

# Home Team Connects

Connecting You with the Home Team

An initiative by the Home Team Volunteer Network



## EDITOR'S PICK

### 2020 HTVN HIGHLIGHTS

Goodbye 2020, Welcome 2021!

Home Team Volunteer Network had an unexpected yet fruitful 2020 thanks to our hardworking volunteers dedicating their time and effort for their continuous support to the Home Team despite the challenges faced.

Let us look at some HTVN moments we had in 2020 before we look forward to creating new milestones this year!

#OrdinaryPeopleExtraordinaryMission

**Highlights:**

>> [On HTVN FB](#)



## HIGHLIGHTS

### HTX'S FIRST ANNIVERSARY



Launched in December 2019, HTX has had a landmark year, rising to the challenge of taking science and technology for the Home Team to new heights, and playing a vital role to support Home Team officers involved in COVID-19 operations.

As we celebrate HTX's first anniversary, let's revisit their 2020 achievements!

>> [go.gov.sg/htx-one-year](https://go.gov.sg/htx-one-year)



The travel restrictions brought about by COVID-19 were no barrier to annual discussions on transnational crime and security matters between Singapore and our regional neighbours. Over the past two weeks, MHA delegations led by Minister K Shanmugam attended the **14th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC)**, held on 26 November, and the **3rd Sub-Regional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism (SRM)**, held on 1 December.

The AMMTC and SRM are key platforms to discuss cooperation and collaboration regarding transnational crime and security matters, as well as counter-terrorism and the prevention and countering of radicalisation and violent extremism in ASEAN and the Asia Pacific regions. Both meetings adapted to the challenging circumstances brought about by COVID-19 by adopting virtual modalities to ensure that countries could continue to come together on discourse related to transnational safety and security issues.

This was particularly critical amidst COVID-19. Singapore, as well as other countries in the region, observed that COVID-19 has had significant impact on various cross-border crimes. At AMMTC, several ASEAN Member States noted that crimes such as cybercrime, illicit drug trafficking, and terrorism grew at worrying rates despite travel restrictions and lockdowns imposed by governments. In his country statement at AMMTC, MIN Shanmugam noted that in Singapore, cybercrime and illicit drug

trafficking continue to be of serious concern. In recent months, rates of cybercrime have soared – this is primarily attributed to increasing reports of scams, which saw a jump of almost 140% in the first half of the year compared to the same period last year.<sup>[1]</sup> CNB also discovered that drug traffickers and syndicates were using novel smuggling methods, such as hiding substances inside coconuts and papayas, to smuggle drugs into Singapore.<sup>[2]</sup>

Similarly, participants at SRM highlighted that terrorist groups’ tactics and strategies continued to evolve, with groups exploiting the pandemic to amplify radical ideology in the cyberspace. Terror groups such as Daesh were found to have an increasingly active presence online, reaching out to younger audiences who are spending more time online due to lockdowns and travel restrictions. This is especially concerning given the potential for such outreach efforts to inspire lone wolf attacks.

It is thus vital that we continue to foster strong regional cooperation in order to effectively address and tackle these growing threats. The constantly evolving nature of such cross-border crimes requires close cooperation and collaboration between countries to identify and combat threats swiftly and effectively. – **CONTRIBUTED BY ICPD/MHQ**

[1] <https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/courts-crime/82-million-lost-through-top-10-scams-in-first-half-of-2020-double-the-amount>

[2]

<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/singapore/singapore-cnb-drugs-novel-methods-smuggle-covid-19-restrictions-13583860>

## CARE NETWORK

### A 20-YEAR COMMITMENT

For 20 years, the **CARE (Community Action for the Rehabilitation of Ex-offenders) Network** has spearheaded a range of vital initiatives and provided ex-offenders with the necessary support for their reintegration journey. Speaking at the CARE Network's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, MOS Faishal affirmed the strong support provided by the CARE Network's community partners, volunteers, employers and sponsors through the years. Thanking the CARE Network team and its leaders, MOS Faishal encouraged them to continue advancing their capabilities and capacities as well as to strengthen their throughcare and reintegration programmes to help offenders and ex-offenders.



**Did you know? The CARE Network is an alliance of voluntary welfare organisations and community agencies under the joint leadership of SPS and YRSG.**

>> **Watch CARE Network's Community Video:**  
[go.gov.sg/yrs-g-carenetwork20](https://go.gov.sg/yrs-g-carenetwork20)

## HOME TEAM ROUND-UP

### ON DUTY DURING THE FESTIVE PERIOD



Serving on the frontline is hard work, but their spirits remain high! Our Home Team Guardians remained dedicated to keeping Singapore safe and secure during the year-end festive period, with many involved in supporting COVID-19 operations.



