

Home Team Connects

Connecting You with the Home Team

An initiative by the Home Team Volunteer Network



EDITOR'S PICK

STRENGTHENING OUR CORE

The SG CORE (COhesion & RESilience) programme is a **ground-up community initiative, organised by inter-faith non-governmental organisation Humanity Matters, in support of the SGSecure movement.** The programme engages both youths and adults on the appreciation of Singapore's multiculturalism, the commonalities that bind our society together and threats that can tear us apart.



The pilot programme had 400 participants, including Home Team volunteers and national servicemen, and community volunteers. The completion of the pilot series was marked on 19 August by MOS Sun Xueling, community partners and programme participants.

In her opening address, MOS Sun spoke about how the racial and religious harmony that we enjoy today will always be work-in-progress and the importance of collective efforts by the government, individuals and community to foster a stronger mutual understanding and trust among the communities in Singapore.

MOS Sun concluded with a call to action to everyone present, **to continue "to find more ways to continue building up mutual understanding and fellowship with different races and religions, strengthening our social cohesion and resilience as a nation."**

>> [Read MOS' speech](#)

HIGHLIGHTS

A VIGILANT, RESILIENT AND UNITED COMMUNITY

Over the past three months, the SGSecure Roadshows have made its way around various parts of Singapore such as Suntec City, Kampung Admiralty, Hillion Mall, HDB Hub Atrium and Our Tampines Hub. Residents were given the opportunity to learn useful emergency preparedness skills such as how to detect suspicious behaviours and items, perform CPR-AED, Improvised First Aid, and respond to a simulated terrorist attack inside a cinema setting.



Officers from SPF and SCDF engaged residents on the importance of being vigilant, resilient and united both in peacetime and crisis. Many Grassroots Advisers have also visited the roadshows and expressed their support for the SGSecure movement.

Don't miss the upcoming Roadshows at these locations:

- 28 to 30 Oct @ Open field beside Hougang MRT
- 18 to 20 Nov @ Ngee Ann City, Civic Plaza
- 2 to 4 Dec @ Canopy @ J Link

#OurResponseMatters #WeMakeSGSecure

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT FOR POLICE OFFICERS

On the week of 3 October 2022, in Parliament, four Members of Parliament filed Parliamentary Questions on the measures and help available to ensure the mental well-being of Police officers.

Here's an excerpt of the Oral Reply by MOS Sun Xueling:

Home Team officers are provided with avenues of support from the time they join the Home Team. Resilience and stress management training are provided to all new officers. We provide training on detection of personal distress, and this includes suicide prevention. Staff feedback is collected through regular staff engagement and pulse surveys, and the concerns raised include issues which officers may face in the workplace. Home Team supervisors are trained with the skills to identify and support officers who need help. This approach and culture have been built over many years.

Across the Home Team Departments, in-house psychological services are made available to officers, including first responders. Psychologists in the Home Team Departments attend to the mental health needs of the officers.

Peer support programmes, such as para-counsellors, have also been implemented in Home Team Departments to provide care and support. For the Singapore Police Force (SPF), there is also a 24/7 helpline managed in-house by our psychologists and SPF senior para-counsellors. We have another external agency-administered 24/7 helpline which is available to all Home Team officers.

>> [Read the complete Oral Reply by MOS Sun](#)

POTENTIAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING OF SCAM

Two Members of Parliament, Mr Saktiandi Supaat and Mr Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim raised concerns on reports of job scams by human trafficking syndicates in Southeast Asia. Here's the Written Reply to Mr Saktiandi Supaat by MIN:

The Police are monitoring potential human trafficking of scam victims, who are lured by scam syndicates to "work" in other countries. As the Minister for Home Affairs informed Parliament in September 2022, since 2021, there has been one Police report involving potential Singaporean victims. In this report, the complainant claimed that he had heard from another party, that there were Singaporean victims possibly being kept against their will in Myanmar to work for scam syndicates there. The complainant stated that he had not personally spoken to the said Singaporeans, and did not have any other information or details regarding the identity of the Singaporeans. The Police have referred this case to their counterpart in Myanmar for assistance.

