Fadhlina: No radicalism or violent elements for solidarity week

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PETALING JAYA: There would be no compromise on the unauthorised use of elements of extremism or violence during Palestine Solidarity Week, says the Education Ministry (MOE).

The use of replica weapons, icons and symbols in a confrontational manner are also strictly prohibited, said its minister Fadhlina Sidek (***pic***).

She said Palestine Solidarity Week, which will be held at all educational institutions under the purview of the Education Ministry from today until Nov 3, is aimed at educating children on values such as human rights, peace, harmony and universal peace.

“Programmes portraying radicalism and elements of violence are against the guidelines set by the Education Ministry.

“The Education Ministry will not compromise on any activities displaying forms of extremism, radicalism or violence, while the use of replica weapons, icons and symbols in a provocative and confrontational manner is strictly prohibited according to the guidelines,” she said in a video posted on her Facebook on Friday.

Her statement came following viral videos and photos showing students and teachers at several public schools brandishing replica firearms while waving Palestinian flags during their Palestine solidarity programmes.

Fadhlina said the Education Ministry was aware of public concern regarding such incidents, adding that the programmes in question did not follow the ministry's guidelines.

The programmes were also held outside of the Education Ministry's official Palestine Solidarity Week, she added.

"All institutions under the Education Ministry are urged to adhere to the set guidelines," she said, adding that the Education Ministry encourages activities such as poetry contests or recitals, poster competitions, prayers and fundraising for Palestine.