MEDIA RELEASE

Inter-Agency Aftercare Group (ACG) to Engage Youths to Guard Against Exclusivism and Extremism to Build a Resilient Community through Annual Youth Forum

1. After a two-year break due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the **ACG Youth Forum** will resume on **Saturday, 19 November 2022** at **9.00 am** at **Mochtar Riady Auditorium** at the **Singapore Management University** (Level 5, SMU Admin Building, 81 Victoria Street, Singapore 188065). Themed **#Youth[for]Peace – Guarding Against Exclusivism and Extremism**, this year's forum aims to nurture a community of youths who endeavour to promote social cohesion and resilience, and play a role in keeping Singapore safe.

2. Assoc Prof Dr Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim, Minister of State, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of National Development, will be gracing the event as the Guest of Honour.

3. 200 youths from various institutes of higher learning will be taking part in the forum. Participants will be sensitised to key trends dominating the security landscape and threats to social cohesion in Singapore. They will also participate in discussions on the importance of building social resilience to counter exclusivism and radicalism in Singapore.

4. The ACG Youth forum will have three main segments: 1) presentations by invited speakers from the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Internal Security Department (ISD), and TikTok; 2) group discussions, which will be followed by participants' presentations; and 3) a dialogue session with Guest of Honour, Assoc Prof Faishal and ACG leaders.

5. The Inter-Agency Aftercare Group (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

ACG YOUTH FORUM 2022

#Youth[for]Peace – Guarding Against Exclusivism and Extremism

Saturday, 19 November 2022, Mochtar Riady Auditorium

9.10am	**[Closed to Media] –** Note: Media may use the presentation synopses below for reporting.
	1. **Presentation by RSIS, Nanyang Technological University** Mr Ahmad Saiful Rijal Hassan, Associate Research Fellow "Security Threat Landscape and Key Trends" **Synopsis –** RSIS will provide an overview of the current security threat landscape and key trends that will impact Singapore. External developments may also have an impact on the security environment in Singapore because Singapore is an open and internationally connected society. Jihadist terrorist organisations like the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) continue to represent a threat because of their capacity to radicalise and incite its supporters to commit attacks. Despite losing its leadership and major territory in the main war zone, ISIS nevertheless poses a serious security danger on a worldwide scale. While there is presently no particular or reliable intelligence of an imminent terrorist assault against Singapore, we must remain vigilant to potential threats. Because terrorism is global, events in other parts of the world, such as the Middle East and Afghanistan, can have far-reaching consequences. 2. **Presentation by ISD** "The Evolving Security Landscape in Singapore" **Synopsis –** The presentation will explore the evolving security landscape of Singapore, and how the internet can expedite the self-radicalisation process among youths. Conceptual models and case studies will be introduced for better understanding of the radicalisation process, and the popularity of social media for recruitment and dissemination of propaganda will be discussed. The model of persuasion will be used to illustrate how a person can be influenced by online radical content. Lastly, indicators that may suggest vulnerability to radicalisation and the important role the community can play in ensuring the safety and security of Singapore are highlighted. Some of the key messages in the presentation include: (i) understanding the reach of social media and internet use; (ii) how youths play an important role in the safety and security of Singapore, and; (iii) the resources available when someone they know may need help.

	3. Presentation by TikTok Mr Ridhwan Mohd Basor, Product Policy Manager (Violent Extremism) Trust & Safety "Online Trends and Safeguarding our Online Space" **Synopsis** – Social media platforms play an important role in combating violent extremism online. TikTok's mission is to inspire creativity, bring joy and create a safe and positive experience for our global community. In this session, hear about how TikTok keeps our community safe, through partnerships, safety features and initiatives that help mitigate violent extremism that may show up on our platform.
9.30am	Arrival of Media
10.10am	**[Photo Opportunities Only]** **Breakout Sessions** • **RRG** – Countering Extremist Ideology and Exclusivism • **AMP** – Strengthening Social Cohesion • **TikTok** – Protecting our Online Spaces
10.30am	Arrival of ACG Leaders
11.00am	**[Open to Media]** Arrival of Guest of Honour (GOH) – Assoc Prof Dr Muhd Faishal Ibrahim **Note: Media may accompany GOH who will be making a walkabout at the various breakout groups.**
11.25am	Participants to convene in the Auditorium
11.35am	**[Open to Media]** Welcome Speech by Chairman AMP Dr Badrun Nafis Saion
11.40am	**[Open to Media]** Speech by Guest of Honour Assoc Prof Dr Muhd Faishal Ibrahim
11.50am	**[Open to Media]** Presentations by Breakout Groups (5 mins each)
	End of Media Segment
12.10pm	**[Closed to Media]** Closed-door Dialogue Session
1.10pm	**[Closed to Media]** Presentation of Token of Appreciation
1.15pm	**[Closed to Media]** Lunch
2.00pm	End of Programme

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 detainees by providing support to their families. Many of the wives and children of detainees 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 radicalised individuals 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.