

Celebrating 60 Years of Unity

Racial Harmony Day
Engagement Package *July 2025*

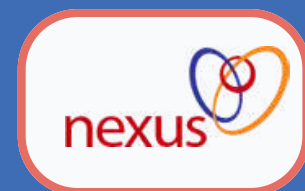


Image credits: Freepik

QUOTE

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**Singapore's greatest strength is our unity
across race and religion.**

**It is the bedrock of our multi-racial and
multi-religious society.**

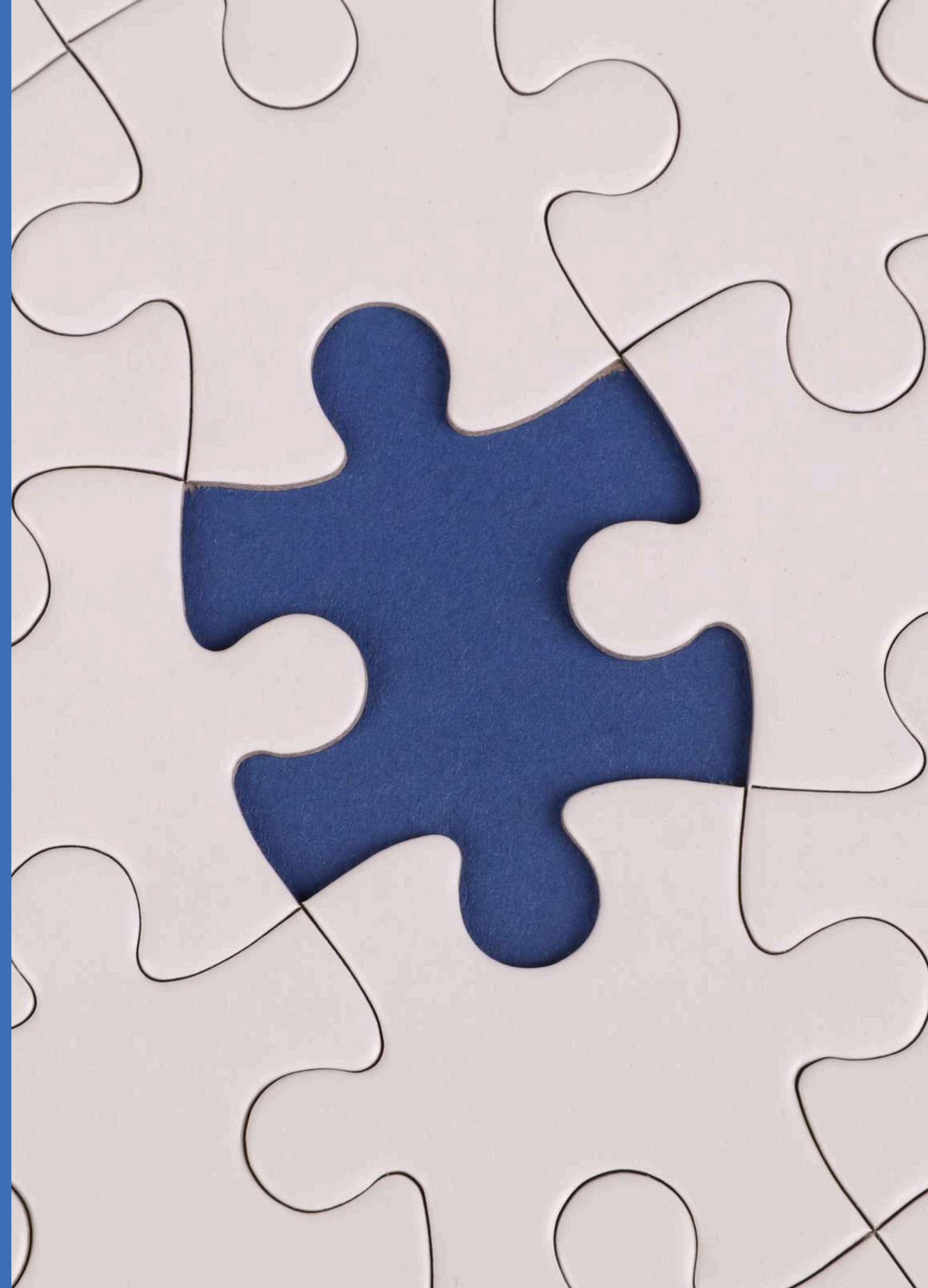
**And this is not accidental – it is the result
of painstaking hard work and patient effort
by generations of Singaporeans.**

