

**Maintenance of Religious Harmony Act 1990
(No. 26 of 1990)**

Table of Contents

Long Title

Enacting Formula

Part I PRELIMINARY

1 Short title and commencement

2 Interpretation

**Part II ESTABLISHMENT OF PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS
HARMONY**

3 Establishment of Presidential Council for Religious Harmony

4 Functions of Council

5 Validity of Council's actions

6 Members are public servants and protected from legal action

7 Secrecy

Part III RESTRAINING ORDERS

**8 Restraining orders against officials or members of religious group
or institution**

9 Restraining orders against other persons

10 Council to be informed of proposed restraining orders

11 Restraining orders to be referred to Council

12 Restraining order to be confirmed by President

13 Extension of restraining order

14 Review of restraining order

15 Publication

16 Penalty for breach of restraining order

17 Sanction of Public Prosecutor

18 Decisions under this Act not justiciable

19 Regulations

**REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE
GOVERNMENT GAZETTE
ACTS SUPPLEMENT**

Published by Authority

NO. 13]	FRIDAY, JANUARY 25	[1991
----------------	---------------------------	--------------

The following Act was passed by Parliament on 9th November 1990 and assented to by the President on 30th November 1990:—

MAINTENANCE OF RELIGIOUS HARMONY ACT 1990

(No. 26 of 1990)

I assent.

WEE KIM WEE
President.
30th November 1990.

Date of Commencement: 25th January 1990

An Act to provide for the maintenance of religious harmony and for establishing a Presidential Council for Religious Harmony and for matters connected therewith.

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

PART I

PRELIMINARY

Short title and commencement

1. This Act may be cited as the Maintenance of Religious Harmony Act 1990 and shall come into operation on such date as the Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, appoint.

Interpretation

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —

“Council” means the Presidential Council for Religious Harmony constituted under section 3;

“Presidential Council for Minority Rights” means the Presidential Council for Minority Rights constituted under Part VII of the Constitution of the Republic of Singapore;

“publication” includes any newsletter, journal, periodical, book, film, videotape, audio tape or any written, pictorial, aural or printed matter containing any audio or visible representation which by its images, form, shape or sound or in any other manner is capable of suggesting words or ideas, and every copy and reproduction or substantial reproduction of any publication;

“religious institution” includes a church, cathedral, chapel, sanctuary, mosque, surau, temple, synagogue or other place of worship;

“religious group” includes —

- (a) any company or other body corporate incorporated under the Companies Act (Cap. 50, 1990 Ed.) or any other written law for the purpose of promoting any religion, religious worship or dealing with religious affairs or practising, conducting, teaching or propagating any religious belief; and
- (b) any body of persons, whether or not registered as a society under the Societies Act (Cap. 311), whose object is the promotion of any religion, religious worship or the practice, conduct, teaching or propagating of any religious belief.

PART II

ESTABLISHMENT OF PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS HARMONY

Establishment of Presidential Council for Religious Harmony

3.—(1) There shall be a Presidential Council for Religious Harmony comprising a chairman and not less than 6 and not more than 15 other members.

(2) Not less than two-thirds of the members of the Council shall be representatives of the major religions in Singapore and the other members shall be persons who, in the opinion of the Presidential Council for Minority Rights, have distinguished themselves in public service or community relations in Singapore.

(3) The chairman and every member of the Council shall be appointed by the President, on the advice of the Presidential Council for Minority Rights, for a period of 3 years all of whom shall be eligible for reappointment:

Provided that a member, other than the chairman, may be appointed for any shorter period of not less than one year.

(4) The President may, after consultation with the Presidential Council for Minority Rights, at any time revoke the appointment of the chairman or any member of the Council and may, on the advice of the Presidential Council for Minority Rights, appoint any person to fill any vacancy which may arise in the Council for any reason whatsoever.

(5) No person shall be qualified to be appointed as a member of the Council unless —

- (a) he is a citizen of Singapore;
- (b) he is not less than 35 years of age;

(c) he is resident in Singapore; and

(d) he is not liable to any of the disqualifications provided in subsection (6).

(6) A person shall be disqualified for appointment as a member of the Council who —

(a) is or has been found or declared to be of unsound mind;

(b) is insolvent or an undischarged bankrupt;

(c) has been convicted of an offence by a court in Singapore or Malaysia and sentenced to imprisonment for a term of not less than one year or to a fine of not less than \$2,000 and has not received a free pardon:

Provided that where the conviction is by a court in Malaysia, the person shall not be so disqualified unless the offence is also one which, had it been committed in Singapore, would have been punishable by a court in Singapore; or

(d) has voluntarily acquired the citizenship of, or exercised the rights of citizenship in, a foreign country or has made a declaration of allegiance to a foreign country.

(7) A member shall vacate his seat in the Council —

(a) if he ceases to be a citizen of Singapore;

(b) if by writing under his hand addressed to the chairman he resigns his seat; or

(c) if he becomes subject to any of the disqualifications provided in subsection (6).

Functions of Council

4.—(1) The functions of the Council shall be —

(a) to consider and report to the Minister on matters affecting the maintenance of religious harmony in Singapore which are referred to the Council by the Minister or by Parliament; and

(b) to consider and make recommendations on orders referred to the Council by the Minister under section 11.

(2) The Council shall have the power to appoint a Secretary to the Council and such other officers as may be required to enable the Council to carry out its functions under