

3 persons arrested after protest outside MOE building



Dhany Osman · Editor

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(From left) Elijah Tay, Lune Loh and Kokila Annamalai seen protesting outside the Ministry of Education headquarters at Buona Vista on Tuesday (26 January) afternoon. (PHOTO: Dhany Osman/Yahoo News Singapore)

SINGAPORE — Three people were arrested following a short protest outside the Ministry of Education (MOE) headquarters on Tuesday afternoon (26 January).



The issue of support for trans students in Singapore schools: a timeline – Mothership

Discussion Question

- Should the activists have staged their protest outside MOE HQ?
- Why or why not?

Interest Articulation

- Ways that individuals and groups can **express their needs and demands** to their government
- Takes many forms
- Quantity and variety grows with size and complexity of society and its government



Interest Articulation

- Key Questions:
 - What choices do we have for making our interests and needs known to policymakers?
 - What can we accomplish as individuals, and what requires collective action to achieve?
 - Must citizens engage in contentious action in order to have their voices heard?

Interest Articulation

Individuals

- Voting/participating in elections
- Informal group
- Direct contact (personal matter or policy issue)
- Protest activity
- Political consumerism

Groups

Types of Interest Groups

- Anomic
- Nonassociational
- Institutional
- Associational

Channels of Political Access

- Legitimate
- Coercive

Voting/Participation in Elections

- Citizens express their interests by collectively **selecting their leaders** in free and fair elections e.g. in General Elections
- Scope: broad, collective decision on leaders and programmes
- Pressure: modest, but not policy-focused

Voting/participation in elections – Singapore General Elections



Voting/Participation in Elections

- A: (Democratic) govts. **pay close attention** to election results and **will react** to shifts in sentiment
- D: **Limited feedback** given to policymakers – details of concerns not communicated through ballot box

Direct Contact: Personal

- Individuals make direct contact with the government on personal issues e.g. speaking to an MP for help with bills
- Scope: specific personal problems
- Pressure: low


Direct contact on personal matters – **Meet-the-People Sessions**




Direct Contact: Policy

- Individuals make direct contact with the government on broader political issues e.g. giving feedback on proposed legislation
- Scope: specific government policies
- Pressure: modest

Direct contact on policy matters – REACH




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A SUSTAINABLE POPULATION FOR A DYNAMIC SINGAPORE


POPULATION WHITE PAPER

A Sustainable Population for A Dynamic Singapore

After its public engagement effort to gather views on tackling demographic challenges in Singapore, the National Population and Talent Division (NPTD) has outlined the roadmap for Singapore's population policies. [Read more.](#)


1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Replies to Feedback



[Protection of Personal Information under New Law](#)

Following strong public support for data protection legislation, Singapore's new Data Protection Bill was passed in Parliament in October 2012. ...



[Enhancing Medishield for Better Coverage](#)

The Ministry of Health has announced enhancements to the healthcare insurance scheme, Medishield, to provide better coverage. The public shared their

Snapshots of Hot Issues


Public Consultations

[Personal Data Protection Commission c/o IDA](#)

05 Feb 2013 - 19 Mar 2013

[Public Consultation on Proposed Regulations and Advisory Guidelines under the Personal Data Protection Act](#)

Direct contact on policy matters – Our SG Conversation

 <https://www.oursgconversation.sg/lets-talk-2/sign-up-2/>



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SIGNING UP FOR THE CONVERSATION

Thank you for your interest in Our SG Conversation.

Over the last few months, many Singaporeans have come forward to share their hopes and aspirations for Singapore in the future. Some common perspectives have emerged and you can read more about them in our Perspectives snapshot of Singaporeans' views expressed in the first part of Our SG Conversation.

From March 2013, we will be moving into a more focused discussion that builds on these common perspectives. We have broadly clustered the sessions under 3 themes.

1. **How might we create hope & opportunity for all Singaporeans?**
2. **How might we care for our fellow Singaporeans?**
3. **How might we build a home where all Singaporeans feel a sense of belonging?**

Read more about these 3 themes.

Allow us to walk you through the new sign-up form.

STEP 1: CHOOSE A FOCAL QUESTION YOU WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS

Focal questions have been identified under each theme to deepen the discussion. We would like you to sign up for a specific question to share your views and insights in a small group discussion during the dialogue.

THEME

FOCAL QUESTIONS

How might we create hope and opportunity for all Singaporeans?

- How might we broaden our definitions of success?
- How might we make a good living while having a fulfilling life?
- How might we give school-going Singaporeans hope for their future in Singapore?