”



- Prime Minister Lawrence Wong at the press
conference on the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)
statement on 26 April 2025

What Are The Challenges To *Our Harmony?*



Race and Religious Fault Lines



Source: The Straits Times

April 2025

A Singaporean religious teacher based in Malaysia, brought religion into politics, urging Muslims to vote based on religious affiliation during GE2025.



Source: Channel News Asia

April 2025

During GE2025, a political candidate used the term "keling kia" to describe a fellow candidate in her rally speech. "Keling kia" is a derogatory term in Hokkien that is used to describe Indians.



Source: Channel News Asia

April 2025

Two self-radicalised Singaporean teens were caught under the Internal Security Act. They had planned to attack several mosques in Singapore, according to the Internal Security Department.



Source: Channel News Asia

July 2023

A police officer claimed his teammates in the Singapore Police Force used racial slurs against him and that superiors bullied him. Following investigations, Minister K Shanmugam stressed that racially inappropriate remarks were "not acceptable at all".

Pause and Reflect

The study shows growing awareness and trust in other racial and religious groups, which is a positive step forward.

However, why is racial stereotyping still prevalent and cross-racial friendships on the decline?



Key Findings From IPS Study 2024¹

Findings by the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) and racial harmony advocacy group OnePeople.sg



While trust levels have generally increased over the past decade, over a quarter of people still do not trust people of other races.



There is a decline in cross-racial friendships from 2018 to 2024.



There is an increase in the no. of respondents who view racial diversity as beneficial for Singapore.



More Singaporeans agree that we have high or very high levels of racial and religious harmony.

¹ Read the IPS report here: https://lkyspp.nus.edu.sg/docs/default-source/ips/ips-working-paper-no-59_results-from-the-ips-onepeoplesg-indicators-of-racial-and-religious-harmony-2024.pdf

CHANGING DEMOGRAPHICS

As Singapore welcome new talents, concerns about identity, competition, and cultural integration arise.

If left unaddressed, they may lead to nativism — the belief that only those born locally should be prioritised. While rooted in a desire to protect what feels familiar, such sentiments risk undermining inclusivity.

Nativism threatens the spirit of racial and religious harmony we've built over the past six decades. When people are labelled as “outsiders” simply for being new or different, it creates division, distrust, and exclusion.

How you can play your part

Appreciate cultures of all communities

Support integration of new citizens and permanent residents

Celebrate diversity instead of being close minded



RISE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

In today's digital age, social media shapes how we think, feel, and relate to one another.

While it has connected us like never before, it has also become a space where misinformation spreads quickly, and hurtful stereotypes or divisive narratives can take root without people even realising it.

Social media posts that mock, stereotype, or oversimplify cultures and beliefs, even in the name of humour or opinion, can reinforce biases and deepen misunderstandings.

Left unchecked, these online behaviours can slowly erode trust and respect, which are crucial to our multiracial, multi-religious society.

How you can play your part

Think before sharing - is it respectful, kind, and true?

Speak up against misinformation and hate speech

Use social media responsibly!



ETHNIC CLUSTERING

Despite living in a multicultural society, many Singaporeans still tend to socialise, live, or work primarily within their own racial or cultural groups — whether by comfort, language, or circumstance. This “clustering” may be especially visible in schools, friendships, workplaces, and even online communities.

When people rarely interact across racial or cultural lines, stereotypes go unchallenged and empathy weakens. Over time, this can lead to social clusters where groups misunderstand or fear each other, reducing the sense of unity that is core to Singapore’s national identity.

How you can play your part

Be more open to talking to people of different races

Join initiatives that promote cross cultural understandings and friendships

Be sensitive and mindful, don’t be quick to judge



REFLECTION

Why do you think it's important to treat everyone fairly, no matter what race or religion they belong to?

If someone told you to only support people of your own community, what would you say or do?

