



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **PPIS Raikan Ihsan for Former Offenders – *Lighting Lives through Second Chances***

**Singapore, Friday, 26 June 2020.** As part of the #OnePPISCares initiative, PPIS organised the PPIS *Raikan Ihsan* (or PPIS Celebrates Compassion) for Former Offenders initiative earlier today at HexaCube. The event was officiated by Senior Parliamentary Secretary for Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Health, Mr Amrin Amin.

Since the outbreak of Covid-19, many have had their lives drastically altered. As we grapple with these trying times as a nation, it is important to look out not just for ourselves, but for one another. As a social service organisation, PPIS strives to uplift families and individuals in need. Our organisation believes in the importance of lending a helping hand to all, especially vulnerable groups in Singapore. In support of this, PPIS distributed 80 care packages to former offenders. These care packages contain items such as a travel prayer mat (*sejadah*), a bottle of hand sanitiser, a packet of dried fruits sponsored by Allkurma.com and a pack of ten disposable face masks, sponsored by Razer Fintech, the financial technology arm of global lifestyle brand for gamers, Razer. Each care package is worth around \$40.00.

According to a [report](#) by Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, the involvement of religious groups in rehabilitation efforts post-release from prison can provide support needed in preventing re-offending. Spiritual guidance and support form important aspects of former offenders' psychological well-being to help maintain a positive outlook on life. Hence, Malay-Muslim organisations should strive to work with the government to facilitate social reintegration and provide pro-social support for former offenders.

Through the PPIS *Raikan Ihsan* for Former Offenders initiative, PPIS hopes to supplement existing programmes for Muslim offenders and former offenders, such as the Family and Inmates Through-care Assistance Haven (FITRAH) programme, which is run by the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (Muis), and the Development and Reintegration Programme (DRP), that serve to provide sustainable support for them in the long run. PPIS also supports the collaboration between Muslim Counselling Service and Khalid Mosque which organises religious lessons for former offenders, as well as their family members. Many of the recipients of the care packages also attend these lessons,



which are conducted at Khalid Mosque every Wednesday to provide continuous spiritual guidance to former offenders.

Mr Amrin shared his hopes for the strengthening of such efforts to help former offenders within the Malay-Muslim community. He said, “As former offenders reintegrate into society, they require community support to restart their lives. While the responsibility to turn their lives around falls on them, there must be a sense of compassion within the wider community that goes into helping former offenders uplift their lives. I would like to thank PPIS for leading by example in organising this event and I strongly encourage other organisations to play a role in helping former offenders take charge of their lives. After all, everyone deserves a second chance.”

Mdm Rahayu Mohamad, President of PPIS, said, “In line with our vision of being a compassionate organisation, PPIS hopes that, through this initiative, we are able to extend a helping hand to those in need. We believe in supporting not only our beneficiaries, but also various marginalised communities, which is why we expanded our Raikan Ihsan campaign to uplift former offenders. The care packages that we prepared are symbolic of the moral support for them as they restart their lives.”

Mr Allaudin Mohamed, Chairman of Khalid Mosque, also underscored the importance of helping former offenders. He said, “Providing a space for former offenders to get back on track with their lives is very important. We hope to be able to train them to reintegrate into society and turn over a new leaf.”

One of the former offenders who received a care package earlier today is Ustaz Mohamed Basir Mohamed Shariff, who has turned his life around and is now a qualified Ustaz under Muis’ Asatizah Recognition Scheme (ARS). He shared, “On behalf of the former offenders, I would like to take this opportunity to thank PPIS and Khalid Mosque for the care packages given to us today. We hope that this can be a fruitful start for us to collaborate further with PPIS in the near future.”

**Guest-of-Honour:**

Mr Amrin Amin

Senior Parliamentary Secretary for Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Health

**Event Details:**

Date: Friday, 26 June 2020

Time: 11.30am – 12.30pm

Venue: HexaCube, #04-07, 160 Changi Road, Singapore 419728

The event was held in English.

**For media inquiries, please contact:**

Deanna Nabilah bte Misbahuddin (Corporate Communications)

O: 6744 0258

M: 9144 7476

E: [deanna.misbahuddin@ppis.sg](mailto:deanna.misbahuddin@ppis.sg)

**About PPIS**

Founded in 1952, PPIS (*Persatuan Pemudi Islam Singapura* or Singapore Muslim Women's Association) is a non-profit organisation focused on services for women, family and children. Our focus is on working with women of all ages in carrying out their multiple roles in society. PPIS runs three core community services namely; Family Services, Student Care and Early Childhood Education (ECE). With 16 centres islandwide, the services work together to provide quality and holistic support as well as developmental programmes for women and their families across the different phases of their lives.

For more information, please visit: <https://ppis.sg/>.