On 25<sup>th</sup> December, MIN K Shanmugam, 2MIN Josephine Teo, MOS Faishal Ibrahim and MOS Desmond Tan visited Home Team units on the ground to meet officers on duty and convey their appreciation for their hard work.

Thank you, Guardians!



>> **For more photos from the ground, check out:**

- **MIN's visit to SCDF Marine Division:**  
[go.gov.sg/min-visit-25dec2020](https://go.gov.sg/min-visit-25dec2020)
- **2MIN's visit to Changi Airport Terminal 3:**  
[go.gov.sg/2min-visit-25dec2020](https://go.gov.sg/2min-visit-25dec2020)
- **MOS Faishal's visit to the Marina Bay Cruise Centre and Yishun North NPC:**  
[go.gov.sg/mosfaishal-visit-25dec2020](https://go.gov.sg/mosfaishal-visit-25dec2020)
- **MOS Tan's visit to Police Cantonment Complex:**  
[go.gov.sg/mostan-visit-25dec2020](https://go.gov.sg/mostan-visit-25dec2020)



On 2<sup>nd</sup> December, the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) approved a recommendation from the World Health Organization (WHO) to remove cannabis and cannabis resin from its Schedule IV classification of dangerous drugs.

>> [Read Singapore's National Statement](#)  
>> [Read the Singapore Government's position on the recommendations of the WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence, on Cannabis and Cannabis-related Substances, voted on at the reconvened 63<sup>rd</sup> Session of the CND on 2 December](#)

**IMPACT OF CANNABIS ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE**  
Singapore must stay drug-free to prevent harm to our population and society.

**Cannabis is addictive and harmful**  
Singapore's stand on illicit drugs, including cannabis, is clear – they are harmful, addictive and can destroy lives, families and communities.

**Short Term Effects:**

- Hallucination
- Paranoia
- Visual Disturbance
- Hypotension

**Long Term Effects:**

- Increased risk of mental health disorders
- Impairments to the respiratory and cognitive functions

**Limited scientific evidence on the therapeutic use of cannabinoids**

- Singapore's drug control policies are underpinned by evidence and research.
- To date, there is no scientific evidence on the safety and efficacy of raw cannabis use for medical purposes. However, there is some research derived from controlled clinical trials which exhibits the potential therapeutic use of pharmaceutical cannabinoids to manage seizures and epilepsy\*.
- Singapore will continue to allow the safe and controlled access to evidence-based medical treatment options.

\*Cannabinoids are chemical compounds found in the cannabis plant, which can be processed into pharmaceutical products such as oral solutions and sprays and administered by doctors for specific medical conditions.

“Singapore is disappointed with this outcome. There is no strong evidence to support the recommendations... [which] could send a wrong signal that the CND has softened its stance against cannabis and fuel public misperception, especially among youths, that cannabis is no longer considered to be as harmful as before, despite strong evidence showing otherwise. Nonetheless, this will not impact Singapore's zero-tolerance stance towards drugs, including cannabis and cannabis-related substances.”

– Ambassador Umej Bhatia, Singapore's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, delivering Singapore's National Statement at the reconvened 63<sup>rd</sup> Session of the CND on 2 December

On 10 December, MIN K Shanmugam shared on Facebook an email that he'd received from a former cannabis abuser and drug supervisee named "R".

R wanted to share his experiences after reading MIN Shanmugam's response to the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs' decision to remove cannabis from the most tightly controlled category of narcotic drugs, which was passed by the narrowest of voting margins. This is R's story.

BY DESMOND ANG

4-MIN READ  
[go.gov.sg/drugfreeesg-r](http://go.gov.sg/drugfreeesg-r)



**GUARDIANS OF OUR HOME**

**Seah Xin Lu**  
Project Development Officer  
Singapore Police Force

Analysing crime data and exploring new ways to support Police intelligence needs – it's all in a day's work for an SPF Project Development Officer.  
BY VIVIAN MOH



4-MIN READ  
[go.gov.sg/spf-careers-xinlu](https://go.gov.sg/spf-careers-xinlu)

**OUR COMMUNITY**

**SALUTING OUR VOLUNTEERS**



What does it take to volunteer with the Lifesaving Force? The grit and resilience to complete a rigorous, 16-week training programme – even as we're managing the COVID-19 situation at home. Experience the journey of these volunteers, right up to their graduation ceremony!

