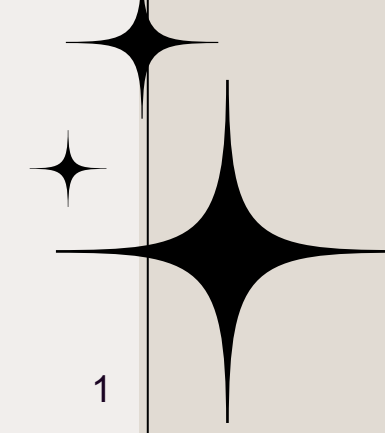


Active Harmony in Singapore

**National Education (NE)
Engagement Package
July 2024**





“ Race, language, and religion – these are the traditional fault lines in our society.

We have made huge efforts to build a shared Singaporean identity, to live and work together harmoniously as a multiracial and multireligious society based on meritocracy and equal opportunity.

But we will always be subject to external forces that pull different segments of our population in different directions...

Therefore for us, racial and religious harmony will always be a continuing work in progress..

Never think that we have “solved the problem” and that we have left it behind. It will always be with us. ”



– Then-PM Lee Hsien Loong at May Day Rally 2024

Source: Prime Minister's Office

Race and Religion continues to be fault lines in societies

Sep 2023

A driver's racist tirade: Tells woman 'you are very worst kind', referring to her race.



Source: Tik Tok

Aug 2023

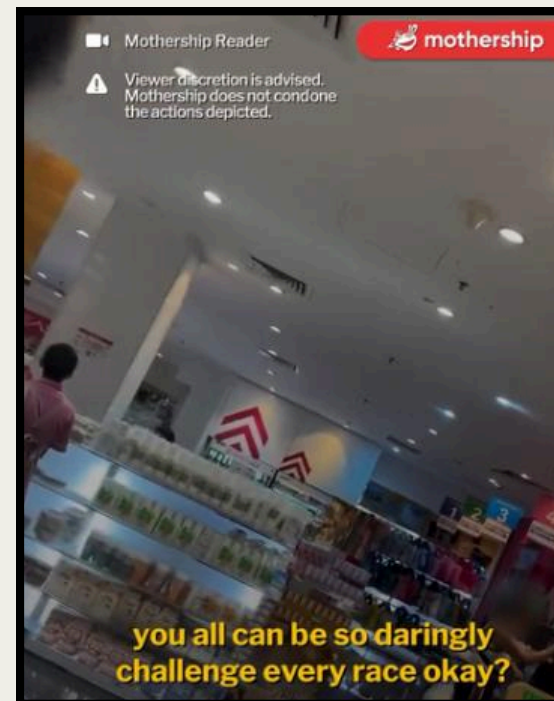
During Malaysia elections, a Perikatan Nasional candidate warned voters to choose him, or risk becoming like the "Malays in Singapore" whose "racial identity in Singapore has vanished".



Source: Mothership

Jan 2024

A woman was filmed spewing racist remarks at two Muslim women at Sembawang after their phone prayer alarm went off.



Source: Mothership

Apr 2024

A teenager was charged with terrorism over Sydney bishop stabbing: an act motivated by suspected religious extremism.



Source: BBC

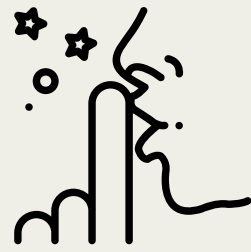
Watch the video [here](https://www.tiktok.com/@mothershipsg/video/7326847728674229505?is_from_webapp=1):



https://www.tiktok.com/@mothershipsg/video/7326847728674229505?is_from_webapp=1

Other challenges to our harmony...

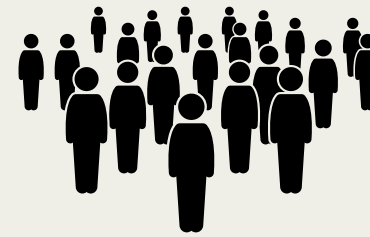
1



“Casual racism” and Microaggression as silent creepers

- **WHAT IS IT?** Speech and behaviour that convey negative stereotypes and prejudices about other races.
- **WHY DOES IT MATTER?** It may be intentional or unintentional, and sometimes even well-meaning, but they communicate hostile, derogatory or negative racial messages or assumptions to the receiver.
- **HOW CAN WE RESPOND?** Be more mindful and sensitive as to how our words and actions may affect others.

