

# Home Team Connects

Connecting You with the Home Team

An initiative by the Home Team Volunteer Network



## EDITOR'S PICK

### HOME TEAM FESTIVAL IS BACK!

**HOME TEAM FESTIVAL 2023**  
24-26 NOVEMBER | SINGAPORE EXPO

Special Closed Door Session for the HT Community  
**Saturday 25 Nov 9am - 11am**

**The Largest Public Showcase of the Home Team's Capabilities**

Find out who we are, what we do, and how you can play a part to keep Singapore safe and secure

Open to public

<b>24 Nov</b> 11am to 9pm	<b>25 Nov</b> 11am to 9pm	<b>26 Nov</b> 9am to 9pm
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Singapore Expo Hall 4



### Ministerial Statement

## Singapore's Anti-Money Laundering Regime

Here are the key points from the Ministerial Statement read on 3 October:

### Balancing a robust regulatory regime with economic openness

The financial sector is a crucial part of our economy and international relevance. Criminals will try to exploit Singapore's economic openness and our strong reputation for rule of law, to launder their illicit funds, and establish an appearance of legitimacy.

Instead of expecting that no dirty money will ever come in, we should aim to minimise risk, have a robust alert system, and take prompt enforcement action when we discover such activities.

### Our Approach to Anti-Money Laundering: A Three-pronged Strategy

- i. **Prevention**, underpinned by a robust legal and regulatory framework to deter criminals.
- ii. **Detection**, is anchored by our Suspicious Transaction Reports regime and supervision by sectoral regulators.
- iii. **Enforcement**, is about taking strong action when there is suspicion of money laundering.

### Review by Inter-Ministerial Committee

An inter-ministerial committee will review our system with the learnings from the ongoing case, to ensure that the anti-money laundering regime remains robust and effective.

>> [Read 2MIN's Ministerial Statement](#)

### Bills

## Societies (Amendment) Bill Passed

The Societies (Amendment) Bill was passed on 4 October. The amendments will:

- a. Strengthen the regulation of societies to safeguard national interests and security; and
- b. Provide more clarity on the requirements for registration of societies.

>> [Read the Second Reading Speech](#)

>> [Read the Wrap-up Speech](#)

### Written Reply

## Resources for Investigating White Collar Crimes, Scam and Cybercrime

Mr Murali Pillai asked about the Police resources available to combat white collar crimes. Here's an extract of MIN K Shanmugam's written reply:

**The number of reported scam cases, for example, has increased by more than 400% over the last five years... However, the number of Police investigators has increased only slightly over this period, by about 7%. It is not sustainable. The performance and effectiveness of the Force may deteriorate... Burnout among our Police officers is a concern... We need to support them.**

>> [Read the Full Written Reply](#)

## MINISTER'S REMARKS ON ISRAEL-HAMAS CONFLICT

Minister K Shanmugam was asked to comment on the conflict developing in the Middle East. These are the **key points** Minister made:

### We Must Denounce Terrorism

**In no circumstances can we accept any kind of terrorist attack.** Hamas' attack on Israel is a terrorist attack. This extreme violence must be condemned in clear, unequivocal terms. It is possible to deeply sympathise with the plight of the Palestinians and yet still unequivocally condemn the terrorist attacks carried out in Israel.



### We Cannot Let These Events Affect the Internal Situation within Singapore

There are deep divides in how people are reacting. As the conflict unfolds, these **divides, often along racial and religious lines, are inevitably going to become deeper.** We must **maintain Singapore's racial and religious peace.**



### We Must Protect Our Religious Harmony and Understanding

Based on a 2022 survey by Pew Research Centre, **Singapore has high levels of inter-religious tolerance and acceptance.** Our religious leaders and our people are very different, compared with many other countries.

It is due to a combination of factors: our legal framework, Government policies and our religious and community leaders understanding what is important for Singapore and working together.



What we have built over the years and **what we now have, is precious, and extremely remarkable. And we must do our best to protect it.**

### Stepped Up Measures Rolled Out

**We are watching the situation closely and additional measures have been taken.** Emergency forces are always on alert. Places which are possible targets have had their security re-assessed. We are increasing security for places at higher risk. ICA has also stepped up its measures.