Direct Contact with Officials

- A: Allows govt. officials **clear and detailed idea** of concerns of petitioners/communities; also possibly the **fastest way** for concerned citizens to have action take action on issue
- D: Concerns **may be ignored** or given low priority **without similar voices** from other individuals/groups; effectiveness dependent on ability of individual to articulate concerns

Protest Activity

- Individuals engage in **contentious action** to **express their disapproval** or concern e.g. rallies, marches, sit-ins
- Scope: highly expressive support for specific interests
- Pressure: high

Protest activity – Speakers' Corner at Hong Lim Park



Oct 2008: DBS High Notes protest

Protest activity – Speakers' Corner at Hong Lim Park

**Feb 2013: Population
White Paper protest**



By Kelly Wong

21 Sep 2019 10:36PM
(Updated: 22 Sep 2019 09:10AM)



Bookmark



More than 1,700 turn up at first Singapore Climate Rally



Participants at the climate change rally lie on the ground as part of a "die-in" - a move to show collective grief over the loss of biodiversity and human lives resulting from climate change. The event took place at the Speakers' Corner in Singapore on Saturday Sep 21, 2019.

SINGAPORE: Despite [the haze](#), activists turned out in full force at Hong Lim Park for Singapore's first climate rally on Saturday (Sep 21).

The rally, which started at 3pm, saw more than 1,700 participants by 6pm, organisers said.

Protest Activity

- A: Can effectively **draw attention** to concern/cause (esp. media coverage) with sufficiently large numbers; concern by authorities (about escalation/ other impacts) can also **prompt rapid action**
- D: an also **trigger backlash** from govt. or opposing groups that hampers cause

Political Consumerism

- Individuals **buy or boycott** products for political reasons to **express support or disapproval** of businesses; may result in policy effects with sufficient political visibility
- Scope: specific issues and activities
- Pressure: high

Political consumerism – shark fin boycott by WWF



Singapore ▾



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Individual Pledge



© Cat Holloway / WWF-Canon

Say No to Shark Fin

Help Save Our Sharks from extinction! Take the pledge; join 15,000 consumers who have added their voices to the movement. Your pledge will help illustrate the collective support for the Save Our Sharks campaign, and will be used to urge businesses to stop selling and buying shark fin.

- I do not consume shark fin.
- I do not serve shark fin in my banquets and corporate functions.
- I do not present shark fin to others as a gift.

DONATE AND SAVE OUR SHARKS

Make a donation of S\$10.00 or more to support WWF's shark conservation and education efforts. As a token of appreciation, we will send you a set of limited edition WWF red packets.

[Donate now.](#)

Note: At the donation page, select 'Other Amount' and make a donation of \$10.00 or more, and we will send you a set of the limited edition WWF red packets.

WWF seeing positive response to "No Shark's Fin" campaign


By Rachel Kelly | Posted: 03 August 2012 0008 hrs


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SINGAPORE: The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) is seeing some positive response to its latest initiative which calls on consumers and businesses in Singapore to say no to shark's fin.

The initiative is in support of a global movement towards shark and marine conservation.

WWF says that it has sent out an electronic direct mailer to its 2,000 corporate partners and, so far, 10 companies have signed on. The organisation is hoping to hit 100 by the end of the year.

WWF Singapore has already received in excess of 15,000 individual pledges for its "No Shark's Fin" campaign so far.

Still, it is a challenging task to get Singaporeans to forgo shark's fin.

Statistics from the Agri-food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA) show that in 2011, shark fin imports climbed by 40 per cent when compared to the previous year.

But it is not just about shark's fin. An increasing number of restaurants and hotels in Singapore are also looking to source their seafood and their produce more sustainably.



[Click to enlarge](#)

Photos 1 of 1

A bowl of shark's fin soup

Many will boycott products from haze-causing firms: Poll

🕒 PUBLISHED OCT 9, 2015, 5:00 AM SGT



Some believe such a move can be effective in penalising the culprits, and that such efforts can make a difference

Jalelah Abu Baker



Yuen Sin



Many people will boycott products from companies that are contributing to the ongoing haze, according to a street poll of 50 people by The Straits Times yesterday.

The reasons they gave included wanting to penalise the companies for causing the haze by decreasing demand for their products and to send a message that they are not happy with the companies' actions.

Out of the 50 people surveyed, half said they will not buy products from such companies.

🕒 PUBLISHED SEP 1, 2016, 5:00 AM SGT



Consumers urged to go for Green Label and shun products of slash-and-burn culprits

Janice Heng 

As the haze returns, consumers are being urged not to support firms whose products are made using irresponsible methods of clearing land that might cause forest fires.

And with more products being certified eco-friendly under the Singapore Green Labelling Scheme (SGLS), consumers have a greater range of green choices.