2

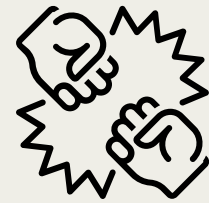


Changing demographics

- **WHAT IS IT?** Increasing diversity in our population, e.g., low birth rates and an increase in non-resident population.
- **WHY DOES IT MATTER?** Differences within a non-homogenous society with diverse beliefs and cultural practices may be accentuated.
- **HOW CAN WE RESPOND?** Find ways to expand our shared common ground, e.g., better appreciate different cultural and religious practices, or help to integrate new citizens and permanent residents.

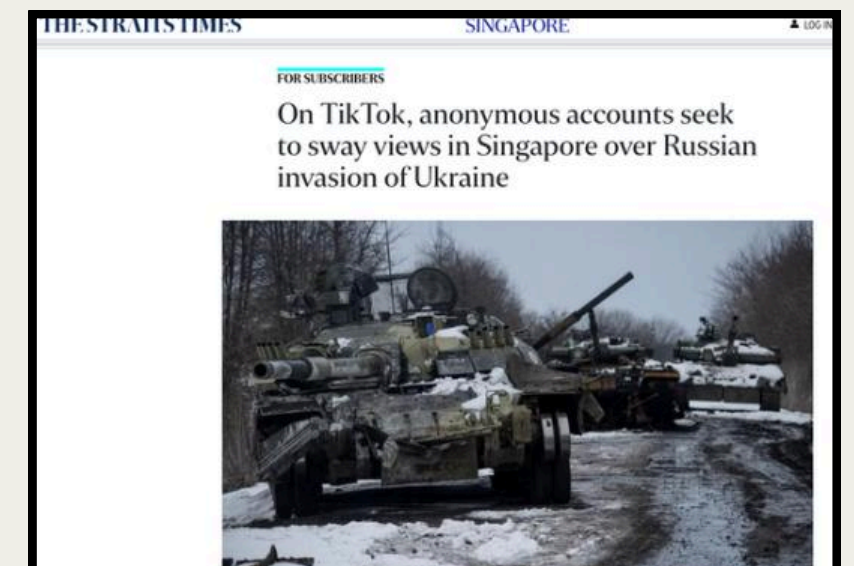
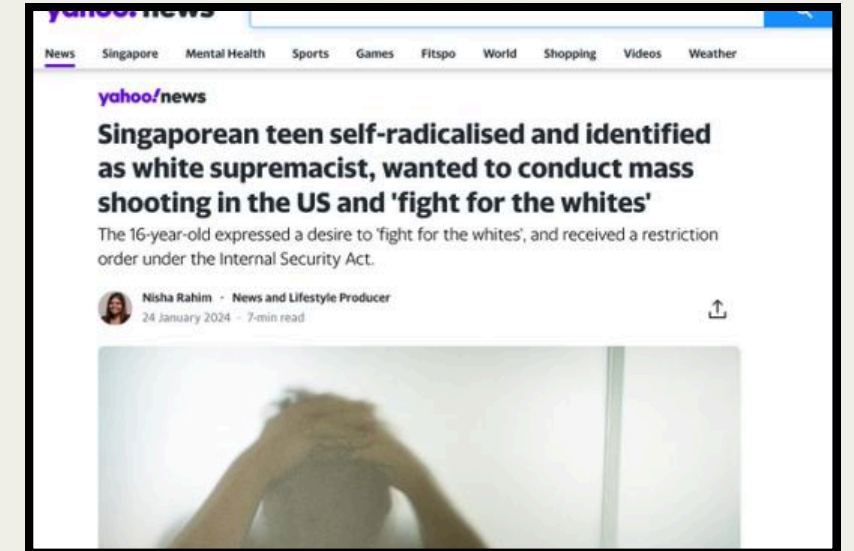
Other challenges to our harmony...

