Panel 2: Mitigating Non-Violent Ethnic Hostilities in Asia-Pacific

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We are realists. We don't presume that social cohesion is the natural order.

We don't live in a utopia where there are no differences or disagreements between people of different races, religions and nationalities.



Determined for history not to repeat itself.

Racial riots of 21 July 1964.



APPEAL FOR CALM

Razak: Divided we will fall to the enemy

an appeal for calm in a broadcast tonight on the clashes which occurred in Singapore today in which four people were killed and about 178 injured, leading to the imposition of a curfew from 9.30 p.m. to 6 a.m.

The Singapore Prime Minister. Mr. Lee Kuan Yew.



Defence need: So \$100m cut in plan

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Mantra of racial and religious harmony firmly imprinted into our DNA.

Clear Out-of-Bound markers and red lines we should not cross when it comes to race and religion.



We must always stay united and cohesive; and never allow society to be divided along the lines of race, religion or nationality. This is non-negotiable.



Government legislation and policies can help to promote a culture of racial tolerance; but legislation and policies alone are insufficient to change mindsets and behaviour.



Community and groundup organisations play a critical role to help shape positive mindsets and behaviours at the last mile.



1) Building advocates, ambassadors and changemakers; turning racial incidents into "teachable moments".



2) Creating safe spaces to discover blind spots and unconscious biases; building understanding through respectful conversations.



Channel News Asia-IPS Survey on Race Relations in Singapore

More than half of respondents felt that racism was an important problem.

Most respondents were unsure what to do if a colleague told them they felt like they had been racially discriminated at the workplace.

More than half (58%) were likely to justify the experience as the result of other factors besides race.

3) Rather than "me vs you" adversarial approach; choose the path of compassion, understanding and building consensus.

The fine line between social justice and vengeance.

Story of the Young Sikhs Association and the influencer.

