

# Make kids aware of sex crimes, says law don

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Children as young as 5 should be educated on the dangers of sex crimes committed by paedophiles.

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia's Family, Women and Child Law lecturer Professor Noor Aziah Mohd Awal said children's lack of knowledge had caused cases to go unreported.

Referring to the case of British paedophile Richard Huckle, who molested 200 children between 2006 and 2014, she said the incidents could have been prevented if the victims were taught how to protect themselves.

"People think it is awkward to teach children about sex.

"But under the present situation, parents and school authorities should educate them on sexual threats, such as those posed by paedophiles.

"For example, they should be taught on how to distinguish touches.

"Whether a touch is a regular touch or indecent."

On Huckle's action of using volunteer work to approach and take advantage of less fortunate children in the country, Noor Aziah said charitable bodies should be selective in accepting volunteer assistance.

"Before accepting help from volunteers, they should monitor and know the characteristics of a paedophile," said Noor Aziah, who is also a member of the Malaysian Coordinating Council for the Protection of Children.

"Although this will make it difficult for parties to conduct voluntary work, it will reduce the risk of children being harmed and mistreated."

She hoped that with the implementation of the Child (Amendment) Act 2015, a list of sex offenders with crime against children could be established to prevent such incidents from recurring.

The British media has reported that Huckle, 30, a freelance photographer, visited Malaysia as part of a teaching programme when he was 18 or 19.

He violated children while doing voluntary work here.

It was reported that Huckle groomed children at a church here and attended sermons at the church for six years.

BBC reported that legal proceedings against Huckle began in London on Wednesday. **Bernama**



**Noor Aziah**

**Mohd Awal**