3



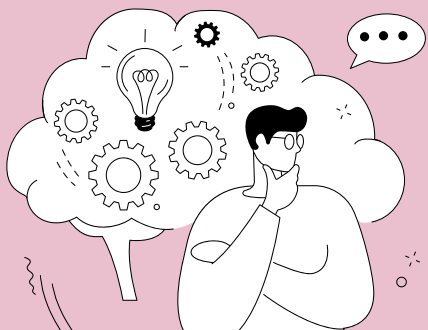
We are not spared from the spillover impact of international conflicts

- **WHAT IS IT?** As a small country, we cannot escape powerful cross-currents, such as right-wing nationalism, anti-immigration and anti-globalisation.
- **WHY DOES IT MATTER?** Mutual trust and respect among different races and religions in Singapore are hard-earned; such external events may impinge on our social cohesion and harmony.
- **HOW CAN WE RESPOND?** We must collectively strengthen the peace and social cohesion that is essential to the Singaporean way of life:
 - Be mindful of online attempts to turn external events into emotionally charged issues and sow discord in our society.
 - Be respectful and constructive in dialogue and discourse, both online and offline.
 - Use social media responsibly, such as verifying information before reacting to or sharing content.



REFLECTION

- How do you think stereotypes or prejudices on race and religion manifest in our daily lives?
- How do you feel when you read about (or encounter) acts of racism?
- If we witness racist acts or comments, what are some ways in which we can respond?



Strength in Diversity

Singapore is one of the most religiously diverse countries in the world but we have high levels of interreligious tolerance and acceptance. This is very precious.

¹ Read the Pew Research Centre report here: <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2023/10/06/in-singapore-religious-diversity-and-tolerance-go-hand-in-hand/>

Key Findings from Pew Research Study 2022¹

“Buddhism, Islam and Religious Pluralism in South and Southeast Asia”

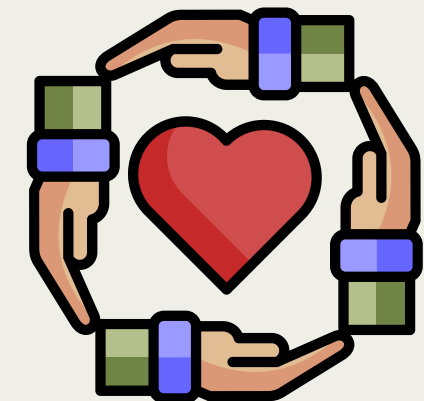
published on Sept 2023



Significant presence of many major world religions in Singapore.



Singaporeans do not believe that their religious beliefs play much of a role in determining their “Singaporean-ness”.



Singaporeans of all faiths are broadly tolerant and accepting of followers of different religions.



More than half of Singaporeans view their nation’s diversity as good for the country.

Everyone plays a part...

We all have a role to play to build a harmonious society:

- understand each other
- appreciate our differences and commonalities
- build trust and respect between different groups



National Initiatives

Creating safe spaces for constructive and open conversations to build mutual understanding between different races and religions.

Racial and Religious Harmony Circle – conducts events and programmes to promote racial and religious harmony.



Source: MCCY

Harmony Fund – to support creative projects by individuals and organisations promoting racial and religious harmony in Singapore.



