



Gender Equality in Singapore: An Action Plan for Progress

Thursday, 3 June 2021

PANEL II
Home is Where the Work is

SPEAKER

Mr Benny Bong

President

Society Against Family Violence

Gender Equality in Singapore; *An Action Plan for Progress*

Panel 2: Home is where the Work is

By: Mr Benny Bong, President, Society Against Family Violence (SAFV)



An uneasy juxtaposition

“Home is where the **Work** is”

VS

“Home is where the **Heart** is”

(Elvis Presley, 1962)



Home /
Work



Family Violence /
Familial **Relations**



Gender Equality /
Gender **Inequality**

A Perfect Storm



More **women** than men experiencing family violence



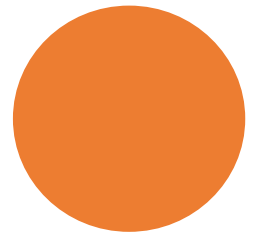
37%

Increase in calls to FV Specialist Centres



25.6%

Increase in DV



A Perfect Storm



Cerrato, J., & Cifre, E. (2018). Gender inequality in household chores and work-family conflict. *Frontiers in psychology*, 9, 1330.

Chow, C. (2018). Un-gendering the home. *The Straits Times*. <https://www.straitstimes.com/lifestyle/un-gendering-the-home>.



Efforts are reducing the Persistence of Gender Inequalities

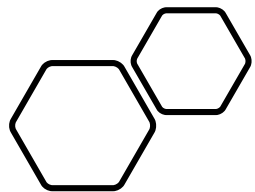
POLICY

LAWS

Enforcement
of laws

Societal
perspective

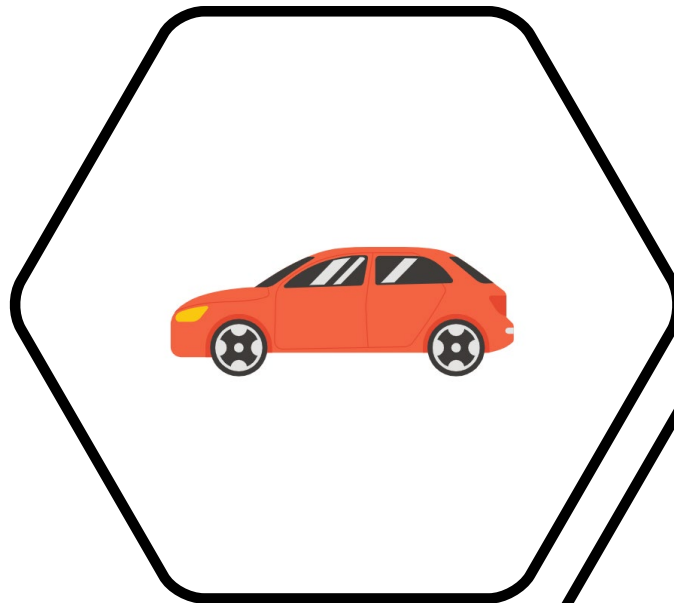




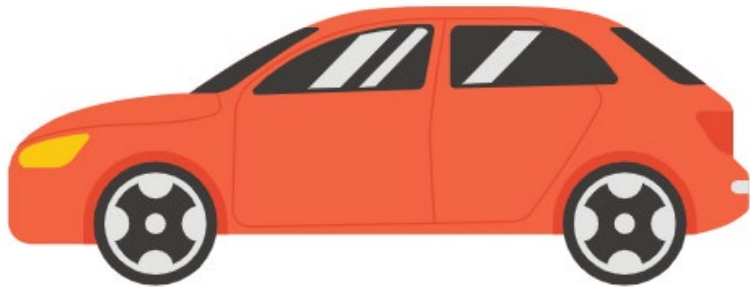
Areas of Development in the Road Map

Men's views about their roles:

- Unequal sharing of household chores
- Servitude versus partnership, segregation versus harmonizing
- Challenging societal concepts of what is masculine and feminine



Areas of Development in the Road Map



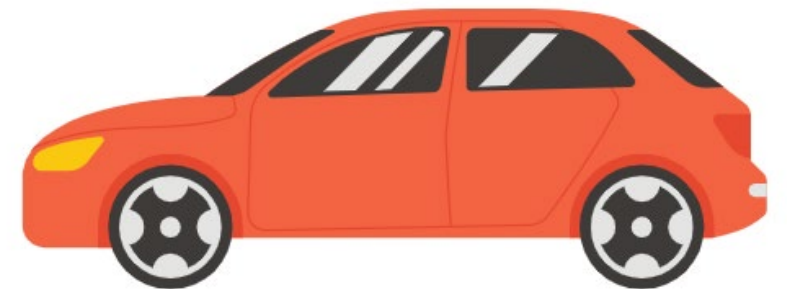
Men's views about home:

