

## Youths launch campaign to promote greater awareness on Trafficking in Persons

Students from the Singapore Management University will be partnering the Singapore Inter-Agency Taskforce to launch a public awareness campaign on trafficking in persons.

By Joanne Yan



Forty five students from Singapore Management University (SMU) learning more about Trafficking in Persons (TIP) during a discussion with some members of the Singapore Inter-Agency Taskforce on TIP. PHOTO: Singapore Inter-Agency Taskforce

“I assumed that Trafficking in Persons involved people who’d come into Singapore illegally, without a permit or passport. I wasn’t aware that people who’d come into Singapore via legitimate means might also be victims of Trafficking-in-Persons (TIP) being forced here to do certain jobs,” said a member of XSAL, one of the project teams from Singapore Management University (SMU) that will be coming up with public awareness proposals as part of their course curriculum.

As part of the Taskforce’s public outreach efforts, the Taskforce is collaborating with SMU to get their students to think about the TIP situation in the country and help propose ways

to disseminate information on TIP via the different communication channels commonly used by youths.

The project aims to help the youths see how they can make a difference and devise communication solutions in the process.

Students from the various project teams in SMU will be presenting their proposals to the Taskforce in April, and their project submissions will be counted as part of their curriculum work.

By getting ground up proposals and suggestions from students, the Taskforce hopes to use this opportunity to educate and empower youths to do their part in the prevention of TIP cases especially through the early detection of victims.

The Taskforce representatives had earlier briefed the students on this project on 20 February 2013, where they were introduced to various strategies used to tackle TIP such as the 4 Ps (Prevention, Prosecution, Protection and Partnerships).



This project is one of the initiatives that the Taskforce is embarking on to step up their public outreach efforts amongst youths and the general public on Trafficking in Persons issues. PHOTO: Singapore Inter-Agency Taskforce

They were also taught ways to identify victims of TIP and learnt of the Taskforce's various other outreach efforts.



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After the briefing, ideas and perspectives were brewing as the students gained new insights into the issues of TIP.

“The briefing has raised my awareness and increased my understanding on why TIP was seen as an essential issue to look into, even if it wasn't a problem locally yet,” said a member of XSAL.

“More foundational groundwork needs to be done, for instance, identifying key audiences, real calls to action and so on...” he added.

The Taskforce hopes to raise the awareness of the public in TIP, which would help in prevention and detection of such cases.

Other than engaging the SMU students to come up with proposals for a TIP public awareness campaign, the Taskforce had also earlier announced the launch of a \$80,000 TIP Public Awareness Grant on 11 January, at an engagement session with its key stakeholders.

The grant will support public education efforts on TIP by interested individuals or organisations.

To learn more about the Taskforce and the Public Awareness Grant please visit:  
<http://mom.gov.sg/foreign-manpower/trafficking-in-persons>