

EMERGING STRONGER CONVERSATIONS

A series of conversations for Singaporeans to come together to reflect on their experience of the COVID-19 pandemic, and garner ideas on helping Singapore emerge stronger from the crisis. As part of the Singapore Together movement, we aim to turn these insights and ideas into action and partnerships.

SINGAPOREANS WHO PARTICIPATED TO DATE: 332 (As of 22 August 2020. Cumulative since June 2020)

5 KEY ISSUES RAISED

SOCIAL SUPPORT



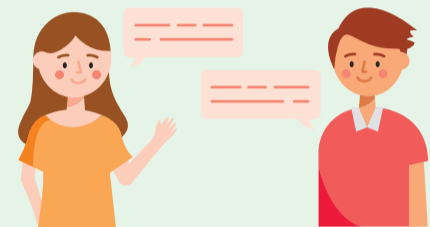
- Feel that there is a lack of compassion in society and also concerned about vulnerable groups getting right and timely help.
- Desire for society to be more giving and to easily channel their desire to volunteer.
- Reduce dependence on government for social support and for more individuals to step up.

JOBS & ECONOMY



- Greater support for those going through mid-career changes who require training, and entrepreneurs who need to take risks.
- Desire for essential workers to get greater recognition and improved remuneration.
- Want more flexible support for employed workers, and better job matching for employment seekers.

PARTNERSHIPS & ENGAGEMENTS



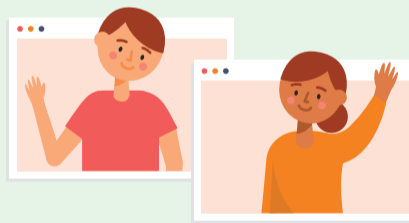
- Hope for a consultative and inclusive approach to governance, with more information shared.
- Have more engagements either in-person or using technology.
- Reflecting on the General Election, some hope to see constructive politics from both the electorate and politicians, and expressed concerns over divisiveness.
- Desire for greater openness to alternative views by the government.

NATIONAL IDENTITY



- Want a more socially conscious, inclusive, empathetic society that complains less, and is more encouraging.
- Need more non-judgmental dialogues with diverse and inter-generational perspectives.
- COVID-19 highlighted the importance of "heartware" and revealed our value systems; we have prioritised self-interest over community-interest and have a significant degree of prejudice/stereotypes.
- Need a paradigm shift in how society values people as there is too much focus on academic results or wealth. Some shared that they have been able to experience family life and spend less time working.

DIGITALISATION & TECHNOLOGY



- Hope to harness technology to enhance connections with others and for grassroots activities.
- Hope that people will not be left behind in the digital divide and have adequate 'hardware' and 'software'.
- Technology can be harnessed as a competitive edge for Singapore.

OUR PARTICIPANTS SAY...



I think as a nation, we need to do a collective soul searching. We need to ask, what is the value of our human beings? Do we only look at them for the economy output and the wage they command? Do we only value material well being?"



Failure is not an acceptable part of our narrative. And the one thing guaranteed with entrepreneurship is failure."



Trade-offs need to be better shared so that civic society can learn and grow, rather than just be told the equilibrium."



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