

Home Team Connects

Connecting You with the Home Team

An initiative by the Home Team Volunteer Network




MHA IN PARLIAMENT

SEDITION (REPEAL) BILL

The Sedition (Repeal) Bill was passed in Parliament on 5th October 2021. The Bill will repeal the Sedition Act and make related amendments to other Acts.

>> [Read the Second Reading Speech by MIN K Shanmugam](#)

>> [Read the Wrap-up Speech by MIN K Shanmugam](#)



SEDITION (REPEAL) BILL

MHA will repeal the Sedition Act and make related amendments to other Acts.


The Sedition Act, enacted in 1938, addresses conduct that could weaken our social fabric and undermine our institutions.

- ▶ New laws have been introduced to deal with these concerns in a more targeted and calibrated manner.
- ▶ The Sedition Act is of limited application now.

Related Amendments to Other Acts to Ensure Social Cohesion:

Penal Code	
<i>To be amended to ensure social cohesion between different groups in Singapore.</i>	
Section 267C	To be amended so that we can continue to address conduct that affects social cohesion between classes of the population* in Singapore, after the Sedition Act is repealed. The Maintenance of Religious Harmony Act and Penal Code address cases of disharmony involving religious and racial groups.

*Different classes of the population can include groups of persons identified on the basis of nationality or residential status.



1. BREAKING THE CYCLE OF FAMILY VIOLENCE



The multi-stakeholder Taskforce on Family Violence released its report with **16** recommendations to tackle family violence in Singapore. Chaired by MOS Muhammad

Faishal Ibrahim and MOS/MSF Sun Xueling and comprising 21 members from various government agencies, social service agencies, and NGOs, the Taskforce was set up in February 2020 to study the landscape of family violence, identify areas for improvement and co-create solutions to tackle the issue.

[>> Read the Report of the Taskforce on Family Violence](#)

“The recommendations address key gaps which need to be strengthened and addressed, for us to prevent family violence wherever we can, and to support the victim-survivors of family violence better, even as we deal firmly with perpetrators and strengthen their rehabilitation.”

– MOS Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim

FOUR KEY THRUSTS

The Taskforce has developed comprehensive recommendations aimed at improving immediate support for survivors, enhancing protection for them, preventing violence from recurring, and raising awareness of early warning signs. The recommendations are organised according to four key thrusts:

1. Increasing awareness of family violence, strengthening societal attitudes against violence and enhancing preventive efforts for persons at risk
2. Making it easier for survivors and the community to seek and receive immediate help
3. Strengthening the protection and support provided to survivors
4. Increasing the accountability of perpetrators and strengthen their rehabilitation

HOME TEAM INITIATIVES TO ADDRESS FAMILY VIOLENCE

Home Team Community Assistance and Referral Scheme (HT CARES)

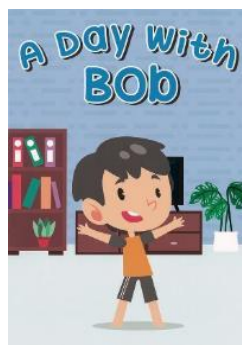
- Police have expanded HT CARES islandwide and set up HT CARES Centres at Police Cantonment Complex and Woodlands Division, in addition to the existing one at Bedok Division. The scope of HT CARES has been expanded to include the next-of-kin of offenders, including those investigated for family violence offences.
- As of 31 July, HT CARES has successfully engaged over 300 offenders referred by the Police, with encouraging outcomes.

Upskilling of Police

- The Taskforce recommends enhancing training for the Police to better address the needs of survivors and perpetrators of family violence, and to enhance the care provided by Police officers to victims.
- Currently, all Police officers already undergo victim empathy training, and are trained to be sensitive to victims during investigations.
- Following the recommendations, all frontline Police officers might also undergo a training module conducted by the Social Service Institute on understanding family violence to help them understand the dynamics of family violence.

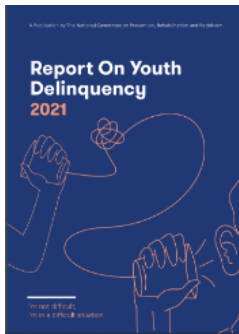
‘A Day with Bob’

- To further increase awareness of family violence, Police and MOE have distributed the educational pictorial book, ‘A Day with Bob’ to students in all primary schools in the North Zone.
- Work with MOE to expand distribution to all primary schools in Singapore.



