

Home Team Connects

Connecting You with the Home Team

An initiative by the Home Team Volunteer Network



EDITOR'S PICK

Meet Mrs Gopal, one of our remarkable COP volunteers and a crime prevention ambassador who has been serving the community for more than two decades!



[>> Read Volunteers in Blue: Mrs Gopal Vivakaambal](#)

MHA IN PARLIAMENT



First Reading

Maintenance of Racial Harmony Bill

MOS Sun introduced the Bill for First Reading in Parliament on 7 January.

[Click to read more >>](#)



Maintenance of Racial Harmony Bill

5 Things You Need to Know

1 >>>

#1 Presidential Council for Racial and Religious Harmony ("PCRRH") to be Established

The Bill will replace the Presidential Council for Religious Harmony with the PCRRH.

This independent council will:

- Advise the Minister for Home Affairs or Parliament on matters relating to the maintenance of racial and religious harmony in Singapore; and
- Make recommendations to the President on Restraining Orders.



3 >>>

Background

The state of Racial Harmony in Singapore is strong. This Bill further strengthens our ability to safeguard our social cohesion.



It takes close reference from existing legislation (i.e. Maintenance of Religious Harmony Act & Penal Code).

We consulted widely with members of the public. Majority supported the proposals in the Bill.

2 >>>

#2 Restraining Orders ("ROs") can Prohibit Communication, Production, or Distribution of Content Prejudicial to Racial Harmony

ROs can be issued to restrain a person from engaging in actions such as distributing specified information or material.

This is similar to the RO regime in the Maintenance of Religious Harmony Act ("MRHA").

The issuance of such ROs is **subject to safeguards**, like those in the MRHA.



4 >>>

#3 Current Race-Related Offences will be Ported Over and Updated

Existing Penal Code offences relating to race will be consolidated under the Bill.

Updates have been made to align the offence provisions with the equivalent provisions in the Maintenance of Religious Harmony Act, including:

- Increased penalties for race-related offences; and
- Introduction of explicit defences for conduct which are private or domestic in nature, or pointing out racial issues in good faith.



5 >>>

#4 Introduction of Community Remedial Initiative ("CRI")

Racial incidents can damage ties between racial groups; **criminal prosecution alone cannot repair community ties.**

The Bill will introduce the CRI, under which

suitable alleged offenders may be offered the opportunity to undertake programmes, to learn from and make amends for the racist conduct,

thereby soothing communal tensions and repairing ties between the communities.



6 >>>

#5 Designated Race-based Entities will be Subject to Foreign Influence Safeguards

To safeguard Singapore against malicious foreign influence exploiting and undermining our racial harmony, designated race-based entities will be subject to these baseline measures:

Requirements to disclose foreign donations and affiliations, anonymous donations as well as their leadership composition; and



Compliance with restrictions on the nationality of its governing body and responsible officers.

For a start, clans and business associations linked to the Chinese, Malay, and Indian races will be designated under the Bill. This does not preclude other race-based entities being designated in the future should the need arise.



The Bill strikes a balance between keeping public discourse free from hateful speech and allowing space for legitimate discourse.



The Government will continue to facilitate and maintain space for responsible discussions and activities about race.

Speech and conduct that threaten our racial harmony will not be tolerated.



BYTE-SIZED

Festive Visits by POHes

Thank you, HT officers, for keeping Singapore safe 24/7! On Christmas day, MOS Faishal and MOS Sun Xueling showed appreciation to officers by visiting Police Operations Command Centre and 3rd SCDF Division HQ & Yishun Fire Station respectively. MIN K. Shanmugam and MOS Faishal started the year off with visits to Kallang Fire Station and Changi Airport Terminal 3.





DID YOU KNOW?

BEETLE PATROL CAR

In the early 1970s, the Police Radio Division used Volkswagen Beetles for patrol and response. The car is accessible only from the front, making it difficult for suspects seated at the back to escape.



FEATURES



Empowering Tech Trendsetters at HTX

HTX Scholarship recipient Jaren Chua shares his journey and aspiration to be at the forefront of homeland security innovation, to combat security threats with the Home Team.

By Amber Qua and Tang Ying Hui

Scan to read on the web



Click to read more >>



SPS and YRSG collaborated with Mediacorp to produce "Another Wok of Life".

Featuring #CaptainsOfLives from Selarang Park Complex and Changi Prison Complex, and YRSG's Hope Café!

Catch the Drama on MeWatch from 13 January, or on Channel 8, weekdays 9pm from 16 Jan onwards!



YOUR FEEDBACK MATTERS



GOT A MINUTE?

Thank you for reading our HT Connects newsletter! 😊

Any feedback on this month's HT Connects issue? Let us know by scanning the QR Code or email us at MHA_HTVOLUNTEERS@mha.gov.sg





Connect with Us!



One Home, One Team – Together We Keep Our Home Safe and Secure



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