### We Have to Stay Vigilant

This is a period where **everyone has to be a bit more alert and careful** as Singapore is an attractive target. Terrorist groups will exploit such conflicts. They have called for a wider jihad against Israel. There have also been reports of anti-semitic incidents overseas. **We have detained Singaporeans in the past** two years under the Internal Security Act because they fell for pro-Hamas narratives and wanted to fight. But we have also detained individuals who intended to attack Muslim targets in Singapore. **The Government will act strongly and firmly against anyone who espouses extremism and violence, and threatens our security and stability.**



**"So far, we have managed to avoid letting international events like these destabilise us within Singapore... Our fundamental attitude cannot change... We must never let external events affect our precious peace within Singapore."** – MIN Shanmugam



>> [Read the Transcript](#)

## YOUTH DIALOGUE ON DRUGS AND DEATH PENALTY

At a dialogue on drugs and the death penalty with 80 youth leaders on 20 September, Minister K Shanmugam explained the rationale for Singapore's stance on both issues.



### Soft heart, hard head

In setting Singapore's drug policy, a hard head is needed to analyse and understand facts, while a soft heart is necessary to have compassion towards the victims of drugs. The fact is that other countries were adversely affected by the decriminalisation of drugs. As the state is obligated to ensure safety and security within Singapore and to save lives, a tough stance against drugs is needed to protect victims such as children.

### Death Penalty An Effective Deterrent

In deciding whether to implement the death penalty, a Government must be sure that the death penalty is essential in saving more lives. In Singapore, the number of kidnappings, firearm offences and amount of drugs trafficked dropped after the death penalty was introduced.

### Stance is Reviewed Regularly

Singapore changed its stance on drug abusers in 2019, where drug abusers who do not commit other crimes no longer face long-term imprisonment or have a criminal record.

The dialogue's attendees were polled about whether they felt the death penalty is an effective deterrent in safeguarding Singapore against serious crimes such as drug trafficking. Nearly two-thirds agreed. Similarly, in an MHA 2021 study, two-thirds of Singaporeans felt that the mandatory death penalty was appropriate for drug trafficking. However, supposing that public opinion turned against the death penalty, Minister said that Singaporeans could persuade the Government to change its policy, or vote out the Government of the day.

## RECOMMENDATION TO PREVENT OFFENDING AND RE-OFFENDING

The National Committee on Prevention, Rehabilitation and Recidivism (NCPR) has released 20 recommendations to break the cycle of intergenerational offending, prevent substance abuse among youths and prevent youth sexual offending. These are areas where the community can do more, to enhance awareness of offending issues, support the family's role and strengthen community support to prevent offending. The NCPR, co-chaired by MOS Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim, is working closely with various agencies to implement the recommendations.



### KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

#### Break The Cycle of Intergenerational Offending

- Expand existing support touchpoints and improve coordination amongst them
- Leverage volunteers and befrienders to support inmates' families on a more sustained basis
- Dovetail initiatives with existing systems

#### Prevent Substance Abuse Amongst Youths

- Leverage more government platforms and empower ground-up voices to amplify public education efforts
- Shore up social protective factors for youths-at-risk

#### Prevent Youth Sexual Offending

- Early preventive education for youths on factors contributing to sexual crimes
- Promote and strengthen service provision at multiple touchpoints
- Provide stronger support for victims of youth sexual offences and youth sexual offenders with intellectual disabilities / autism spectrum disorder

>> [View the Recommendations](#)

## CREATING IMPACTFUL ANTI-SCAM VIDEOS



In support of the 'I Can ACT Against Scams' campaign, YouTube's Creators for Impact worked with 12 local creator channels over two months to develop videos to help people enhance their awareness and vigilance around scams.

This initiative was done in partnership with MHA and supported by MCI. At the wrap-up event on 6 October, it was announced that Naomi Neo has been selected to collaborate with MOS Sun Xueling on a comedic video highlighting every individual's vulnerability to scams and anti-scam actions the public could take. It will be released on her channel by the end of the year.



The other local creators' video content was showcased at the wrap-up event and can be viewed via a playlist on Google Singapore YouTube channel.

MOS Sun Xueling called on the creators to engage respective population segments and amplify key anti-scam messages through their content, and to galvanise the community to take proactive actionable steps against scams.

>> [Watch the Videos](#)

### 4 Steps Android Users Should Take After Being Compromised by Malware



Are Android devices less secure than other mobile operating systems?

No! Scammers cannot bypass Android's security controls to install malware unless users are deceived.

