

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

9 June 2017

MEDIA RELEASE

Multi-Racial and Multi-Religious Group of Youths to Discuss the Concept of *Jihad* over Communal *Iftar*

1. Against the backdrop of fresh terrorist attacks in London and Afghanistan earlier this week, the need to discuss the concept of *jihad* (struggle) in Islam becomes even more critical. Many of these attacks are conducted under the guise of *jihad* against what they view as ‘enemies’ of Islam. But what really is *jihad* in the context of Islam? The Association of Muslim Professionals (AMP), together with its youth wing, Young AMP, will be organising a discussion on the concept of *jihad* over *iftar* (breaking-of-fast meal) at the **Breakfast @ Night** event on **Friday 9 June 2017 at 6.30 pm** at **WIS@Changi (116 Changi Road, #05-01)**.
2. The event, which is a part of AMP’s CommaCon campaign, is expected to be attended by 50 youths of all races and religious backgrounds. Much like the Comma Convention held in October 2016, this event also aims to provide a platform for youths to come together to have open and honest discussions with each other on controversial topics.
3. Youths attending the Breakfast @ Night event will engage with three invited Muslim speakers – Mr Imran Taib, Interfaith Activist and Founder of Leftwrite Center; Ustaz Khalid Rafi, Dakwah Officer, Muhajirin Mosque; and Ustaz Ridhwan Basor, Manager, Office of Mufti, Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (MUIS) – who will be fielding questions that have been sent in by the youths prior to the event on *jihad* and Islam. They will also clarify any misconceptions that the youths may have. Two other speakers from the Catholic and Buddhist faiths – Seminarian Nicholas Lye, and Venerable Chuan Guan from Buddha, Dharma, Sangha & All Sentient Beings, respectively – will also be present to engage with the youths on whether a concept similar to *jihad* exists in other religions and whether violence in the name of religion is limited to only a single faith group.

4. After the discussion session with the invited speakers, the youths will break into small groups to have a more in-depth discussion among themselves. They will then share learning points with the other groups present.
5. “Google the word ‘*jihad*’ on the Internet and you can easily find references to ‘the holy war’ against ‘infidels’. This event aims to provide an open and safe environment for youth to look beyond this distorted interpretation of the word ‘*jihad*’. We want the discussions to help participants understand that *jihad* means to strive or struggle to achieve a worthy cause, and what that means to Muslims,” says Mr Hazni Aris, President of Young AMP.
6. The Comma Convention (CommaCon) was a first-of-its-kind national youth convention held on 15 October 2016 where 400 youths participated in open and meaningful discussions on racism, terrorism, national identity and the socio-economic divide. The Breakfast @ Night event is one of the many activities that will be held under the CommaCon campaign throughout this year aimed at engaging youths and encouraging them to participate actively in social activism.

END

BREAKFAST @ NIGHT

Friday 9 June 2017

WIS @ Changi

6.00 pm	Registration
6.30 pm	Introductions & Networking
7.11 pm	Communal Breaking of Fast
7.30 pm	Welcome Speech by Young AMP President
	Discussion session
9.15 pm	Sharing by Groups
9.30 pm	End