

NCCS facilitated a dialogue session: A closed-door meeting was organised for pastors and church leaders to discuss sensitive issues raised during the 2022 Committee of Supply debates in parliament. Although called at short notice, there were 243 pastors and lay leaders representing churches and denominations across Singapore, including the Catholic Archdiocese. The engagement session with Ministers K Shanmugam and Desmond Lee was held on 24 May at St Andrew's Cathedral. NCCS thanks churches for their participation.

Helping Church Members Counter Fraud and Scam: Many people in Singapore have already fallen prey to scams and sadly some of them have lost considerable sums of hard-earned income. We would like to encourage church leaders to work with the authorities so as to prevent more victims from being cheated of their life savings.

The Charity Unit of MCCY in collaboration with Commercial Affairs Department, would like to help charitable organisations such as churches to be more informed about common fraud practices. They have organised a Zoom Conference for pastors and church leaders specifically to inform the Christian community about these fraud practices as well as share some best practices to counter them.

So far 10 churches and Christian organisations have registered. It is still not too late for your church representatives to attend the virtual conference to be held on Wednesday, 29 June 2022 from 10.30am to 12.30pm. For registration, please use this [Link](#).

Addressing Identity and Cohesion in Singapore. The SRP Executive Programme (EP) conducted by the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), NTU, returned for its seventh iteration. This year's focus was on how communities – from majority/minority religions, the non-religious, and migrants – relate their identities to religious and racial-relations dynamics within the wider framework of social life.

This is a timely course which helps to bridge understanding between religion, race and nationality as there has never been a period in Singapore's history when identity is so much discussed by ordinary citizens due to a number of factors. We share with you some areas of concern for the Christian community's considered response:

1. a spate of race-related incidents which have surfaced issues of race and relations between different racial groups that creates tensions;
2. discussions on social media (often strongly emotive) that pour out frustrations over unfair treatment and which often exist in, or create, polarised echo chambers;
3. the conflation of race and religion, which implies that religion is or can be a factor present in episodes that involve race and nationality;

4. the Covid-19 pandemic, which has put stress on relations between people of different racial, religious, and national groups due to anxieties regarding public health and well-being, the allocation of resources and competition for economic opportunities; and
5. religious and racial tensions fuelled by religious leaders within the region and beyond, which can spill over to Singapore, even in seemingly insignificant ways.

NCCS would like to thank you for your positive feedback on its monthly e-newsletter. We encourage you to share the e-newsletter with other church leaders and members of your congregation for their information.