"Since the haze episode last year, we have seen an increase of 90 new companies coming on board the SGLS with 10 per cent more products in the paper, pulp and wood category," said Mr Chong Khai Sin, lead environmental engineer and head of eco-certifications at the Singapore Environment Council (SEC). In a joint statement on Tuesday, the SEC and the Consumers Association of Singapore (Case) repeated their call for consumers - both individuals and businesses - to buy sustainably produced products.

Political Consumerism

- A: Able to **draw attention and support** and effectively bring about **change through the market** as business respond to threats to their bottom line
- D: Concerns **not directed at govt.**, and without pressure on govt. **no policy changes may follow**; effectiveness also limited by market factors and govt. laws/regulations

Informal Group

- Individuals **work with others** in their community to address common needs e.g. residents **expressing concerns to govt** about issues affecting their neighbourhood
- Scope: very policy-focused
- Pressure: high

Serangoon Gardens' residents against plan to build workers' dorm

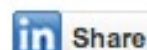
By Hoe Yeen Nie, Channel NewsAsia | Posted: 02 September 2008 2035 hrs



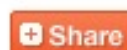
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SINGAPORE: Residents of Serangoon Gardens are upset over news that a workers' dormitory may be built at Burghley Drive where Serangoon Garden Technical School used to be located.

Residents' concerns include noise pollution, traffic congestion and the safety of residents – many of whom are retirees.

Over 500 people have signed a petition against the construction, with the intention of presenting it to their MPs at a community dialogue session on Wednesday.

The government announced in February that it would release 11 new dormitory sites to house over 65,000 foreign workers. These dorms are scheduled to be completed in stages by 2010.

But the Ministry of National Development (MND) said temporary facilities have to be built in the meantime, which is why it is reviewing all available vacant state properties to see if they can be converted into dorms.

The Serangoon Gardens site, which has been vacant since 2003, is one of the many properties that are being assessed. MND said it would take into account the other possible uses for the property and residents' feedback.

Columbarium news irks future residents of Sengkang flats

By LAURA PHILOMIN

Published 05 JANUARY, 2015 UPDATED 05 JANUARY, 2015

SINGAPORE — News that a columbarium would be located close to their future homes has riled some would-be Fernvale Lea residents so much that they are asking the Housing and Development Board (HDB) for a refund on their flat.

The request was made by some among the 400 who turned up at a closed-door dialogue called by Sengkang West Member of Parliament (MP) Lam Pin Min yesterday, although they were assured that the Chinese temple housing the columbarium would not be providing cremation or funeral services, as had been said by articles circulating on social media.



Raging against e-scooter ban, delivery riders confront MPs on their own turf



Coconuts Singapore

7 November 2019



Singapore's food delivery couriers are making their grievances over the [e-scooter ban](#) heard by government officials at their neighborhood meetups. So far they've traveled en masse to at least two sessions to confront members of parliament.

Last night, a large group of 50 deliverymen turned up in the Teck Ghee area of the Ang Mo Kio constituency led by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong. Though the prime minister was not there to hear them out, conversations in Telegram channels show riders saying they may visit more sessions such as one this evening in Yio Chu Kang with MP Koh Poh Koon, another on Tuesday in Toa Payoh with Defense Minister Ng Eng Hen, and even a third Monday evening in Sembawang with Transport Minister Khaw Boon Wan.

"Guys ... next week Tuesday 12th Nov Toa Payoh Meet MP Session ... 7pm meet at Toa Payoh Central ... come and support ... the more the merrier," a Danny wrote on the SG PMD Riders Unite! Telegram channel.

How Citizens Participate

- Forms of action differ in policy content and political pressure
- Individuals differ in level and types of political activities in which they participate
- Those more active in articulating interests are more likely to have interests addressed by policymakers
- Wider choice of activities increases citizens' ability to express interests and be heard

Interest Groups

- Represent the interests and needs of particular sets of people
- Can participate in the political process
- Vary in structure, style, financing and support base
- Four types: anomic, nonassociational, institutional, and associational

Interest Groups

- Anomic groups
 - **Spontaneously** form when many individuals react to an event that provokes an emotional reaction; also **rapidly disperse** when protest ends
 - Outbursts may explode unpredictably and uncontrollably; violence may result

Interest Groups

- Nonassociational groups
 - Based on **common interests and/or identities** and have **more continuity** than anomic groups
 - Large, informally-organised groups may face the collective action problem which hinders action

