



ASIA PACIFIC
TRANSGENDER
NETWORK

Media Statement

SEED Malaysia is horrified by the recent social media postings of Malaysian Dr. Shaiful Azad, who is based in New South Wales, Australia, regarding his Transgender patient.

In the transphobic posts, Dr. Shaiful claims that Transgender persons 'defy logic'. He questions why Transgender people feel the way they do, and instead of educating himself on what he acknowledges he knows very little about, he comes to the harmful assumption that it must be because Trans people have no religion. On top of that, Dr. Shaiful divulges private information about said patient that violates Doctor - Patient confidentiality. He has since deleted the post, which was written in Malay.

Subsequently, Dr. Shaiful offered an apology on his social media that further illustrates his lack of understanding of Transgender issues and why his original posts were so egregious. He does not acknowledge the fact that he violated Doctor - Patient confidentiality by posting details of the patient on social media and only argues that since he did not say the transphobic things he was thinking to the patient, he therefore did no harm.

As a medical practitioner, Dr. Shaiful has a degree of influence in society. People who aren't aware of Trans issues will likely believe his uninformed opinions, as is seen by the transphobic hate speech and abuse that followed his posts, some of which have included threats of violence against the Transgender community. Considering Malaysia is already a hostile environment for Transgender persons, the harm that Dr. Shaiful's posts have created and perpetuated cannot be overstated. Furthermore, his line of questioning towards his patient was, by his own admission, influenced by his prejudice towards Transgender people, and not that it was a requirement of the patients treatment. This clearly shows a dereliction of duty on his part.

We also feel it important to debunk the myth that Transgender persons, and the LGBT community at large, are people without religion. Many in the community are people of faith, and it is vital that we do not condone an environment where one has to choose between their gender identity and expression or sexual orientation and their faith. Every person has the freedom to express themselves as who they are and the freedom to believe and practice their religion.

Dr Shaiful has been negligent of his Hippocratic oath to respect the privacy of his patients, to not play God and above all to do no harm. We strongly urge Dr. Shaiful to educate himself on issues regarding Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity & Expression through resources like [AusPATH](#) and [TransHub](#), and to refrain from treating anymore Transgender patients until he is free of his transphobic beliefs and is sensitised to [trans-competent care and trans-cultural competency](#).

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