



YOUNG SINGAPOREANS CONFERENCE 2026: FUTURE MAKERS

Saturday, 12 September 2026

Friday, 18 September 2026

Wednesday, 14 October 2026

CONCEPT

Young Singaporeans Conference 2026 (YSC 2026) themed “Future Makers”, will focus on Singapore’s declining total fertility rate (TFR). This year’s YSC aims to understand young Singaporeans’ perspectives on having children, and to serve as a catalyst for young Singaporean thought leaders to collectively address the challenges contributing to Singapore’s low TFR. The conference takes a deliberate focus on building social capital by connecting diverse groups of young Singaporeans with policymakers and experts. The conference also seeks to harness youth collective intelligence by appointing Youth Leaders to guide group discussions and shape ideas on specific topic domains with fellow youth.

These five domains will be explored during the conference and will be used to guide participant groupings:

1. Relationships and Romance
2. Housing, Setting Up Home of Own
3. Career and Personal Aspirations
4. Caregiving and other Family Duties
5. Positive Parenting Experiences

FORMAT

YSC 2026 comprises three key components: a Pre-Conference Engagement for Youth Leaders, an online Information Session, and the main Conference for all participants.

Day One, the **Pre-Conference Engagement**, will be held on **Saturday, 12 September 2026** for Youth Leaders only, and will comprise guided policy deliberations and a dialogue session with the Guest-of-Honour, Ms Goh Hanyan, Senior Parliamentary Secretary for the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth and the Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment.

All participants are required to attend an **online Information Session** on **Friday, 18 September 2026**. During this session, IPS Resource Persons will clarify participants’ roles and responsibilities, and provide an opportunity for groups to meet and interact.

From 18 September to 14 October 2026, all participants will work together on a policy brief, led by the Youth Leaders and mentored by IPS Resource Persons.

Day Two, the **main Conference**, will be held for all participants on **Wednesday, 14 October 2026**, and will feature panel discussions, group discussions, group presentations, and a dialogue session with the Guest-of-Honour, Ms Jasmin Lau, Acting Minister for Manpower and Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Digital Development and Information.

After the Conference, participants will be given until Friday, 30 October 2026 to refine and finalise their policy briefs.

PROGRAMME

SATURDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER 2026

Pre-Conference Engagement

Eu Tong Sen Conference Room (Level 1)
Eu Tong Sen Building
National University of Singapore
(Bukit Timah Campus)

9.30 am – 10.00 am	Registration <i>(Light refreshments will be served.)</i>
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10.00 am – 10.15 am	Introduction
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10.15 am – 12.30 pm	Needs & Assets Mapping
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How can we systematically think about policy solutions and whole-of-society efforts to address a specific issue? This framework will guide thinking on not just the needs that exist, but the assets that meet these needs. Youth Leaders will thus gain a better appreciation of government and whole-of-society efforts to address the issues related to these five domains, while providing thoughtful perspectives on remaining gaps.

Facilitator

Mr Wilson Goh
Research Associate
Policy Lab
Institute of Policy Studies

12.30 pm – 1.30 pm

Lunch

1.30 pm – 5.30 pm

Developing Lines of Inquiry

(Light refreshments will be served from 3.30 pm – 4.30 pm.)

This activity gives Youth Leaders the agency to appraise information across the five key domains contributing to the low total fertility rate, surface areas of concern, and develop targeted lines of inquiry to eventually be brought forward to the Main Conference.

Facilitator

Mr Nicholas Thomas
Research Fellow
Policy Lab
Institute of Policy Studies

5.30 pm – 6.30 pm

Dialogue Session with Guest-of-Honour

Speaker

Ms Goh Hanyan
Senior Parliamentary Secretary
Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth and
Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment

Moderator

Dr Wong Kang Li
Research Fellow
Policy Lab
Institute of Policy Studies

6.30 pm

End

FRIDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 2026

Online Information Session

Online via Zoom

12.30 pm – 1.30 pm

Information Session

IPS Resource Persons will clarify participants' roles and responsibilities, and provide an opportunity for groups to meet and interact.

WEDNESDAY, 14 OCTOBER 2026

Main Conference

**Tembusu Canopy (Level 3)
Temasek Shophouse**

8.30 am – 9.15 am

Registration

(Light refreshments will be served.)

9.15 am – 9.30 am

Opening Remarks and Prelude

Dr Wong Kang Li
Research Fellow
Policy Lab
Institute of Policy Studies

9.30 am – 10.45 am

Panel 1: What's Happening

Panellists will provide a broad overview of the local coupling and childbearing landscape and the key issues at hand. The trade-offs and challenges surrounding policies that support marriage and parenthood will be discussed.

Speakers

Dr Kalpana Vignehsa
Senior Research Fellow
Society and Governance
Institute of Policy Studies

Dr Tan Poh Lin
Senior Research Fellow
Society and Governance
Institute of Policy Studies

Ms Nadia Ahmad Samdin
Member of Parliament and
Board Member

SG Her Empowerment

Ms Eileen Chong
Non-Constituency Member of Parliament and
President
Youth Wing Executive Committee
The Workers' Party

Moderator

Dr Teo Kay Key
Senior Research Fellow
Social Lab
Institute of Policy Studies

Question-and-Answer Session

10.45 am – 11.00 am

Break

11.00 am – 12.15 pm

Panel 2: Solutions from the Ground

Panellists will discuss the role the community can play in strengthening social capital to support childrearing. Speakers will share their perspectives on ground realities, the key gaps in community support for families, and their ideal visions of how a whole-of-society support system could look like.

Speakers

Mdm Muzaiyanah Hamzah
Executive Director
PELITA Centre

Dr Xander Ong
Chief Executive Officer
Centre for Fathering

Mr Lee Kang Hui
Head
Group Finance
Providend Holding Private Limited

Moderator

Mr Wilson Goh

Research Associate
Policy Lab
Institute of Policy Studies

Question-and-Answer Session

12.15 pm – 1.30 pm

Lunch

1.30 pm – 3.00 pm

Group Discussions

(Group discussions will be held at Banyan Cove (Level 1), Temasek Shophouse.)

Discussions will be co-led by Youth Leaders and facilitators from the Institute of Policy Studies. These discussions will use the working policy briefs drafted by participants before the conference as the starting point. Each group will comment on the other groups' working policy briefs, drawing on insights from the two preceding panels. These comments will then be used by each group to refine their policy brief, up until 30 October.

3.00 pm – 3.30 pm

Break

3.30 pm – 4.00 pm

Certificate Presentation to Youth Leaders

4.00 pm – 4.40 pm

Future Maker Presentations

4.40 pm – 5.25 pm

Dialogue Session with Guest-of-Honour

Speaker

Ms Jasmin Lau
Acting Minister for Manpower and
Senior Minister of State
Ministry of Digital Development and Information

Moderator

Dr Gillian Koh
Senior Research Fellow
Society and Governance
Institute of Policy Studies

Question-and-Answer Session

5.25 pm – 5.30 pm

Closing Remarks

Dr Wong Kang Li
Research Fellow
Policy Lab
Institute of Policy Studies

5.30 pm

End

Last modified on 21 August 2026

