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# Move to get women to say 'no'

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Wanita MCA has launched a HIV/AIDS campaign targeting sexually active groups and aiming to get women to say "No" to unsafe sex.

Its chairman Datuk Dr Ng Yen Yen said with 19 new HIV cases reported daily and a 35% increase in the number of infections among women last year, it was important to educate the sexually active groups on safe sex.

"It is a woman's right to health and life, and to say 'No' to unsafe sex. Women should be able to refuse sex or demand for a condom for protection," she told a press conference after the launch of

"Project Iceberg II – A Message of Love and Hope" yesterday.

First phase of the Project Iceberg, held in 2001, was to educate school children on the threat of the disease through essay writing competitions.

Dr Ng said the second phase was to create awareness among young couples, youths, women and mothers.

She added the project had also come up with a HIV/AIDS information manual in Chinese and 200 people had been trained to lead support groups.

Malaysian AIDS Council president Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir said

phase two of the project was timely.

She also said for many women it was more risky to have sex with their husbands. "For women to say 'No' has always been a problem because it is not our culture for women to refuse."

Women and Family Development Minister Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil said the disease had become a family issue and husbands had to be made more responsible for their actions.

She urged more movements to translate information on the disease into various mother tongues, including Tamil, to reach out to people of all levels of society.