**DON'T BE TRICKED INTO INSTALLING MALICIOUS APPS!**

**What to Do if You Fall Victim:**

- 01 SWITCH YOUR DEVICE TO FLIGHT MODE:**  
Switch your device to the **flight mode immediately** to disconnect from the Internet.
- 02 RUN AN ANTI-VIRUS SCAN ON YOUR DEVICE:**  
Use an anti-virus software to **scan and remove all malware** detected in your device.
- 03 CHECK FOR UNAUTHORISED TRANSACTIONS:**  
If you detect **unauthorised transactions** in your bank account(s) and/or Singpass account, inform your bank.
- 04 REPORT THE INCIDENT:**  
Report the incident to the **relevant authorities** and lodge a **police report**. You may also wish to report the incident to **SingCERT**.

Over the past three months, four new Community Response Roundtables (CRRT) were formed at Radin Mas, Sengkang Central, Toa Payoh Town and Buona Vista, while two that were formed earlier – Nee Soon and Ang Mo Kio - were re-engaged.

Supported by Grassroots Advisers, the four new CRRTs saw a total of over 220 participants from various stakeholder groups such as schools, businesses and religious and grassroots organisations coming together to discuss and strengthen crisis preparedness in their respective local communities. Buona Vista CRRT, the newest CRRT formed on 16 September, had over 50 stakeholders participating in a tabletop discussion to prepare for and respond to a mass casualty terror-related scenario at Holland Village.

A re-engagement with Nee Soon CRRT was held on 8 July. Our largest CRRT to date, over 140 participants across Nee Soon GRC attended and did a tabletop discussion where they shared with one another on their emergency resources and responses based on the different attack scenarios.



GRA Min Chan Chun Sing giving an opening for the Buona Vista CRRT on 16 September.



Nee Soon CRRT on 8 July 2023, our first re-engaged CRRT and largest CRRT to date.



The CRRT continues to be an effective platform to coordinate and enhance crisis responses across various domains so that we can stand firm and united against anyone who wish to do us harm and return to normalcy quickly if and when an attack occurs.

SSPO would like to thank the participating Home Team partners and SGSecure cluster leads – SPF, SCDF, PA, MCCY, MOE and MOM – for the continued strong support!

**Together, we make SGSecure!**

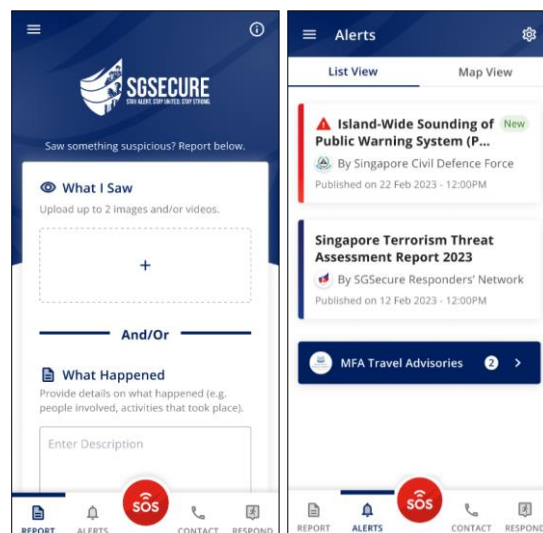
>> [Check out updates on upcoming roadshows](#)

### ENHANCE SGSECURE APP

Check out these enhancements to the refreshed SGSecure app released on 25 September:

- Redesigned user interface to prioritise the crisis and emergency functions
- Clearer prompts on how certain app features function and the user actions required
- Dedicated input fields for providing optional contact details and case location details
- Clearer distinction between new, updated and critical alerts.

**Update your app today!**



YELLOW RIBBON PRISON RUN



More than 6,500 participants pledged their support for second chances and social inclusion at this year's Yellow Ribbon Prison Run. Check out highlights from the Run!

>> [go.gov.sg/sps-240923](https://go.gov.sg/sps-240923)

ON DUTY - ILLEGAL GAMBLING



Follow Specialised Crime Branch officers as they conduct enforcement operations to clamp down on illegal gambling activities.

>> [go.gov.sg/spf-280923](https://go.gov.sg/spf-280923)

SPS VOLUNTEER – RELIGIOUS COUNSELLING



MOS Faishal and content creator Sujimy hear from Ustazah Laila Bte Abu Hassan on how she conducts religious counselling for inmates.

>> [go.gov.sg/sps-061023](https://go.gov.sg/sps-061023)

YOUR FEEDBACK MATTERS

**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

