



30 November 2019

MEDIA RELEASE

ACG to Equip Youths with Skills to Guard against Online Radicalism through Annual Youth Forum

1. Equipping youths with the skills to be more discerning and to understand the dangers of extremist views in today's digital era becomes imperative as online extremism poses a significant threat to the social fabric of a diverse society like Singapore. In its constant drive to foster social cohesion and empower youths to play their role in keeping Singapore safe, the Inter-Agency Aftercare Group (ACG) is organising its annual Youth Forum themed, "*#Youth-nified: Guarding Against Radicalism in the Digital Era*". The forum will be held on **Saturday 30 November 2019 at 8.45 am at LT-E5, Blk E5, Republic Polytechnic (9 Woodlands Avenue 9, Singapore 738964)**. The programme for the event can be found in Annex A.
2. Gracing the event as Guest of Honour is Mr K Shanmugam, Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Law. Joining Mr Shanmugam in attendance is Mr Amrin Amin, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Health.
3. The forum will be attended by 250 youths from the five local polytechnics, who will examine and explore how the internet can be misused to influence the youth in supporting terrorism and what youths can do to guard against this violent ideology.
4. The forum will have three main segments, 1) presentations by invited speakers from S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), the Ministry for Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY), and the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA); 2) facilitated discussion sessions with the participants; and 3) a dialogue session with Guest of Honour, Mr Shanmugam and Mr Amrin. Some of these segments will be closed-door and not for media reporting.

5. In his presentation, Dr Noor Huda Ismail from RSIS will be addressing the de-radicalisation efforts for youths, in particular former Indonesian Islamic State of Iraq and Syria's (ISIS) supporters. Mr Asif Iqbal, Senior Assistant Director of the Youth Division at MCCY will share about the achievements and concerns of our youth, and the range of opportunities MCCY and the National Youth Council (NYC) have curated for youth development, participation and engagement.
6. At the forum, Mr Shanmugam will also launch the documentary titled, "*Cubs of the Caliphate*" jointly produced by Dr Noor Huda and MHA, in partnership with RRG and the ACG, which looks at real-life cases of youths both locally and from the region who were attracted to radical ideology; highlighting the problems of extremism among youths and its complexities, how youths become radicalised, and how society can address these problems.
7. The ACG is a voluntary community group which was established in 2002 to complement the rehabilitation programme for detained terrorists by providing support to their families. The ACG has also undertaken efforts to strengthen Singapore's social resilience against the threat of terrorism. More details of the ACG can be found in Annex B.

END

THE INTER-AGENCY AFTERCARE GROUP (ACG) YOUTH FORUM 2019

#Youth-nified: Guarding Against Radicalism in the Digital Era

Saturday 30 November 2019

Republic Polytechnic

Programme

8.45 am Opening Remarks
Dr Md Badrun Nafis Saion
 Chairman
 AMP Group

(closed-door session – not for media reporting)

8.50 am “*Countering the Persistence of Online Radicalisation*”
 Presentation by the Ministry of Home Affairs

9.10 am “*Reintegration of Returning ISIS Supporters: An Indonesian Case*”
 Presentation by Dr Noor Huda Ismail
 S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies

9.30 am “*What Youths Can Do*”
 Presentation by Mr Asif Iqbal
 Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth

9.50 am Breakout Sessions

(closed-door session – not for media reporting)

12.00 pm **Dialogue Session with Guest of Honour**
Mr K Shanmugam
 Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Law

1.00 pm Presentation of Tokens of Appreciation

1.15 pm Launch of “*Cubs of the Caliphate*” docu-film

1.30 pm End

INTER-AGENCY AFTERCARE GROUP

The Inter-Agency Aftercare Group (ACG) is a voluntary community group comprising AMP Singapore, 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.

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 undertaken 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.