Source: MCCY

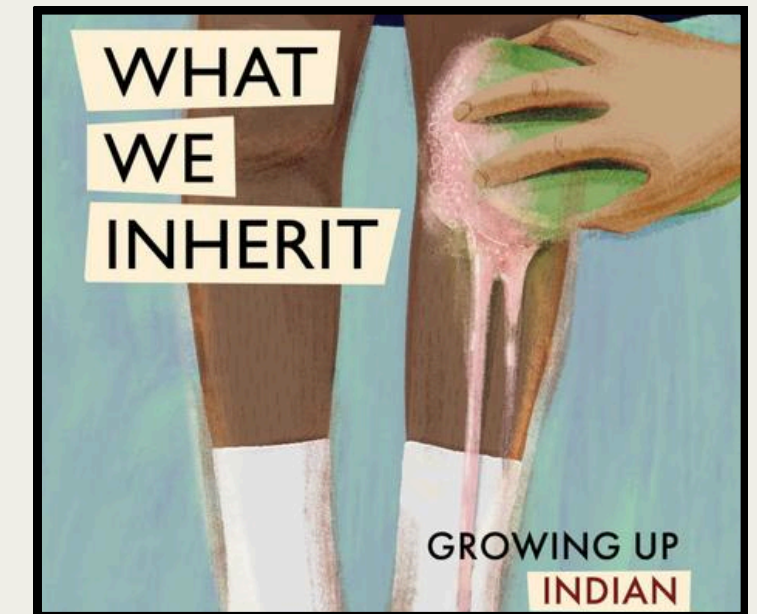
Society / Community Initiatives

Ground-up efforts complement national initiatives to encourage more interactions and conversations about race and religion amongst Singaporeans.

Roses of Peace – a youth-driven, ground-up movement that promotes interfaith messages of peace, love and harmony.



What We Inherit – a collection of stories by Indian women and men, documenting their everyday lives.



Not OK SG – a community-driven resource bank that deepens knowledge about race relations in Singapore.



HarmonyWorks! Conference – for youths to share their thoughts on race and religious relations issues.



Source: One people.sg

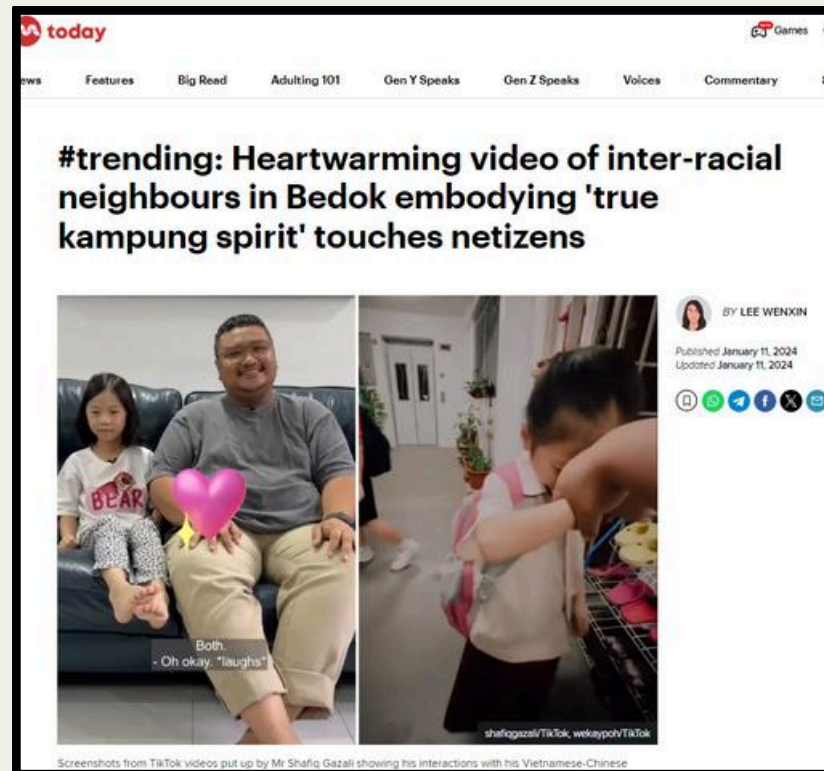
Individual Initiatives

We can each play our part to preserve and safeguard racial and religious harmony, and social cohesion in Singapore.

Practicing good neighbourliness – show care and graciousness for one another.



Criss – crossing of cultures helps enrich Singaporeans – builds the foundation of acceptance and respect for our diverse traditions.



REFLECTION

- Why do you think it is important, especially in Singapore, to build and maintain racial harmony?
- How do you think we can enhance racial and religious harmony in our own social circles?



Source: One PA

Get Involved!

