

# Research Findings on Attitudes towards the Death Penalty in Singapore

Three studies were conducted from 2019-2021 on the use of the death penalty in Singapore, to better understand the perceptions of Singapore residents and those in regional cities.



## Very Strong Support in Singapore for Use of Death Penalty for the Most Serious Crimes

- **74%** agreed or strongly agreed that death penalty is justified<sup>1</sup> and should be used for the most serious crimes.<sup>2</sup>
- Large majority agreed or strongly agreed that death penalty deters drug trafficking (**83%**), firearm offences (**86%**), and intentional murder (**86%**).<sup>2</sup>

## Strong Agreement in Singapore that Death Penalty is Effective in Deterring Drug Trafficking

- **79%** believed that death penalty deters people from trafficking substantial amounts of drugs into Singapore.<sup>1</sup>
- **66%** agreed or strongly agreed that the mandatory death penalty is appropriate as the punishment for trafficking a significant amount of drugs.<sup>2</sup>

## Very High Level of Confidence in Singapore's Criminal Justice System

- **89%** had confidence that accused persons in death penalty cases are subject to fair and rigorous investigations.<sup>2</sup>
- **88%** had confidence that accused persons in death penalty cases undergo fair and rigorous trials.<sup>2</sup>
- **85%** believed that there were adequate safeguards to ensure that there were no wrongful executions.<sup>2</sup>

## Most Regional Residents believe Death Penalty Deters People from Trafficking Drugs into Singapore

- **87%** believed that death penalty makes people not want to traffic substantial amounts of drugs into Singapore.<sup>3</sup>
- **83%** believed that death penalty is more effective than life imprisonment in deterring drug traffickers.<sup>3</sup>

### Source:

<sup>1</sup> Study on Attitudes towards the Use of Capital Punishment, Institute of Policy Studies, 2020

<sup>2</sup> Survey on Singapore Residents' Attitudes towards the Death Penalty, MHA Research and Statistics Division, 2021

<sup>3</sup> Perception of Residents in Regional Cities on Singapore's Crime Situation, Law and Safety, MHA Home Team Behavioural Sciences Centre, 2021