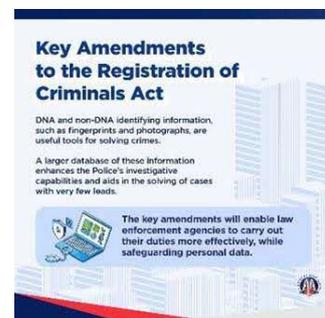
Singapore participates in various regional efforts to discuss cooperation on combating transnational crime, including scams and trafficking in persons. This includes the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime and its Working Group on trafficking in persons, as well as the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime. We will continue to work closely with other countries to address the threat of scams and trafficking in persons.

>> [Read the Written Reply to Mr Zhulkarnain](#)

SECOND READING OF THE REGISTRATION OF CRIMINALS (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Registration of Criminals (Amendment) Bill was passed in Parliament on 12 September 2022. The Bill aims to:

1. Expand the scope for the collection of DNA information and other identifying information;
2. Expand the prescribed uses of DNA information;
3. Strengthen the protection of DNA information; and
4. Introduce procedures to allow the removal of information in the databases.



>> [Read the Second Reading Speech by MOS Sun Xueling](#)

>> [Read the Wrap-Up Speech by MOS Sun Xueling](#)

SECOND READING OF THE DEBT COLLECTION BILL

The Debt Collection Bill was passed in Parliament on 13 September 2022. The Bill aims to:



1. Regulate the debt collection industry and prevent problematic debt collection conduct by setting standards of entry into the industry and imposing appropriate licensing requirements on debt collection businesses and debt collectors; and

2. Reduce problematic debt collection conduct by putting in place appropriate levers to take errant debt collection businesses and debt collectors to task.

>> [Read the Second Reading Speech by MOS Sun Xueling](#)

>> [Read the Wrap-Up Speech by MOS Sun Xueling](#)

HOME TEAM UPDATES

POLICIES IN SOCIETY'S BEST INTEREST



Drugs, the death penalty, repealing Section 377A and FICA were among the issues discussed during MIN K Shanmugam's interview with Bloomberg Television on 14 September.

When asked what it would take for Singapore to review its stance on the death penalty, MIN said that **Singapore's drug policy and penalties for drug abuse are determined by what the Republic considers to be the best interests of Singaporeans, and are not dictated by anti-death penalty activists or a few international media reports.** The Government believes that the death penalty saves thousands of lives because of its deterrent effect against drug trafficking.

On the decision to repeal Section 377A, MIN reiterated that the Government has a duty both to lead and to understand the people's wishes. "We are trying to **forge as much of a consensus as possible and move forward with some social harmony,**" said MIN. People should be able to express their viewpoints on all sides, as long as it is not offensive and doesn't descend to hate speech.

"There are two questions. One, whether under any circumstances, even if thousands of lives can be saved, whether the state should execute anyone. That's a philosophical question, we can debate it. Second, whether it actually has that deterrent effect, we are convinced of it. We believe that it saves a lot of lives and it stops a lot of crimes.." – Min K Shanmugam

>> [Read MIN's interview transcript](#)

S377A REPEAL THE RIGHT MOVE: PANEL

Repealing Section 377A of the Penal Code is the right move - about **90 law academics and senior members of the legal fraternity supported this view** at a panel discussion with MIN Shanmugam on 26 September.