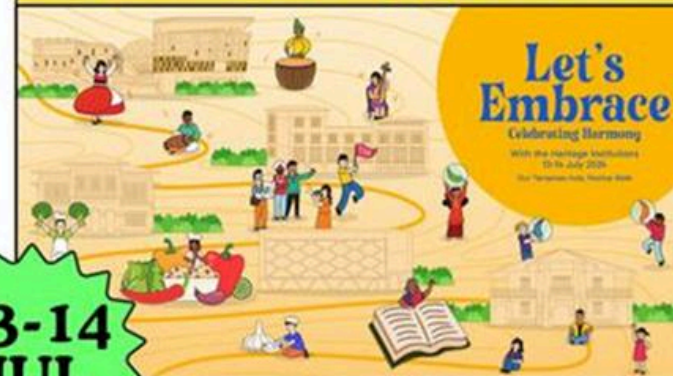
Celebrate Racial & Religious Harmony this July!

HARMONY FEST!



6-7
JUL

LET'S EMBRACE - CELEBRATING HARMONY



13-14
JUL

SOUNDSCAPES OF RELIGIONS



JUL
WKND

HEARTLANDS IN HARMONY



27-28
JUL

& many more events!

Get involved at go.gov.sg/younity24

A vibrant array of activities and programs that aim to build a deeper appreciation for Singapore's diversity awaits. There's something for everyone!

For more info, visit:

<http://go.gov.sg/younity24>

or scan the QR code below:



Source: MCCY



“ The key to our success is **our high level of trust in each other, and our ability to work well** together.

Singapore has always been a diverse country – many races, many religions, many languages – and more so now than before. We have achieved this not by denying our differences, but by embracing them.

When issues arise between communities, and from time to time, they will – **we do not accentuate our differences. Instead, we accept them.**

So from our diversity, we forge unity.

From many, we become one united people, regardless of race, language, or religion. ”



– PM Lawrence Wong at the Swearing-In Ceremony (May 2024)

Additional Resources

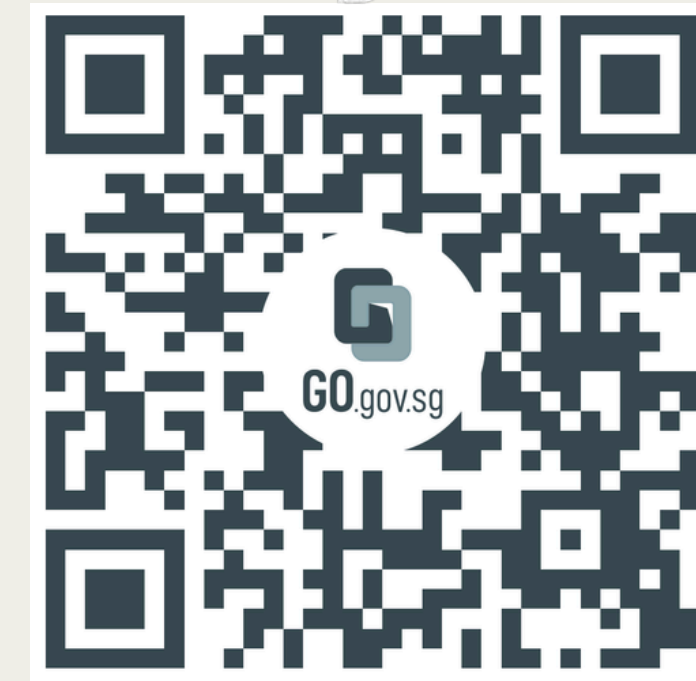
SG101



For content and resources about Singapore's journey as a nation.



An organisation that champions racial harmony initiatives in Singapore.



Discover new facets of our city and support the people who put the zing in this little red dot.

THANK YOU!

TO HELP US PRODUCE BETTER PRODUCTS FOR YOU,
WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU!

PLEASE TAKE SOME TIME TO PROVIDE YOUR FEEDBACK THROUGH
THE QR CODE OR FOLLOWING LINK:

[HTTPS://GO.GOV.SG/RHDPACKAGE2024](https://go.gov.sg/rhdpackage2024)



*Brought to you by Nexus
with input from MCCY*

