



REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

# GOVERNMENT GAZETTE

## ACTS SUPPLEMENT

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The following Act was passed by Parliament on 7 October 2019 and assented to by the President on 29 October 2019:—

### REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

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**No. 31 of 2019.**

I assent.

HALIMAH YACOB,

*President.*

*29 October 2019.*



An Act to amend the Maintenance of Religious Harmony Act (Chapter 167A of the 2001 Revised Edition), and to make consequential and related amendments to certain other Acts to deal with religious intolerance.

Be it enacted by the President with the advice and consent of the Parliament of Singapore, as follows:

**Short title and commencement**

1. This Act is the Maintenance of Religious Harmony (Amendment) Act 2019 and comes into operation on a date that the Minister appoints by notification in the *Gazette*.

**Amendment of section 2**

2. Section 2 of the Maintenance of Religious Harmony Act (called in this Act the principal Act) is amended —

(a) by inserting, immediately before the definition of “Council”, the following definitions:

““anonymous donation”, for a religious group, means a donation which the religious group accepting the donation is (whether because the donation is offered anonymously or by reason of deception or concealment) unable to ascertain the identity of the donor giving the donation, but excludes the following:

- (a) a donation deposited in a box, receptacle or other container in a publicly accessible location within a place of worship in Singapore for the same religion or religious denomination as the religious group;
- (b) any proceeds from a collection by the religious group, the conduct of which is authorised by the House to House and Street Collections Act (Cap. 128);
- (c) a cash donation collected during an act of collective worship or a religious ceremony or rite conducted by the religious group;

- (d) a donation which is declared not to be an anonymous donation by regulations made under section 19;

“communications activity”, in relation to any information or material, means communicating or distributing the information or material to the general public in Singapore, whether or not in the course of business, and includes doing any of the following whether or not in the course of business:

- (a) placing the information or material, or something that contains the information or material, somewhere it can be accessed by the general public in Singapore;
- (b) giving the information or material, or something that contains the information or material, to an intermediary to give to an intended recipient in the general public in Singapore;
- (c) describing to the general public in Singapore —
  - (i) how to obtain access to the information or material, or something that contains the information or material; or
  - (ii) methods that are likely to facilitate access to the information or material, or something that contains the information or material;
- (d) displaying, screening or playing the information or material, or something

that contains the information or material, so that it can be seen or heard in or from a public place in Singapore,

but does not include communicating or distributing, in the course of business, information or material produced entirely by another person and without altering the information or material or only altering the information or material to the extent to fit time, space or format constraints;

“community remedial initiative” has the meaning given by section 16H;

“competent authority”, in relation to any provision of this Act, means the competent authority appointed under section 2B to exercise powers under that provision;

“conduct”, in relation to engaging in conduct, means —

(a) an act or omission on a single occasion; or

(b) a series of acts or omissions, or both, on a number of occasions over a period of time,

such as (but not limited to) communications activity, and may include conduct occurring outside Singapore;”;

(b) by inserting, immediately after the definition of “Council”, the following definitions:

““donation”, for a religious group, means any of the following:

(a) any bequest or gift of money to the religious group or any religious

institution affiliated or associated with the religious group;

(b) any money to pay or reimburse any expenditure incurred (whether directly or indirectly) by the religious group or any religious institution affiliated or associated with the religious group;

(c) any money lent to the religious group or any religious institution affiliated or associated with the religious group, otherwise than on commercial terms;

“donation report” has the meaning given by section 16A;

“donor” means an individual or entity that makes a donation;

“entity” includes any of the following, whether or not a religious group or religious institution:

(a) a sole proprietorship;

(b) a partnership (including a limited partnership);

(c) a limited liability partnership;

(d) a corporation within the meaning given by the Companies Act (Cap. 50);

(e) a trustee of an express trust or other similar arrangement;

(f) an unincorporated association;

(g) a co-operative society;

(h) a trade union;