



RACIAL HARMONY DAY 2022

Engagement Package



In recent times, societies have become more polarised along racial and religious fault-lines.

May 2022

Man to be charged with making racist remarks, insensitive comments about religion
today

Oct 2021

Covid racism fuels rise in hate crimes against East and South East Asians
itv

Apr 2022

Growing number of people in Singapore feel racism is an important problem: CNA-IPS study
cna

Sept 2021

The Covid-19 pandemic has fuelled racism and hate speech, with racial discrimination in Switzerland affecting more and more young people, says a new report.
SWI

Mar 2022

Founder of fashion brand Ong Shunmugam apologises for race-related remarks at ACM event
today

Aug 2021

Hate crimes against Asian and Black people rise sharply in the U.S., FBI says
CNBC

The problem is exacerbated by the prevalence of the Internet and social media, and compounded by the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Time for Reflection

How do you feel when you read about (or encounter) acts of racism?

Why do you think it is important, especially in Singapore, to build and maintain racial harmony?



Attitudes, Actions and Aspirations: Key Findings from the CNA-IPS Survey on Race Relations 2021

Source: Institute of Policy Studies (IPS)



Privilege and Meritocracy

- Respondents are **optimistic about meritocracy in the future**, with 97% feeling that minorities will continue to be judged by merit rather than race.
- About **56.2%** feel that **racism remains an important problem today**.



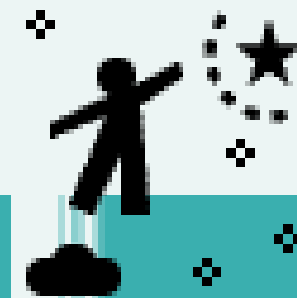
Lived Experiences

- **Racial discrimination at work was experienced by a small proportion of respondents (less than 9%)**. Minorities are more affected by such discrimination than Chinese.
- **41%** say they have not been affected by race-related incidents highlighted in the news.



Policies

- Racial Harmony Day is the most well-received policy, with **8 in 10 respondents feel that RHD preserves racial harmony**.

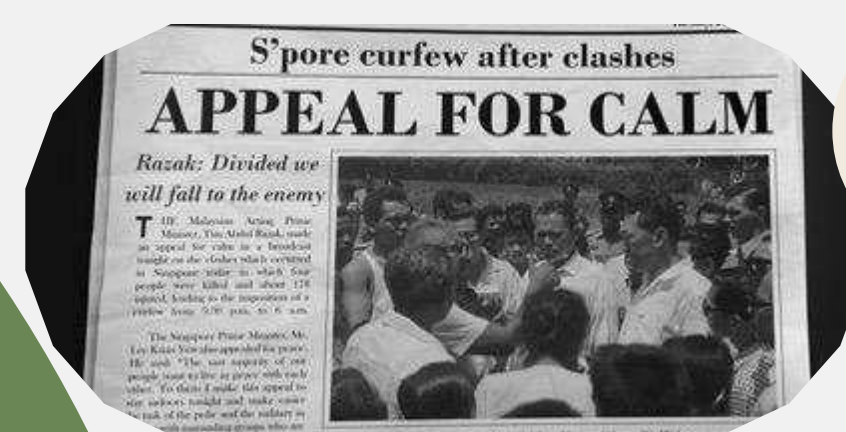


Aspirations

- One development that is highly welcomed is **greater intercultural understanding**. About **62.9%** feel this would be good or very good for Singapore society.

Racial Harmony & Singapore

Singapore's social harmony does not come naturally. The government and our people have to work hard together to build trust and acceptance between different races and religions, and protect the common spaces that we have.



1964

- On 21 Jul 1964, a series of riots broke out between the Chinese and Malay communities.
- **23 people dead and 454 injured** - Seen as the worst riot in Singapore's postwar history.



1966

- Our Pledge was written to **promote national loyalty and consciousness among citizens after Singapore's separation from Malaysia.**
- Recited by students during school assemblies.



1997

- **Launch of National Education and Racial Harmony Day** with the aim to instill a sense of national identity among young Singaporeans.



2022

- **25th anniversary of the launch of RHD!**
- Remind ourselves of the importance of racial and religious harmony in Singapore.

