2. I would like to especially thank Yang Berhormat Tan Sri Speaker for his leadership in opening Parliament's doors for this important conversation, and UNICEF for its partnership in advancing the rights of children in Malaysia. Not to forget, my

sincere appreciation to all Members of Parliament, Ahli-Ahli Yang Berhormat, for your support of this meaningful occasion.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

3. This year marks three decades since Malaysia ratified the CRC in 1995. Over the years, we have seen significant progress and allow me to share some of the notable achievements for our reflection.

4. Our under-five mortality rate has steadily declined — now at only 8 deaths per 1,000 live births, compared to over 16 in the 1990s. More children than ever are enrolled in school, with almost 99% of children transitioning from primary to secondary education. KPWKM, together with relevant ministries, continues to strengthen child protection laws, including recent reforms to the Evidence of Child Witness Act.
5. Under KPWKM, we have also established a dedicated **Children's Development Department** to provide more

comprehensive support to children. To complement these efforts and ensure that everyone plays a role in protecting children's rights in Malaysia, we launched the **National Child Policy** in November last year as the main policy framework, aligning our national efforts with the CRC.

6. These are achievements we should all be proud of. However, children's rights are not static, and they should not remain only in policy documents. It requires us to constantly renew our commitment to meet the evolving needs of today's children.

7. That is why I am especially proud that today's programme includes the voices of children and youth. Allow me to introduce the child representatives joining us today which from the **Majlis Perundingan Kanak-Kanak under KPWKM, UNICEF Young People's Action Group, and the National Child Council under SUHAKAM**. Please give them a big round of applause.
8. Their participation today demonstrates that Malaysia is serious about providing space for child participation as part of our democratic process.

9. Allow me also to update Yang Berhormat Tan Sri Speaker and Ahli-Ahli Yang Berhormat that the Government of Malaysia, led by KPWKM, is currently preparing the Malaysian Delegation for the Constructive Dialogue with the CRC Committee, scheduled for January 2026.
10. One of the key issues often raised by the CRC Committee is how the governments ensure that all policies introduced take into account the needs of children.

11. This is where Parliament has a unique and powerful role — in making laws, examining policies, and approving budgets that affect the lives of every child.
12. Therefore, I call upon all Members of Parliament, whether from the Government or the Opposition, to unite in making children's rights a true national priority. Issues such as child protection, education, nutrition, the environment, and social protection do not belong to one party or another; they belong to the children of Malaysia, and therefore to all of us.

Tan Sri Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen,

13. Let me close with this: the CRC is not only about obligations — it is about opportunities. When we invest in children's rights, we invest in Malaysia's social and economic development. When we protect and empower our young people, we build a stronger, more inclusive Malaysia for all.

14. With that, I would like to once again thank everyone here for your presence, and I look forward to today's discussions — and most of all, to hearing directly from the children and youth who are with us today.

Wabillahi Taufiq Walhidaya, Wassalamualaikum
Warrahamatullahi Wabaraktuh.

Thank you.