

# Home Team Connects

Connecting You with the Home Team

An initiative by the Home Team Volunteer Network



## EDITOR'S PICK

### STRENGTHENING SUPPORT FOR EX-OFFENDERS



Home Team Volunteer Network (HTVN) and Singapore Prison Services (SPS) held a **HTVN Connects Dialogue Session on 11 March** for over 40 members sitting on Home Team Boards/Councils/Committees as well as volunteers.

SPS shared their plans to reduce recidivism rates and the Desistor Network which will be launched next month. Participants also got to tour the institution and hear from the inmates.



The session helped **reinforce participants' awareness of reintegration challenges in the longer term as well as call for greater community action and to be more deliberate in supporting desistance.**



## MHA IN PARLIAMENT

### BILLS

#### Second Reading of the Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) Bill and the Constitution of the Republic of Singapore (Amendment) Bill

Both bills were passed in Parliament on 21 March, paving the way to: a **new legislative framework for psychoactive substances as defined by the capacity to induce psychoactive effects** rather than the chemical structure, and increased penalties **for offenders possessing large quantities of controlled drugs via a tiered framework with the maximum sentence set at 30 years' imprisonment.**

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

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

#### Amendments to Misuse of Drugs Act

The Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) Bill will

- Introduce a new legislative framework for psychoactive substances.
- Increase the punishment for possession of large quantities of more dangerous and harmful controlled drugs.



## YOUTH RADICALISATION

Member of Parliament Mr Yip Hon Weng filed a Parliamentary Question on youths radicalising via gaming, chat and social media platforms and the steps taken to track and identify extremist content on such platforms.

Here's an excerpt of the **Oral Reply by MOS Assoc Prof Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim**:

**“The number of self-radicalised youths has increased, and they are getting younger. From 2007 to 2014, only one self-radicalised youth, aged 20, was detained under the Internal Security Act (ISA). Since 2015, there have been 11 self-radicalised youths aged between 15 and 20 who were detained or issued with Restriction Orders under the ISA. They were exposed to extremist and radical content through a variety of online platforms, including gaming, chat and social media platforms.**

**The Government has blocked access to some websites that perpetuate extremist messaging and ideologies.** Separately, under the amended Broadcasting Act which took effect on 1 February 2023, the Info-communications Media Development Authority can direct social media services to disable access to content instructing or advocating terrorism or violence. As announced during the Ministry of Communications and Information’s Committee of Supply debate this year, **MCI will study further measures to strengthen online safety on other services, including gaming platforms and app stores.**

**The Ministry of Home Affairs will also be introducing later this year, legislation to combat online criminal harms, which will cover content that incites terror-related activities.”**

[>> Read the full Oral Reply by MOS Faishal](#)

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## HOME TEAM UPDATES

### HUNTING DOWN PHISHES AND SCAMS

HTX has developed three tools to equip officers with enhanced capabilities in hunting down scam websites.

#### 1. Online Cybersquat Hunt (OCH)

OCH utilises AI with image and text analytics to identify the tell-tale characteristics of scam websites. It can scan up to two million websites each day and flag the most suspicious websites for further review. **It is now implemented in PhishMonSG, a phishing detection tool HTX jointly developed with GovTech.**

#### 2. Scam-Site Indicator Digital Assessment (SIDA)

SIDA aids officers in reviewing suspicious websites flagged by OCH. It uses a suite of Machine Learning algorithms to **predict the websites’ authenticity and automatically checks if the sites contain malicious content.**



#### 3. SYNWEB

Scam websites are like cockroaches – they seemingly can never be taken down. Resurrected scam and phishing websites often use alternative domain names and URLs to avoid detection. SYNWEB enables officers to **automatically check within a database, whether a new website is similar to past known scam websites.**

HTX is also exploring tools to prevent other types of scams, such as credit-for-sex scams.



**“To ensure that our users have robust tools to fight against scam websites, we work closely with them to scope and refine the tools to meet their unique needs and use cases.”**

– Tan Wei Lin, Engineer, Q Team, HTX

## EXERCISE NORTHSTAR XI

Exercise Northstar XI, a multi-agency counter-terrorism and consequence management exercise led by the Singapore Civil Defence Force, was held successfully on 22 March at Jurong Island. The scenarios played out include armed adversary, pipeline rupture and oil tank fires.