How can you help make your school, unit, or neighbourhood more inclusive?



Everybody Plays A Part

More Singapore residents want the government to be more involved in handling racial and religious issues, according to findings from a survey conducted by the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) last year.

The study also found there was strong support for policy outcomes to ensure racial harmony.

Read the IPS report here: https://lkyspp.nus.edu.sg/docs/default-source/ips/ips-working-paper-no-59_results-from-the-ips-onepeoplesg-indicators-of-racial-and-religious-harmony-2024.pdf

Government Initiatives

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



Source: www.sg60.gov.sg

Racial And Religious Harmony Month

Events and programmes to promote racial and religious harmony.



Source: www.mccy.gov.sg

Racial And Religious Harmony Circle

Aims to be networks of trust that unite people regardless of race or religion.

Building A Caring And Inclusive Society

Our identity is forged through shared values and goals; such as our commitment to multiculturalism, unity and progress, and strengthened via our collective experiences.

Society / Community Initiatives



EMBRACE!

EMBRACE is a project that uses design to spark conversations and collaborations to rejuvenate Singaporeans' community spirit. Steel panels around MRT pillars are used as a canvas for community expression.



House of Mini Picture Books - Cultural Edition

The cultural edition of the picture books are inspired by local cultures and stories and are suitable for young readers. The books provide information about different cultural practices and the also debunk cultural stereotypes and myths.

See The Change, Be The Change.

Read more of such inspirational individual stories at kaya.gov.sg

BEAUTIFUL
MINDS
INSPIRE
OTHERS

Individual Initiatives

You have the power to shape the kind of society we live in.

One that's kinder, more united, and inclusive for all. Whether it's starting a conversation, lending a hand, or standing up for what's right — change begins with you.



16 May 2025

Erasing the invisible line: A man on a mission for inclusivity

Series SG60

Syazwan Bin Zainal Shah isn't just talking about inclusion, he's living it. From leading camps to launching bold initiatives, he's building a world ...

Article



16 May 2025

How 3 young Singaporean chefs are celebrating heritage through food

Series SG60

Food is more than just sustenance, it's an enduring way to pass down culture and history. Culinary advocates who are taking part in ...

Article



29 October 2024

The man who brought the kampung spirit to Singapore's friendliest neighbourhood

In Singapore's Friendliest Neighbourhood, residents come together weekly to volunteer and distribute rescued food! Kaya spends a da...