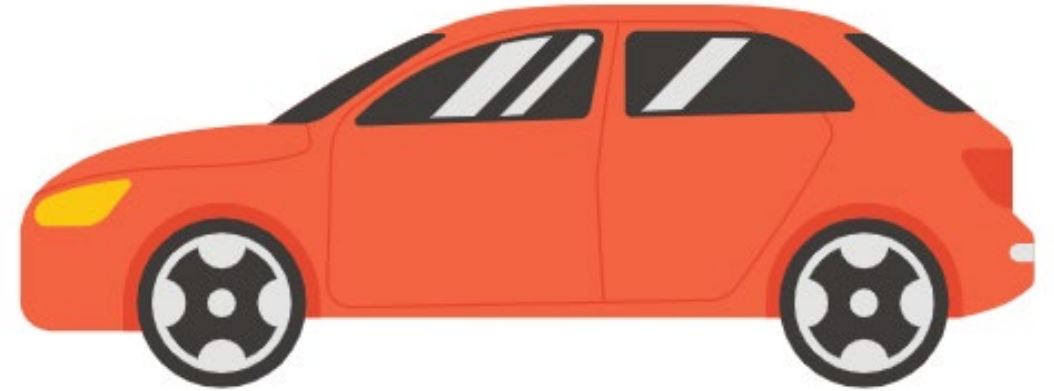
- Challenging the strict division of men seeing work as something done outside and home for rest
- With WFH and sharing of chores, men will have to do house work as part and parcel of running a household

Areas of Development in the Road Map

Men's view about home and work:

- Work is often associated with competition, conflict and conquest
- Concern of men in being able to do tasks independently and to do it well, in areas that they are unfamiliar with, such as doing housework and raising children.
- Will spouses and mothers be willing to relinquish areas of concerns like these to their male partners?





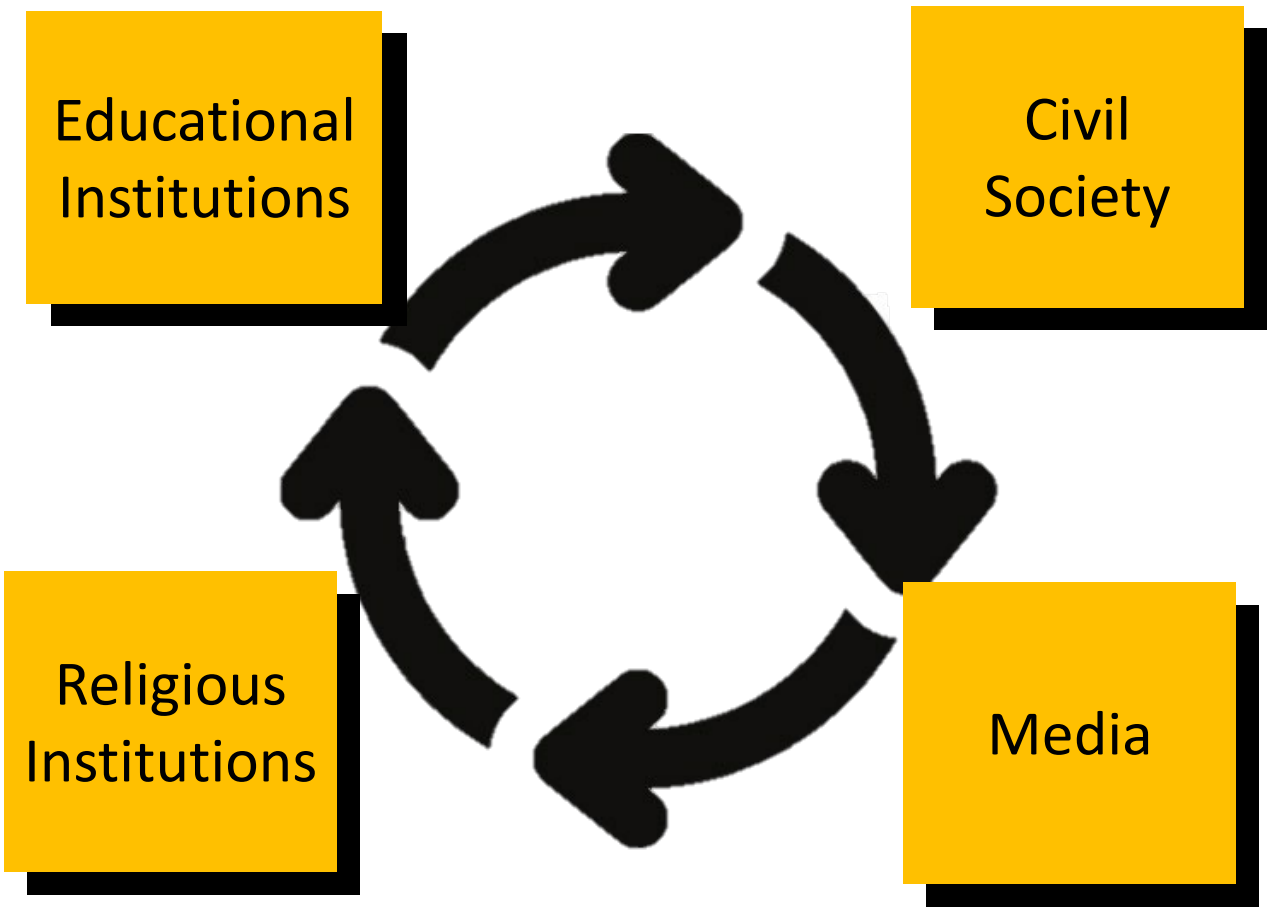
Areas of Development in the Road Map

Explore the values that support the roles:

- Privileging efficiency to harmony
- Harmony based on respect and empowerment of others not on control and dominance



Who else can take the lead in shaping societal roles and values?



LetterFromBangkok

*Folklore with
a twist sparks
debate about
feminism*

Thai drama turns tale of a helpless woman torn
between 2 men to one of female empowerment



Gender Equality should be a hallmark of an evolved society.

*“Transformation is what the world needs now
at this historical time,
And in spite of everything,
thankfully there are many
who are working towards that.”*

Ref: MeiraChand Sunday Times 23 May '21