Interest Groups

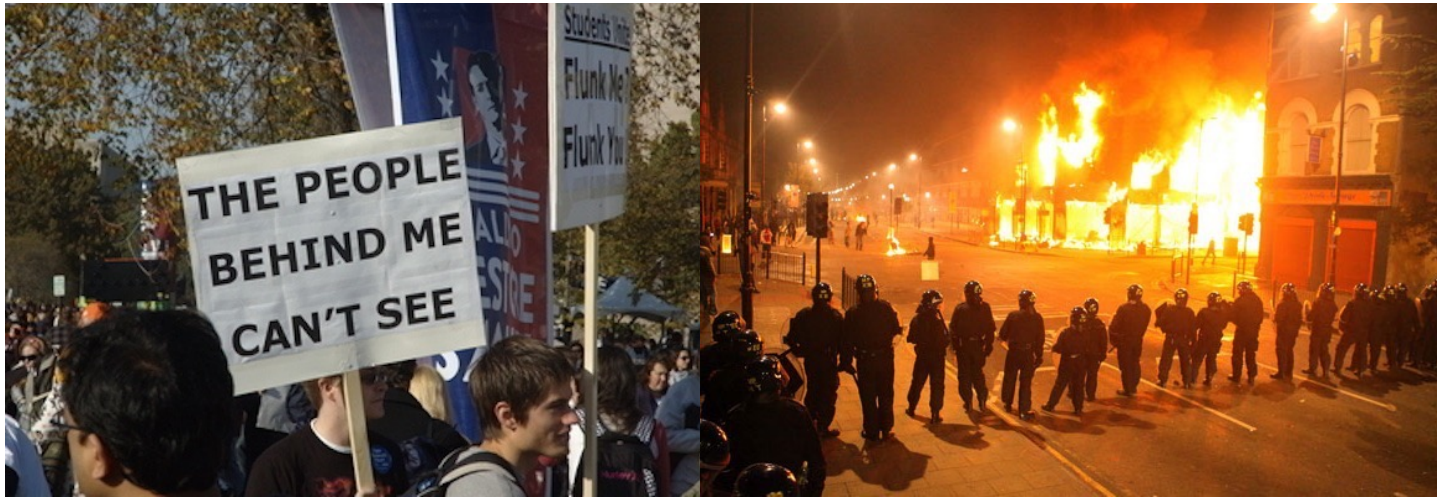
- Associational groups
 - Formed to **explicitly represent interests** of a particular group, and does so actively
 - Are **formally structured**, and tactics and goals often **recognised as legitimate**

Interest Groups

- Institutional groups
 - Formal organisations **that have other additional political or social functions**
 - Influence is drawn from strength of primary organisational base e.g. size, income or direct access to policymakers

Groups and Channels of Access

- Interest groups can use either legitimate or coercive channels of political access to reach policymakers



Groups and Channels of Access

- Legitimate access channels and tactics
 - Personal connections
 - Mass media
 - Political parties
 - Legislatures
 - Government bureaucracies
 - Lawful demonstrations

National Council of Churches Singapore calls for decision to allow online betting to be reviewed

🕒 PUBLISHED OCT 5, 2016, 7:42 PM SGT



Melody Zaccheus Housing and Heritage Correspondent ✉



SINGAPORE - The National Council of Churches Singapore (NCSS) is appealing to the Government to review its recent move to allow two lottery operators here to offer online betting starting from the next two months.

In a statement on Wednesday (Oct 5), the council, which represents more than 250 churches, said it was gravely concerned about the decision to exempt Singapore Pools and the Singapore Turf Club from the Remote Gambling Act.

It said the Government is sending "confusing and conflicting signals", noting that the Remote Gambling Act, which outlawed all online and phone betting activities, was passed by Parliament just two years ago.

Groups and Channels of Access

- Coercive access channels and tactics (various forms of political violence)
 - Riots
 - Strikes and obstructions
 - Terrorism/political terror tactics

Activists clash with whalers during refuelling

Environmentalists have again clashed with Japanese whalers in Antarctic waters, with Greenpeace activists failing in a risky attempt to prevent the refuelling of the fleet's factory ship.

UPDATED 24/02/2015

SHARE



Environmentalists have again clashed with Japanese whalers in Antarctic waters, with Greenpeace activists failing in a risky attempt to prevent the refuelling of the fleet's factory ship.

The Australian government ship Oceanic Viking arrived in the Southern Ocean only hours after the altercation.

The protesters today piloted an inflatable boat between the Nisshin Maru and supply ship the Oriental Bluebird during the operation, a spokesman on board the Greenpeace ship Esperanza said.

Interest Articulation: Summary

- People can articulate their interests as individual citizens in various ways (voting, direct contact, etc.)
- They can also articulate their interests through groups that represent a set of people; these groups reach policymakers through various channels of political access (legitimate and coercive)

Homework

- Read articles 5 and 6 of your IA case studies
- Write your response to Q12 & 13
- Reminder: Capstone Project proposal is due this Friday 11/2