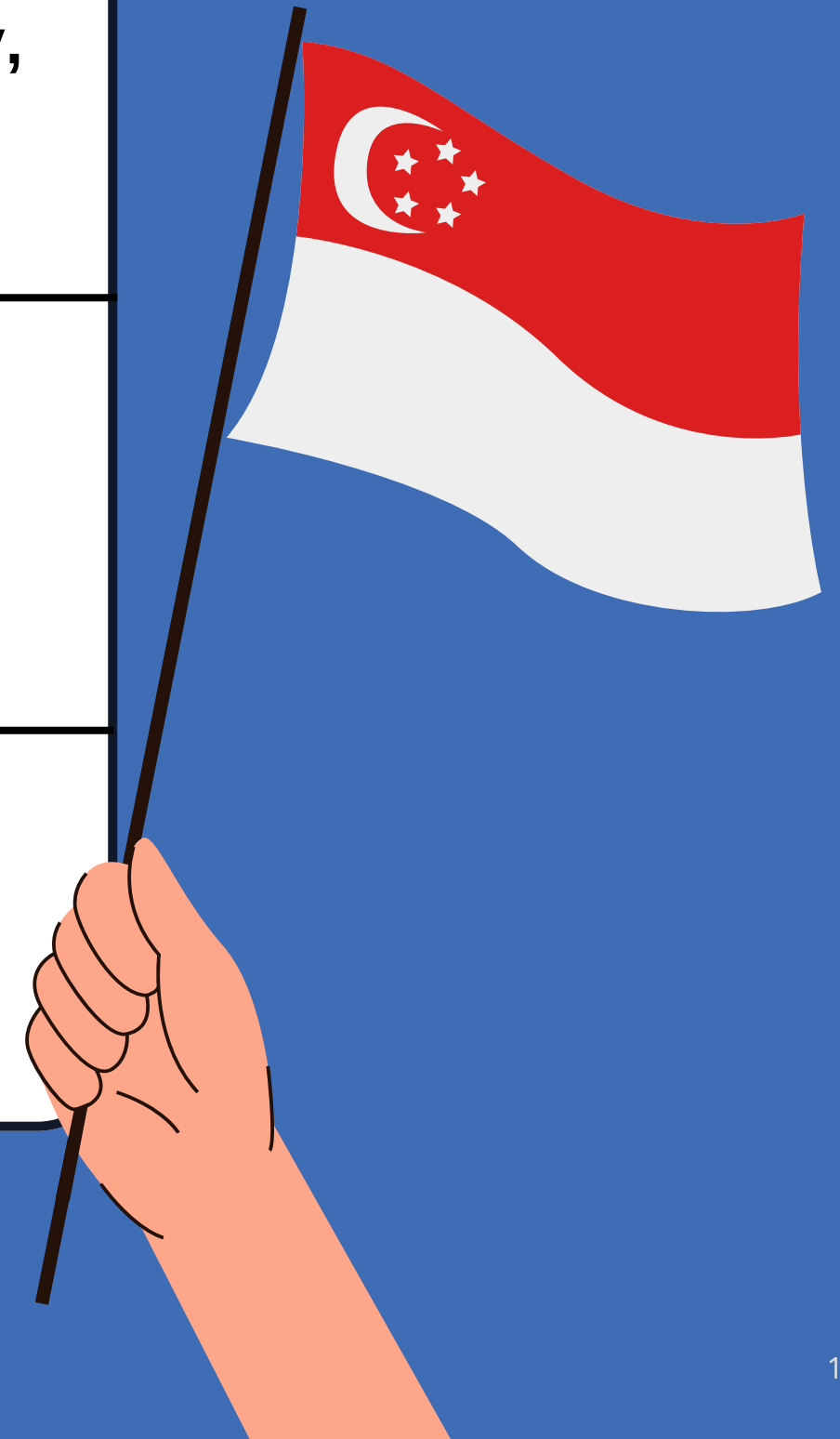
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REFLECTION

**What challenges do we still face in maintaining harmony,
and how can I help address them?**

**How can I show care and empathy for people of
different religious and racial backgrounds?**

**What life experiences have shaped my
Singaporean identity?**



Get Involved.

A vibrant array of activities and programs that aim to build a deeper appreciation for Singapore’s diversity awaits.

For more info, visit:

<https://www.harmonycircle.sg/sginharmony/get-involved/>

or scan the QR code below:



Source: MCCY



Living in Harmony, Growing Together

[13 July 2025] Enjoy cultural and dance performances, arts & craft booths, bouncy castle, cultural display and snacks at One Punggol!

[For More Information](#)



Echo Sixty Passion Festival

[13 July 2025] Echo Sixty PAssion Festival - a Youth Concert organised in conjunction SG60 celebrations. The initiative uses community arts to provide a platform for young performers to showcase their talents, while commemorating Singapore's diamond jubilee.

[For more Information](#)



Unity in Harmony

[20 July 2025] Chua Chu Kang Harmony Circle will be supporting Unity in Harmony Celebration at Chua Chu Kang CC. Participants will get to enjoy various stage performances, game booths, live station food and fancy dress contest for all ages.

A Youth Intercultural Showcase
Kaleidoscope
 Harmony in Motion

QUOTE

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Shared values and belief in a common future do not come naturally, and there are always countervailing sentiments below the surface. Multicultural societies must therefore be actively woven.

”



- President Tharman Shanmugaratnam at the International Conference on Cohesive Societies

Additional Resources:

SG101



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



An organisation that champions racial harmony initiatives in Singapore.



Racial & Religious
**HARMONY
CIRCLE**
Different Races. Many Beliefs. One Singapore.



A platform to promote racial and religious harmony in Singapore, with a presence in every constituency.

Thank You!

To help us produce better engagement packages, we need to hear from you! Please provide your feedback below:

<https://go.gov.sg/rhdpackage2025>



Brought to you by Nexus with input from MCCY