Strength in Diversity

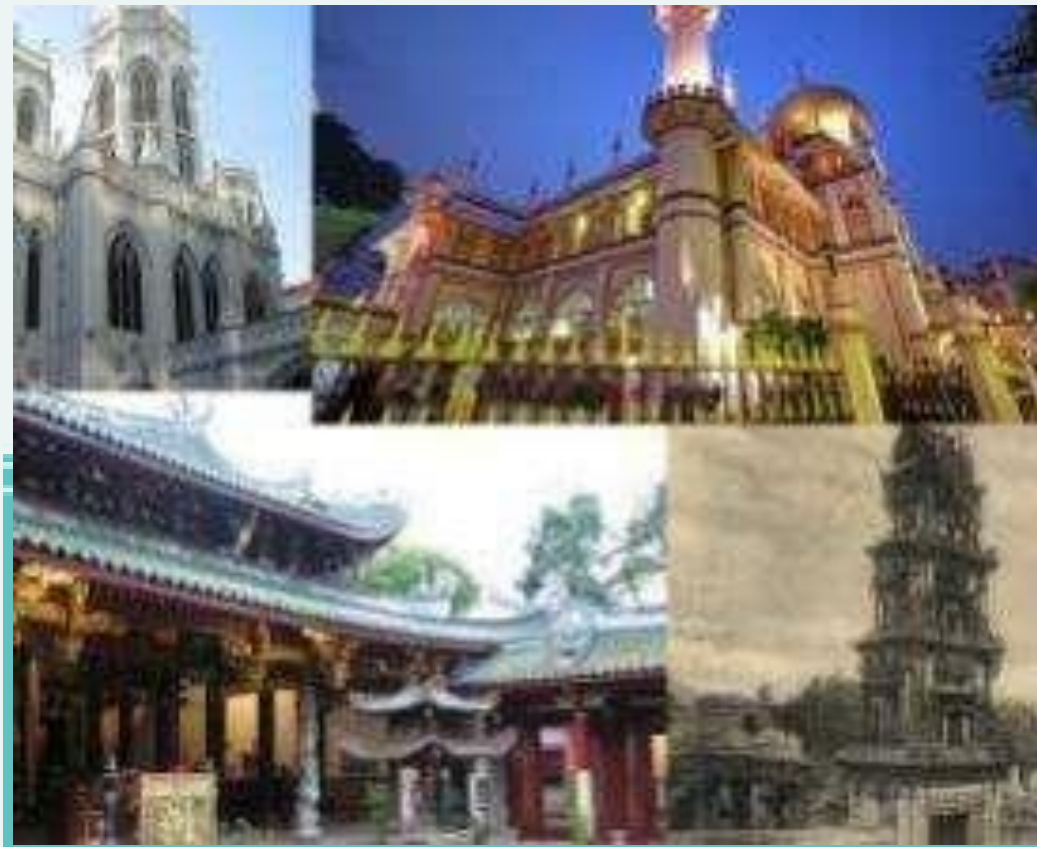
Through building mutual trust and understanding, our diversity can become a source of strength for the common good. Here are some different aspects of our society where we can see diversity in harmony among different races and religions.



Our People



Our Food



Our Beliefs



Our Way of Life

On Multiracialism



“We are going to have a **multi-racial nation** in Singapore. **We will set the example.** This is not a Malay nation; this is not a Chinese nation; this is not an Indian nation. **Everybody will have his place: equal; language, culture, religion.**”

– Founding Prime Minister, Mr Lee Kuan Yew at Broadcasting House on 9 Aug 1965



Time for Reflection

What can we do to further strengthen racial harmony in Singapore?

Efforts to build social cohesion in S'pore should not be trivialised: President Halimah Yacob



National Initiatives

At the national level, initiatives are rolled out to encourage mutual understanding and tolerance amongst the different races and religions, and for Singaporeans to be able to seek help and support from various inter-racial and religious organizations.



Inter-Racial and Religious Confidence Circle

- Formed in 2002 in the aftermath of 9/11 and renamed in 2007.
- Serve as bridges for leaders of various racial and religious communities to interact and build trust and friendship.



New Maintenance of Racial Harmony Act

- Announced by PM Lee during National Day Rally 2021.
- New law will include “softer” measures for an offender to make amends by learning more about other races and mending ties with them.



