



20 July 2017

MEDIA RELEASE

ACG to Engage Muslim Youths to Counter Extremism to Build a Resilient Community through Annual Youth Forum

1. In its continuous effort to promote social cohesion and empower youths to play a role in keeping Singapore safe, the Inter-Agency Aftercare Group (ACG) is organising its annual ACG Youth Forum themed, “*Countering Violent Extremism: Building a Resilient Community*”. The forum will be held on **Saturday 22 July 2017 at 9.00 am** at **Auditorium 3, Blk 26B, Temasek Polytechnic (21 Tampines Ave 1)**.
2. Some 200 Muslim youths from the various institutes of higher learning will be participating in the forum. The forum aims to promote awareness of the security landscape and the threats to social cohesion in Singapore, as well as facilitate discussions on the importance of building social resilience in our national effort to counter radicalism.
3. Gracing the event as Guest of Honour is Mr K Shanmugam, Minister for Home Affairs and Law.
4. The forum will have three main segments, 1) presentations by invited speakers from the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), and the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (MUIS); 2) group discussions followed by presentations by the participants; and 3) a dialogue session with Mr Shanmugam and Mr Amrin Amin, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Health.

5. We invite members of the media to join us at the Youth Forum on Saturday 22 July 2017 at 9.00 am at Auditorium 3, Blk 26B, Temasek Polytechnic (21 Tampines Ave 1). **Some segments of the forum will be closed to the media. Kindly refer to the programme in the Annex for more information.**

END

THE INTER-AGENCY AFTERCARE GROUP (ACG) YOUTH FORUM 2017
Countering Violent Extremism: Building a Resilient Community
Saturday 22 July 2017
Temasek Polytechnic

Programme

8.30 am Registration

(session closed to the media)

9.00 am ***Threat of Terrorism in Singapore***
Presentation by the Ministry of Home Affairs

9.15 am Opening Remarks
Mr Abdul Hamid Abdullah
 Chairman
Inter-Agency Aftercare Group (ACG) and
Association of Muslim Professionals (AMP)

9.30 am **Presentations**

Emerging Patterns in Regional Terrorism Landscape
Dr Jolene Jerard
Research Fellow; Manager (Capacity Building)
S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies
Nanyang Technological University

Religion and Nation Building in a Pluralistic Society
Ustaz Dr Nazirudin Mohd Nasir
Director, Religious Policy & Development
Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (MUIS)

10.00 am Breakout Discussions
Participants will be divided into four groups:

- i. Youth in Countering All Radicalisation and Extremism***
- ii. Youth Radicalisation and the Dangers of Online Propaganda***
- iii. Religion and Nation Building in a Pluralistic Society***
- iv. Threat of Terrorism in Singapore and the Role of the Community***

(breakout sessions (iii) and (iv) are closed to media)

(sessions closed to the media)

12.00 pm Sharing of Key Learning Points

12.30 pm **Dialogue Session with GOH**

Mr K Shanmugam
Minister for Home Affairs, and
Minister for Law

1.30 pm Lunch

End

INTER-AGENCY AFTERCARE GROUP

The Inter-Agency Aftercare Group (ACG) is a voluntary community group comprising the Association of Muslim Professionals, Yayasan MENDAKI, Taman Bacaan, Khadijah Mosque and Mr Rhazaly Noentil (who was Chairman of En-Naeem Mosque and President of the Singapore Malay Journalists Association during the formative years of the ACG). The ACG was established in 2002 to complement the rehabilitation programme for detained terrorists by providing support to their families. Many of the wives and children of detained terrorists face various challenges including social, emotional and financial ones, arising from the absence of their husbands and fathers. The various ACG agencies have been helping them cope with these challenges by emplacing them in existing community self-help and welfare programmes. These include financial assistance, family counselling, school and work placement, as well as tuition fee subsidies. By keeping the families intact and functional, the ACG's efforts facilitate the rehabilitation of the terrorists and their reintegration back into society.

To date, the ACG has provided help to over 60 families and their children. Even after the detainees are released, the ACG continues to provide assistance to the families until they are able to cope on their own.

The ACG has also been undertaking efforts to strengthen Singapore's social resilience against the threat of terrorism. For example, it has organised several youth forums to raise awareness of the threat of terrorist ideology and encourage youth to play an active role in countering the threat. The ACG has also published books on countering the threat of terrorism. These books were printed in English, Malay and Mandarin, and have been distributed to various schools and government agencies.