



# AMENDMENTS TO THE MAINTENANCE OF RELIGIOUS HARMONY ACT (MRHA)





# **Why do we need to amend the Maintenance of Religious Harmony Act (MRHA)?**

**The amendments strengthen our ability to safeguard against and respond more effectively to threats to our religious harmony.**

**Penal Code offences relating to religion will also be consolidated under the MRHA.**

**Various religious organisations have provided feedback, and support the proposed amendments.**





# Key Amendment



**[NEW]**

## **Introducing Safeguards against Foreign Influence**

To safeguard against foreign influence that may adversely affect our religious harmony, religious groups will be required to:

- **Disclose single donations of \$10,000 or more from foreign donors.**
- **Ensure key leadership positions are held by Singapore citizens or Permanent Residents.**
- **Declare affiliations to foreign individuals or organisations with control over a local religious organisation.**



# Key Amendment



**[NEW]**

## **Introduction of the Community Remedial Initiative (CRI)**

**Provides offenders with opportunities to better understand and mend relations with affected religious communities.**

**The CRI is voluntary and taken into account when assessing whether to prosecute for the offending act(s).**





# Key Amendment



## Updating the Restraining Order (RO)

The Government can issue ROs to individuals who cause religious disharmony or mix religion and politics, to prevent further such actions by them.

### [NEW]

- Once issued, ROs will take immediate effect to prevent offensive statements from spreading on the Internet and social media.
- ROs can also be issued to religious organisations to further safeguard against foreign influence.

### [UNCHANGED]

Offenders can appeal to the Presidential Council for Religious Harmony, which will then recommend to the President whether to confirm, cancel or vary the ROs.

