

Headline	Thousands stand for a kinder M'sia
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Sabah school is the kindest: SM Sabana students Nurulwani Sabana and Muhammad Saiful Akhwan Maw holding a photo of a mural the students painted, using their hand prints to form a heart at the #StandTogether Carnival at Setia City Convention Centre. The Sabana school triumphed over 120 others to be the first school named 'Malaysia's Kindest School'. The Star Media Group and SP Setia initiated the #StandTogether campaign in response to a spate of school violence cases last year. See reports on page 8.



United, we stand: The #StandTogether team, led by SP Setia chairman Tan Sri Dr Wan Mohd Zahid Mohd Noordin (fourth from left) and Star Media Group's top brass, posing for a photo with Deputy Education Minister Datuk P. Kamalanathan (front row, fourth from left), celebrity ambassadors and representatives from various partner organizations. — AZMAN GHANI/The Star

Thousands stand for a kinder M'sia

Minister: We may recognise the first week of April as National Kindness Week

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SHAH ALAM: Over 6,000 people showed up to call for a kinder Malaysia and celebrate Malaysia's inaugural National Kindness Week at the #StandTogether Carnival at Setia City Convention Centre.

Numerous celebrities and VIPs turned up to support the cause, including Lisa Surihani, Harish Iskandar, Arvind Kumar, Ismail Izzani and Deputy Education Minister Datuk P. Kamalanathan.

"There are some things that I will regret but I will never regret picking up that call from Tan Sri," said Kamalanathan, referring to the call he received from SP Setia chairman Tan Sri Dr Wan Mohd Zahid Mohd Noordin to support the campaign.

"When I heard about the launch of the #StandTogether campaign late last year, I thought it was timely for someone to take up this cause."

"The ministry will fully support this campaign, and should all go well, we will recognise every first week of April as National Kindness Week," he said yesterday.

The carnival featured games, food trucks, an all-star self-defence demo by ONL Championship fighters, a cyberbullying prevention talk by Digi, a virtual reality experience by Petrosains and a blind football demonstration.



It all culminated with the very first #StandTogether Kindness Concert, where Ismail, Sablii Mac, Talitha Tan and Nik Qistina performed, and the top 10 student-led "kindness projects" from across the country were presented by the students.

SM Sabana's project was deemed the best by the judges, and the school was given the title of "Malaysia's Kindest School".

"Not only was it fun to participate in National Kindness Week, we're already starting to see positive changes in our schoolmates," said one of its students Nurulwani Sabana, 17.

"Students are now more encouraging towards each other, and appreciating each other and the people around us more. I've noticed more of us saying 'thank you' to the canteen workers, thanks to our Kindness Box activities."

The National Kindness Week was initiated by property developer SP Setia and R.A.G.E. last year as part of its #StandTogether campaign, in



Walking in another's shoes: Outdoor activities for the entire family were organised, including a blind football experience conducted by the Malaysian national blind football team.

response to a spate of horrific bullying cases in schools.

The campaign quickly gained support from celebrities and various partner organisations, including United Malaysia, Digi, Petrosains, Teach For Malaysia, Study High Asia, and 100% Project, which formed the organising committee of #StandTogether alongside SP Setia and R.A.G.E.

"It's exciting to see the climax of the campaign with everyone who

"As an educator, I'm so moved by what has happened in this campaign. I'd like to thank Datuk Seri Wong Chin Wan for his, and Star Media Group's, support," said Dr Wan Mohd Zahid.

Teacher Shirley Tan from SM USJ 12 lauded the ministry's support of the campaign.

"I am 100% for #StandTogether to be part of the school calendar."

"It shows the ministry's determination to make kindness an ongoing effort because this can't be a touch-and-go thing," she said.

However, Tan emphasised the parents' role in ensuring kindness became part of the nation's consciousness.

"Teachers and the ministry are agents of change but parents also have to inculcate positive values in their children."

"It's wonderful for the ministry to make things official but it's the responsibility of both parents and teachers to keep kindness going all year round," she said.

Support the #StandTogether National Kindness Week for 2019 by following the official Facebook page at facebook.com/standtogethermy.

Watch the video [thestartv.com](https://www.thestartv.com)