>> [go.gov.sg/scdf-volunteers-071220](https://go.gov.sg/scdf-volunteers-071220)

**POLICE HERITAGE TRAIL**



To celebrate SPF's contributions to keeping Singapore safe and secure over the past 200 years, SPF launched the Police Heritage Trail on 26 November. The Trail comprises nine significant sites that includes the very first Police office (situated by the Singapore River) as well as other key Police establishments located within the Civic District.

An information marker near the Asian Civilisations Museum Green marks the beginning of the Trail. Ready to rediscover our Police heritage? Check out the Trail's companion guide and map at NHB's heritage portal, [Roots.sg](https://Roots.sg).

>> For more information on SPF200, visit: [www.police.gov.sg/spf200](https://www.police.gov.sg/spf200)

## Exploring SPF200 from the Comfort of Home

As part of SPF200, SPF has launched a virtual exhibition, “Frontier Town to Safest City”, using 360-degree video technology to give viewers a front row seat of SPF’s 200-year history of Public Service. Discover the officers’ stories of bravery in fighting crime, bringing criminals to justice and keeping Singapore safe and secure!

>> Visit [go.gov.sg/spf200-virtual-tour](https://go.gov.sg/spf200-virtual-tour)



## DID YOU KNOW?

### BEACON OF SAFETY



A new structure stands at Punggol Waterway Park Connector, equipped with communication capabilities and warning features. Learn more about this joint initiative by SPF and HTX!

>> [go.gov.sg/mha-mos-tan-beacon](https://go.gov.sg/mha-mos-tan-beacon)

## UPDATES ON COVID

### LOOKING TO 2021

#### PROGRESSING INTO PHASE 3 AS ONE HOME TEAM

In his national address this week, PM Lee Hsien Loong announced that Phase 3 would commence on 28 December. Here’s what you need to know:

#### Phase 3 at a Glance

- Social gatherings: Up to 8 persons.
- Households: Up to 8 visitors at a time.
- Congregational services, indoor live performances: Up to 250 persons (with zones of up to 50 persons).
- Live instrumental music allowed for marriage solemnisations in indoor venues, funerals.

#### COVID-19 Vaccinations

- Stringent processes for vaccinations will be put in place for safety and efficacy.
- Vaccination is voluntary, but strongly encouraged.
- Vaccinations will be free for Singaporeans and long-term residents; all will be able to get vaccinated by end-2021.



“I’m very grateful that Singaporeans have complied with the spirit, and not just the letter of the rules. **We stayed united, kept up our guard, and did not allow ourselves to become complacent over time.** With everyone’s full support, our enhanced

- Priority will be given to healthcare and frontline workers, the elderly and the vulnerable.

**TraceTogether**

- Mandatory use of the TraceTogether token or [app](#) for SafeEntry check-in will be rolled-out in early 2021.

>> [go.gov.sg/phase3](https://go.gov.sg/phase3)

>> [go.gov.sg/vaccines-14dec](https://go.gov.sg/vaccines-14dec)

safeguards worked, and we could gradually ease our restrictions. We can be proud of how far we've come.”

– PM Lee Hsien Loong

>> **Watch PM Lee's national address:**  
[go.gov.sg/pm-lee-14dec](https://go.gov.sg/pm-lee-14dec)

**STAY CONNECTED AND ENGAGED:**

**SGUnited – Stay Engaged**

Includes resources on how to thrive, stay connected with loved ones, help others and get help.

**ON THE INTERNET:** [www.SGUnited.gov.sg](http://www.SGUnited.gov.sg)

**National CARE Hotline**

24-hr hotline with psychologists, counsellors, social workers, psychiatrists and public officers manning lines: **6202-6868**

**RESOURCES:**

>> **COVID-19 online symptom checker:** [www.sgCovidCheck.gov.sg](http://www.sgCovidCheck.gov.sg)

>> **MOH COVID-19 hotline:** 1-800-333-9999

**COOL CONTENT**

**Home Remedies: Tying Limbs** SCDF FB  
Ah Di's got it wrong again... hear from LTA Lina on how to apply the right first aid skills when you get a major cut. Remember – apply pressure on the bleeding wound, but only tie above it when the bleeding continues profusely. [go.gov.sg/scdf-limbs-remedy](https://go.gov.sg/scdf-limbs-remedy)

**Always Here for You** SPF FB  
Featuring a rousing song composed by Dick Lee, this music video celebrates SPF's 200th anniversary and how our Police officers serve the community. Day or night, in good times and bad, they are always here for us. [go.gov.sg/spf-alwayshere](https://go.gov.sg/spf-alwayshere)

**Have a story to share? Connect with Us**



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

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