Panel discussions by OnePeople SG & MCCY

- Panel discussion and dialogue session addressing various concerns about HR processes and discriminatory hiring practices.
- Provided different perspectives on multiracialism at the workplace.

Community Initiatives

Ground-up efforts led by communities complement the national initiatives to help reach out to more Singaporeans and encourage more interactions and conversations about race and religion.



Hash Peace

- A youth-led advocacy group conducting programmes for sustainable social harmony.
- Organised events where people from all races and religions can have **conversations on inter-racial relations** with one another, and with our leaders.



Our Grandfather Story (OGS)

- Through authentic storytelling and candid perspectives, **OGS explores society, culture and the human condition to connect and inspire the audience.**



Multi racial Lion Dance troupe in Singapore!

- The volunteer lion dance troupe is largely made up of **non-Chinese teenagers** from the People's Association Teens Network Club @ Bukit Merah.

Individual Initiatives

As individuals, we can play our part and contribute in our own ways, no matter how or small, to contribute to and safeguard racial and religious harmony, and social cohesion in Singapore.



Fluent Mandarin and Hokkien-speaking Indian salesman

- Mr Ng had picked up Mandarin, Hokkien and Teochew from his grandparents while growing up.
- For him, **picking up new languages was a way for him to communicate with people.**



Malay chef and Chinese neighbour: Close as family!

