



## 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 | <b>Registration</b><br><i>(Light refreshments will be served.)</i> |
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| 10.00 am – 10.45 am | <b>Introduction</b> |
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| 10.45 am – 12.30 pm | <b>World Cafe</b> |
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This activity allows Youth Leaders to quickly understand all five domains and build on one another's perspectives. They will surface what is working well, what is not working well, and what questions remain. The perspectives shared in World Cafe will be synthesised and used to guide development of the lines of inquiry.

#### **Facilitator**

Mr Wilson Goh  
Research Associate  
Policy Lab  
Institute of Policy Studies

|                    |              |
|--------------------|--------------|
| 12.30 pm – 1.30 pm | <b>Lunch</b> |
|--------------------|--------------|

1.30 pm – 5.30 pm

### **Developing Lines of Inquiry**

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

How can we systematically think about policy solutions and whole-of-society efforts to address a specific issue? Two frameworks will be introduced: the Needs & Assets map, and the How Might We statement. These frameworks will guide thinking on the needs that exist, assets that meet these needs, and practical policy recommendations. 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.

Youth Leaders will 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 Wilson Goh  
Research Associate  
Policy Lab  
Institute of Policy Studies

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

**Question-and-Answer Session**

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

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

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

### **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 drafted by participants before the conference as the starting point. Each group will comment on the other groups' working proposal slides, 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

## **Presentation Speech and Certificate Presentation to Future Makers**

### **Presenter**

Professor Aaron Maniam  
Deputy Director  
Institute of Policy Studies  
and  
Professor in Practice  
Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy

4.00 pm – 5.25 pm

### **Future Maker Presentations and 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

5.25 pm – 5.30 pm

### **Closing Remarks**

Dr Wong Kang Li

5.30 pm

### **End**

*Last modified on 6 October 2026*

