

## **Older S'poreans less trustful of minorities during national crisis: IPS-OnePeople.SG survey**

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Older Singaporeans are less likely to trust a member of Singapore's minority race during times of national crisis, a survey jointly carried out by the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) and OnePeople.SG has discovered.

A total of 4,015 Singaporeans and Permanent Residents were surveyed on aspects of their racial and religious identity, and sociopolitical issues.

Details of the survey result can be found on "Indicators of Racial and Religious Harmony: Comparing Results from 2013 and 2018".

### **Younger Singaporeans more trusting of minorities during a national crisis**

On the topic of inter-racial trust during times of crisis, the survey found that 53.5 percent to 56.6 percent of respondents aged 56 and above indicated that they would trust a Singapore Malay, Indian, or Eurasian to help.

This level is lower than the level of trust of younger Singaporeans.

In comparison, the survey found that Singaporeans aged 18 to 25 had higher inter-racial trust of minorities for such a period, with figures ranging from 64.1 percent to 67.3 percent.

In fact, the figures remained above 60 percent for all age groups, up to 55 years old, when it came to trusting Malays, Indians and Eurasians during a time of national crisis.

### **Chinese respondents least trustful of other races during national crisis**

Breaking respondents down by race, it looked least good for the Chinese.

The survey showed that Chinese respondents were the least trustful of minorities during a time of national crisis.

Here's a breakdown of the trust of Chinese respondents:

79.2 percent trust Singapore Chinese,

59.1 percent trust Singapore Malays,

60.1 percent trust Singapore Indians, and

57.2 percent trust Singapore Eurasians.

Meanwhile, Malay, Indian and Other respondents had much higher trust in Singapore Chinese and other fellow minorities during a national crisis, with figures ranging from 61.4 percent to 78.2 percent.

### **Putting to rest the myth of the kampung spirit?**

Such findings, the survey noted, supposedly contradicted the narrative of the kampung spirit in pre-independent Singapore.

The kampung spirit was allegedly present at high levels due to the amount of inter-racial interaction and tolerance between different racial groups in pre-independent Singapore.

The survey added that while such trust might have been commonplace, it was important to acknowledge that older Singaporeans did not have the same level of access to racially integrated environments like those of younger Singaporeans.

The survey highlighted that many older Singaporeans attended vernacular schools and quite a number of kampungs were predominantly single race.

It also pointed to communal tensions, such as racial riots in the 1950s, as another potential factor for sentiments of distrust and negativity towards different racial communities.

### **Chinese the most positive about racial and religious harmony**

Regardless, the future looks bright.

The survey also noted that among all racial groups, the Chinese were the most upbeat, with nearly 60 percent of respondents stating that hopes for racial and religious harmony was either high or very high.

In comparison, 47.9 percent of Malay respondents replied along the same lines, while 44.6 percent of Indian respondents gave the same answers.

Meanwhile, 46.9 percent of Malay respondents and 48.7 percent of Indian respondents replied in the moderate range, compared to 37.3 percent of Chinese respondents.

Across all racial groups however, a very small percentage of respondents characterised racial and religious harmony as low.