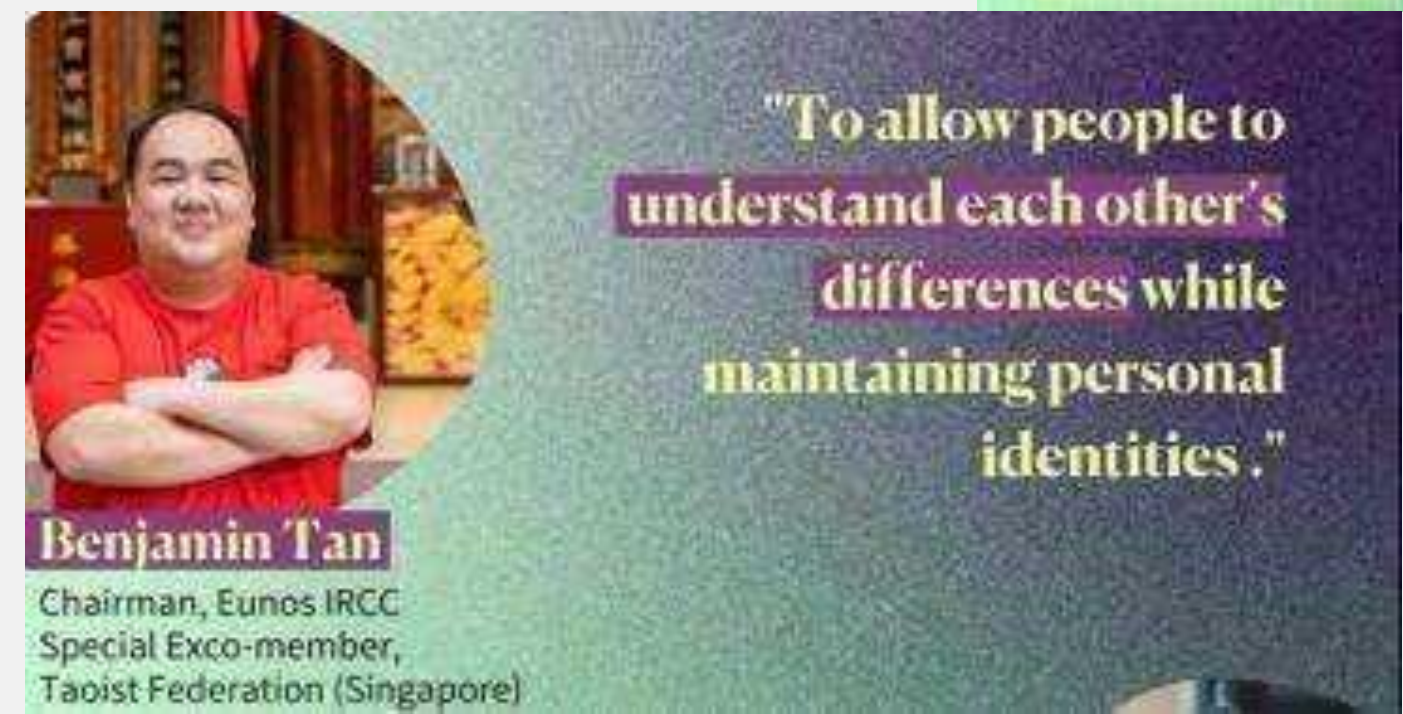
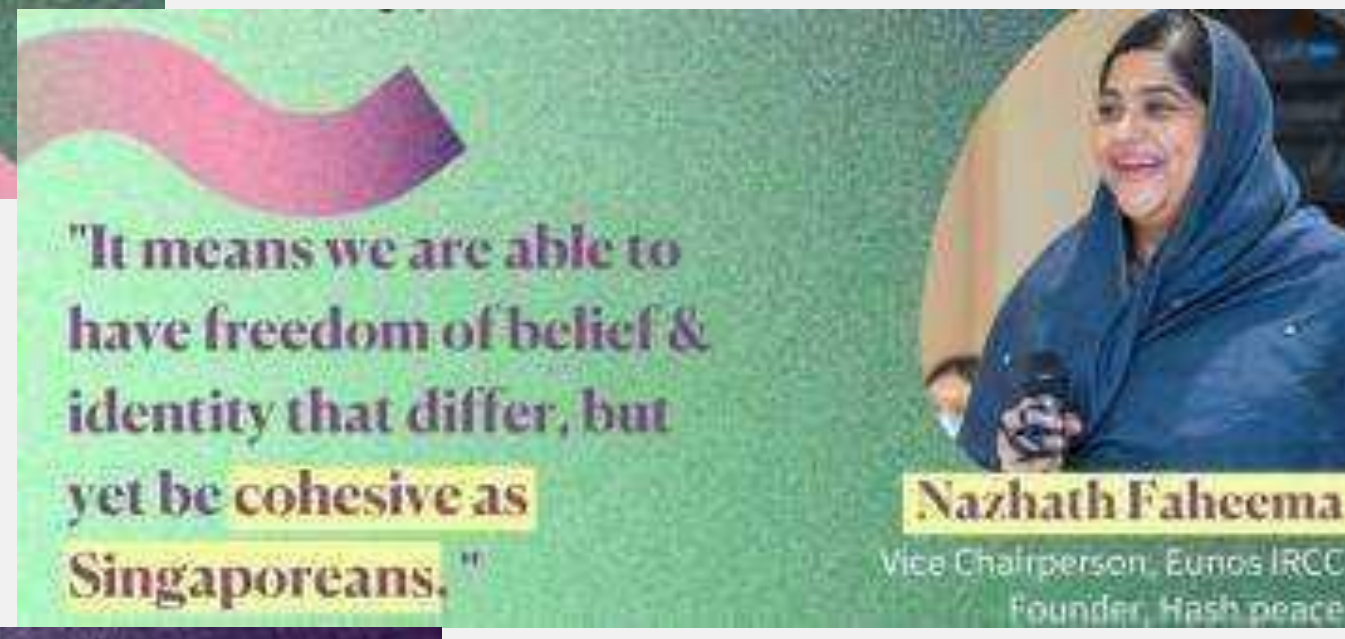
- Small interactions over the years have **built up a strong relationship between the two families**, and they often surprise each other with food and gifts.



Centre of InterFaith Understanding

- Mohamed Imran Mohamed Taib **founded an inclusive interfaith organisation** to help promote an engaged community with a deep understanding of interfaith ideas and practices.

What does Racial Harmony mean to our fellow Singaporeans?



Time for Reflection

**What does Racial Harmony
mean to you?**

**As an individual, what are some
ways in which we can contribute
towards social harmony in
Singapore?**



Racial Harmony in Singapore



"(In Singapore,) we **embrace our diversity and celebrate each other's customs and cultures**, but also remember the **times when tensions between the ethnic and racial groups boiled over** into conflict and violence. Race and religion have sadly become divisive fault lines in many countries. We must **treasure the harmony that we enjoy**, and never let that happen here. We worked long and hard to arrive here, and we must **work even harder to preserve this peace for future generations.**"

– PM Lee Hsien Loong's
Facebook Post on 21 July 2019



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your feedback through the QR
code or the link below.

Scan QR code



<https://go.gov.sg/rhdpackage2022>

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Thank you!