[>> Read MHA and MSF’s press release on the Taskforce’s report](#)

2. DROP IN OVERALL YOUTH OFFENDER NUMBER, BUT DRUGS AND SEX CRIMES RISE



The number of youth offenders dropped by 43.3% between 2010 and 2020, according to the Report on Youth Delinquency 2021 published by the National Committee on Prevention, Rehabilitation and Recidivism (NCPRR).

“Let us steer away from labelling or stigma. Instead, consider how we can help youths change their ‘difficult situation’, to help them achieve their fullest potential.”

– MOS Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim

However, drug abuse and offences of a sexual nature (i.e. outrage of modesty and rape) are of concern, having seen an upward trend of 10% and 48% respectively over 2016 and 2020. Speaking at the virtual Conversations On Youth 2021 symposium which saw the release of the report, NCPRR Co-Chair MOS Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim called for closer collaborations between public agencies and community partners to help at-risk youths by treating each youth as a unique individual with his or her own set of challenges.

The symposium was attended by school leaders, social workers and law enforcement officers. In line with this year’s theme “I’m Not Difficult; I’m in a Difficult Situation,” the symposium sought to look beyond the negative behaviours displayed by troubled youths and to consider the underlying environmental factors that contribute to the youths’ problems. Attendees discussed research and trends on youth offending, community programmes for youths-at-risk and effective strategies to support holistic development for youths.

>> [Read MOS’ Closing Address at the Conversations on Youth 2021 Symposium](#)

>> [Read the Report on Youth Delinquency 2021](#)

3. SCDF MID-YEAR STATISTICS 2021

SCDF released its mid-year statistics for 2021. Here are some facts about how SCDF has fared this year!

Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

- SCDF has responded to a whopping 97,485 EMS calls.
- Non-emergency EMS calls decreased significantly by 15% from the first half of 2020 to the first half of 2021.
- The number of false alarm EMS calls also decreased significantly by 16% from the first half of 2020 to the first half of 2021.

Why the decrease in EMS calls and false alarm EMS calls?

In general, there are more people staying at home due to COVID-19, and SCDF’s has been successful in raising public awareness about not calling 995 for non-emergencies.

Fire Incidents

- SCDF responded to 944 fire calls in the first half of 2021, a decrease from 950 in the first half of 2020.
- Fire incidents that occurred in residential premises (both private and public) decreased 3% from the first half of 2020 to the first half of 2021.

Cause of Fires in Residential Premises in First Half of 2021



Fire Incidents involving Personal Mobility Devices (PMDs) and Power Assisted Bicycles (PABs)

- There were 29 cases of fires involving PMDs and PABs in the first half of 2021.
- There was a significant decrease in fires involving PMDs (by 35%) from the first half of 2020 to the first half of 2021.
- There was also a significant decrease in fires involving PABs (by 29%) from the first half of 2020 to the first half of 2021.



Thank you, SCDF, for your tremendous work!

HOME TEAM UPDATES

1. OMNII LIFESAVER

Since 26 August, OMNII (Operational Medical Networks Informatics Integrator) has been integrated into the workflow of emergency medical services. This digital platform connects SCDF and hospitals, allowing information on patients to be shared more actively, for greater efficiency in patient care.



>> go.gov.sg/scdf-omnii-video

2. SINGAPORE'S GATEKEEPERS

Did you know that in 2020, 41,000 cases of contraband were detected across all of Singapore's checkpoints? Meet the dedicated ICA officers who prevent illegal products from slipping through our borders!



>> go.gov.sg/ica-detecting-specialists

3. TRAINING SAFELY UNDER THE NEW NORMAL

Go behind the scenes to learn more about the training offered by HTA and its three co-located training schools from SPF, ICA and SPS.



>> go.gov.sg/hta-training-200921

4. SG SECURE

Ensuring a Secure SG | A low possibility doesn't mean there's no possibility for terrorism to strike Singapore. In the event of an attack, our community response is vital in ensuring that damage is minimised.



>> go.gov.sg/mha-sgsecure2021

SAVE THE DATE

HTVN 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

PSST! SOMETHING BIG IS COMING 🤫

Something major is being planned behind the scenes to commemorate our 10th anniversary. But what could it be? Expect fun and exciting things coming your way! Save the date and share it with your fellow volunteers.

Follow our social media for more updates!

#OrdinaryPeopleExtraordinaryMission

#HomeTeamVolunteers

#HTVNCelebrates10thAnniversary



Have a story to share? Connect with Us



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

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