



Ismail Sabri receiving a potted plant from a student at Parliament building yesterday.  
 — BERNAMAPIX

# 'Malaysia committed to protect all children'

*The Sun*  
 — 18/11/2021  
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► Best interest of every child must be taken into account, especially those from vulnerable groups or victims of sexual crime and domestic abuse, says PM

**KUALA LUMPUR:** In line with the concept of Keluarga Malaysia (Malaysian Family) and as an elected member in the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC), the government is responsible for protecting all children in Malaysia regardless of race, religion, citizenship or other status.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said Malaysia is also committed to providing protection to children, especially those from vulnerable groups, or victims of sexual crime and domestic violence.

In his speech at the 2021 World

Children's Day celebration at the Parliament building yesterday, the prime minister said between June last year and August this year, a total of 1,721 cases of sexual crime against children were recorded, while 2,162 cases were being tried in court, Bernama reported.

"Children are precious because they are God's gifts to us. I believe it is not enough to spend just one day in a year to commemorate the rights and protection that children deserve.

"We should really work harder to protect children as a few among them might become great leaders.

"Each child has the right to

proper education and a conducive environment to grow up in to achieve full potential and chase their dreams."

Ismail Sabri said Malaysia is also committed to protecting children in detention through the creation of the Alternative to Detention programme when the government took its pledge as a HRC member.

"The best interest of a child must be taken into account, especially when tackling needs of vulnerable children, including refugees. This is also in line with the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights

of the Child."

Ismail Sabri said Malaysia has always upheld the Sustainable Development Goals, which is the global agenda of the UN to ensure that no child will be left behind in the development of a country and that they have the right to live safely and happily.

He added the government was also steadfast in strengthening children's rights under Malaysia's jurisdiction, and in enhancing cooperation between various sectors, including local authorities, non-governmental organisations and international agencies under the UN umbrella.