



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Cancellation of “Glamping with Pride”

Tuesday, 13 January 2026

JEJAKA confirms that Glamping with Pride will not proceed due to serious and escalating safety concerns over the past several days.

Since our statement on 9 January 2026, the situation has changed materially. The venue owner has cancelled the booking on safety grounds, and we have received credible and explicit threats, including death threats and references to violent acts, directed at our organisation through social media. These threats have been documented, and a police report will be lodged.

We state this clearly: this programme was not cancelled because it was unlawful or otherwise, but because an environment was created in which reckless rhetoric, misinformation and fear-mongering made it unsafe for people to gather. When words are used irresponsibly, they carry consequences, and in this case, those consequences placed lives at risk.

Before the event was sensationalised, only 14 participants were registered. Over the course of a single weekend of hysteria, around 50 people expressed interest in joining what was, in reality, a small, private, health-focused community activity. Because of intimidation and threats, 50 people are now denied a safe opportunity to learn about health, well-being and community care in Malaysia’s natural environment. This is the real cost of stigma and moral panic.

We are deeply concerned that many public statements issued by authorities, institutions, organisations and political figures failed to de-escalate tensions or reaffirm the fundamental duty to protect minorities from harm. Silence or ambiguity in the face of threats normalises intimidation, and that failure has tangible consequences.

It must be said plainly: LGBTQ+ people exist everywhere, in cities and rural areas, in families, workplaces and communities across Malaysia. We are not outsiders. We are not a threat. We are Malaysians. Our right to live safely, with dignity and without fear, is protected by the Federal Constitution and by the rule of law. That protection is not optional.

We reiterate that Glamping with Pride was a private, community-based health and well-being programme that included educational activities to improve health literacy and reduce stigma around issues such as HIV. Camping and recreational activities take place across the country every day. LGBTQ+ people are no different in their desire to learn, gather and exist safely.

While this programme has been cancelled on safety grounds, we have not retreated from our values, principles or responsibility. This decision was made to protect lives, not to concede legitimacy to fear, intimidation or hate. Our work in health education, community support and the defence of dignity and human rights will continue in safe, responsible forms.

We thank fellow civil society organisations and individuals who have expressed solidarity and support. The messages we received, especially from those who said they were proud that we did not back down initially, matter deeply. Courage is not only about persistence at all costs; it is also about refusing to normalise violence while standing firm in one’s convictions.

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**About JEJAKA:** JEJAKA is an organised support group that promotes the health and rights of gay, bisexual and queer men in Malaysia. The group's strategies include enhancing the community's social networks and strengthening health and rights.

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