



MEDIA FACTSHEET

COUNTER-RADICALISATION OUTREACH TO SCHOOLS AND YOUTHS

Terrorism poses a serious threat to Singapore's safety and security. The community plays an important role in staying vigilant and reporting suspected radicalised individuals to the authorities in a timely manner, so that appropriate intervention can take place before any harm is done or caused by the individual.

2 ISD has been working with other government agencies and community partners to reach out to different segments in the community, to raise public awareness of the threat of terrorism and online radicalisation. Such upstream outreach efforts play a crucial role in preventing radical ideology from taking root in our society.

ISD's Partnership with MOE, Schools & Institutes of Higher Learning

3 The Ministry of Education (MOE) is a key partner of ISD's counter-terrorism (CT) and counter-radicalisation (CR) outreach to the educators, students and youths. Since 2007, ISD has collaborated with MOE, schools, and institutes of higher learning, on various CT/CR outreach activities, such as talks, workshops, seminars and webinars.

4 In view of the growing trend of youth radicalisation¹, such outreach efforts have been intensified in recent years. The participants include youths as well as those who interact with youths regularly – such as educators, staff handling non-academic student matters, school counsellors (SCs) and student welfare officers (SWOs). In 2022, ISD organised at least 69 CT/CR outreach events, both online and in-person, for more than 2,300 participants including student leaders, educators and other school staff.

¹ Since 2015, eight self-radicalised Singaporean youths aged between 16 and 20 have been issued with Orders of Detention or Restriction Orders under the Internal Security Act.

Outreach to Principals, Educators and Student Leaders

5 In 2021 and 2022, ISD conducted CT/CR webinars and workshops for MOE's cluster superintendents as well as school principals in all primary schools, secondary schools and junior colleges, to sensitise them to the terrorism threat and tell-tale signs of radicalisation, and the importance of early reporting. MOE has since incorporated such CT/CR workshops into the core programme for principals at all levels, as part of a national initiative to pre-emptively address potential threats arising from violent extremism. ISD has also held CT/CR webinars and workshops for senior staff and educators of the Autonomous Universities (AUs).

6 In addition, ISD has conducted CT/CR workshops and webinars for student leaders in Junior Colleges, Polytechnics, Institutes of Technical Education, and AUs. Student leaders are a critical touchpoint for the dissemination of CT/CR messages to the larger student population.

Training for School Counsellors and Student Welfare Officers

7 Since 2016, ISD has also conducted workshops for SCs and SWOs, to train them to identify signs of radicalisation among students. As of 2022, over 350 SCs and SWOs in the secondary schools have attended the workshops. Each workshop includes a visit to the ISD Heritage Centre to sensitise them to security threats, as well as a training session to educate them on the radicalisation process and factors, especially among youths, the behavioural indicators to look out for, and the intervention measures they can take.

Community Partners

8 Community partners such as the Religious Rehabilitation Group (RRG) and Inter-Agency Aftercare Group (ACG) also conduct regular outreach efforts through visits to RRG Resource & Counselling Centre, assembly talks and youth forums to sensitise members of the public, especially youths to the terrorism threat and strengthen the community's resilience against extremist ideas.

9 During the COVID-19 pandemic, the RRG intensified its digital outreach to the community, including youths, through online lectures and videos, Facebook livestreams, and Zoom engagements. With the relaxation of pandemic restrictions, the RRG resumed its in-person outreach efforts in 2022, collaborating with ISD to arrange visits to the ISD Heritage Centre for youths and other members of the public, and holding seminars on countering violent extremism. For example, in March 2022, the RRG arranged a visit to the ISD Heritage Centre for 50 youths, and co-organised a forum with the Indian Muslim Social Service Association for 250 youths.



Youth forum co-organised by RRG and Indian Muslim Social Service Association, 26 Mar 2022.

10 The ACG has also organised numerous counter-ideology forums for youth, to strengthen their social resilience against the threat of terrorism. For example, the ACG organised a youth forum with the theme “#Youth[for]Peace – Guarding Against Exclusivism and Extremism” on 19 November 2022 for 200 youths from various Institutes of Higher Learning. In September 2021, a hybrid youth forum titled “Empowering Youths: Countering Extremism and Strengthening Social Cohesion”, was co-organised by ACG, RRG and Taman Bacaan, for approximately 60 youths and madrasah students.



#Youth[for]Peace Forum, 19 November 2022.

Internal Security Department
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