Fellow panellists Law Society president Adrian Tan and Singapore University of Social Sciences law school dean Leslie Chew both agreed the apex court's decision in the February case of Tan Seng Kee v Attorney-General had made it obvious that **there was a risk s377A could be found unconstitutional in future.**



Mr Tan pointed out that **when laws are changed through a litigious court process, interconnected laws may not be attended to. But when changed through Parliament, related laws can be dealt with at the same time.**

In his address, MIN Shanmugam said the Government had options to deal with s377A, such as doing nothing or amending the Constitution. He said the **Government chose to repeal the law and protect the definition of marriage, as it was the principled and right thing to do.**

>> [MIN's Opening speech](#)

SANA CONFERENCE: A JOURNEY OF SECOND CHANCES

The **Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association (SANA) organised a Conference on Recovery and Desistance from Substance Abuse** on 29 September. With the theme Amplified Voices: Persons in Recovery, the event provided a platform for **former drug offenders to share their recovery journey and for professionals – researchers and social workers – to share their best practices on rehabilitation programmes.**

In his opening speech, MIN K Shanmugam highlighted the recent trends in drug supply, abuse, and liberalisation of drug use. **“Deaths associated with drug abuse continue to rise. The World Health Organisation estimated that about 500,000 deaths were linked to drug abuse last year,”** he said.

Regionally, drugs are becoming more accessible and abundant. A recent example is Thailand, which has removed cannabis from its list of controlled drugs, leading to increased recreational use and resulting in at least one death.

Locally, **Singapore has sought to base its policies on “evidence, science, and common sense”.** A literature review by the Institute of Mental Health in 2015 noted that **cannabis consumption is associated with irreversible brain damage, shrinkage of the brain, as well as serious mental and psychiatric illnesses.**



“We are very tough on people who make a cynical calculation to make money out of selling drugs... (but) with drug abusers I think we need to show them sympathy, compassion, kindness, and try and give them a better life.” – MIN K Shanmugam

In a separate keynote address, **MOS Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim** focused on emphasising the **multi-faceted drug preventive campaign, and intensive rehabilitation and reintegration programmes,** that Singapore has adopted.

MOS Faishal stressed the importance of **stable employment as an integral part of rehabilitation and reintegration.** He thanked the ex-offenders and former drug abusers for bravely sharing their struggles and recovery to encourage other addicts.

>> [Read MIN's Speech](#)

>> [Read MOS' Keynote Address](#)

ASIAN AND PACIFIC CONFERENCE OF CORRECTIONAL ADMINISTRATORS

The Singapore Prison Service (SPS) hosted the Asian and Pacific Conference of Correctional Administrators (APCCA) 2022, which resumed after a two-year hiatus. It was held virtually from 19 to 23 September with more than 1,000 participants, including officials from 22 countries and regions. The APCCA is a platform for **government agencies within the Asia-Pacific region to exchange ideas and share practices in prison and correctional administration.**



These three planks are key – agility, collaboration with the community and the use of technology.” – 2MIN Josephine Teo

Along with this year’s theme, “Forging New Frontiers in Corrections”, Guest-of-Honour 2Min Josephine Teo emphasised three key points in her address:

- (a) **Agility** is essential for correctional agencies to respond quickly to changes brought about by crises. **Correctional leaders and staff have to be well-trained to remain agile for the correctional work of the future.**
- (b) **Collaboration with the community** to provide a strong ecosystem of support for ex-offenders and their families. SPS has introduced initiatives such as the **Employment Preparation Scheme** for suitable offenders to undergo skills training and education in the community.
- (c) **Technology and data** that are **meaningfully used by correctional agencies** can bolster the support for inmates in need of help during incarceration and post-release.

>> [Read 2MIN’s speech](#)

APPRECIATING DADAH ITU HARAM VOLUNTEERS

CNB’s Dadah Itu Haram (DIH) campaign held an appreciation lunch on 9 October to thank its volunteers and partners for their support in advocating the drug-free message.

Guest-of-Honour MOS Assoc Prof Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim presented certificates of appreciation to representatives from Malay/Muslim Organisations (MMOs) and community partners.



In his speech, MOS acknowledged the work of volunteer groups, mosques and the MMO Rehabilitation Network in looking out for one another within the community in preventing and desisting drug abuse.

MOS Faishal also highlighted Thailand’s legalisation of cannabis as well as liberal drug attitudes in other countries as one of the future challenges to Singapore’s drug control strategy, and called for greater community support to amplify the DIH message.

>> [Read MOS Faishal’s speech](#)

>> [Check out MOS Faishal’s FB post](#)