#THANKYUGUARDIANS

## EYES ON THE GROUND: EMERGENCY VIDEO SYSTEM

### HOW IT WORKS



When you call '999' or '995', our operator will assess whether a live video stream is required.



If required, you will be asked to give consent to stream live video from your mobile phone. Once consent is given, an SMS with hyperlink will be sent to you.

Do not end the emergency call but put your phone on speaker mode.



Tap on the hyperlink to start streaming the video via your mobile phone camera. Our operator will continue to give instructions over the phone.



From 20 March, callers to "999" and "995" will be able to provide SPF and SCDF officers a live stream of the situation through their mobile phones.

This will greatly help with the Home Team's incident management and facilitate the emergency response where officers may face difficulties in understanding the incident situation.

## 'I CAN ACT AGAINST SCAMS'

'ACT', which stands for 'Add, Check and Tell', is a framework that encourages everyone to take concrete actions to protect themselves and their loved ones against scams.

Everyone is strongly encouraged to download the ScamShield app to protect yourselves from scam calls and SMSes.

**ACT Framework**

**ADD** ScamShield & security features

**CHECK** for scam signs & with official sources

**TELL** authorities, family & friends

## FIGHTING TERRORISM AND TRANSNATIONAL CRIME



MOS Assoc Prof Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim attended the **4th Sub-Regional Meeting on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Security** in Melbourne on 15 March.

Ministers and senior government officials from Australia, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines and Thailand discussed issues such as counterterrorism, violent extremism, cyber resilience, online scams and

irregular migration. The delegates **reaffirmed their commitment to work together and share best practices in our fight against terrorism and transnational crime.**

## SCDF-SINGPOST AED-ON-WHEELS PROGRAMME LAUNCH

On 13 March, the SCDF-SingPost Automated External Defibrillator (AED)-On-Wheels programme was officially launched by MOS Faishal Ibrahim. The programme equips vehicles on the move with AEDs, in support of SCDF's Save-A-Life initiative. **SingPost will contribute 25 vehicles to the programme, all equipped with AEDs, first aid kits, and fire extinguishers. The drivers have undergone training conducted by SCDF to use the devices, apply first aid and perform CPR.**



**“To date, our community first responders on wheels have responded to some 150 suspected cardiac arrest cases... Every little effort can make a big difference to the lives of those caught in an emergency.”**

– MOS Faishal Ibrahim

[>> Read MOS Faishal's speech](#)

## COMMON SENSES FOR COMMON SPACES @ HEARTLANDS



On 4 March, over 70 Punggol Town Community Response Roundtable members attended the Common Senses for Common Spaces @ Heartlands inter-faith dialogue organised by non-governmental organisation, Humanity Matters, at Punggol 21 CC. Grassroots Advisers MOS Sun Xueling and Ms Yeo Wan Ling co-hosted the dialogue, titled “Follow That Rainbow”. The dialogue discussed the use of colours from professional, psychological, social, and spiritual perspectives and expounded on how keen eyes for commonalities is one of the ways to tackle issues such as exclusivism.

The Community Response Roundtable is a signature SGSecure programme that brings together representatives from schools, businesses, grassroots, religious, and other community groups within a geographical area to raise community awareness of the terrorism threat and strengthen local community-level emergency preparedness. The programme was piloted in 2019 and is being rolled out islandwide.

## HTVN CALENDAR

As we usher in the new year, HTVN started an e-calendar series featuring our various volunteer schemes for each month! 🥰

>> [Download the HTVN e-Calendar here](#)



## HOME TEAM INSIGHTS

### SUPERINTENDENT + SUPERMUM



MP Indranee Rajah speaks with an inspiring #CaptainOfLives who juggles work and being a mother of four:

>> <https://go.gov.sg/sps-080323>

### CAN'T SMOKE ICA



Four separate attempts in three weeks to smuggle contraband cigarettes by cars were foiled by eagle-eyed ICA officers:

>> [go.gov.sg/ica-200323](https://go.gov.sg/ica-200323)

## 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](mailto:MHA_HTVOLUNTEERS@mha.gov.sg)



Have a story to share? Connect with Us



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



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