

End Lorry Rides, Save Workers' Lives - Students of Singapore statement

On the early morning of 18 July 2023, three lorries piled up in an accident on Kranji Expressway. 26 migrant workers who had been riding in them were taken to three different hospitals after sustaining injuries. The very next day, a car collided with a lorry on the KPE. 11 people were taken to the hospital, including 10 migrant workers from the lorry.



Following the spate of accidents, multiple petitions and calls were launched by community and civil society groups seeking an end to the practice of lorry transportation for workers. Yet, on 2 August 2023, the Senior Minister of Transport Amy Khor rejected these calls, insisting that there are “practical and operational constraints” and that the ministry would continue to look into suggestions.

As students of Singapore, we continue to be amidst the work of our migrant brothers. The construction, renovation and maintenance of our school facilities are often facilitated by their skills and labour, and we experience first-hand how these greatly serve our educational experience and those who come after us.

As such, it is intuitive that we regard the migrant brothers as part of our Singapore community, and that their safety becomes our concern. We have laws that protect our citizens and ourselves: motorbike riders must wear helmets, car passengers and drivers must put on seat belts. Rightfully, these laws ensure the safety of those on the road. Somehow, at the same time, our country holds laws that allow workers to be transported on the back of lorries, which were never designed to transport people in the first place.

Many of us get around campus and to classes on shuttle buses, and can experience personally the squeeze and discomfort from a crowded and bumpy bus. Yet we cannot begin to imagine what it might be like being transported twice every single day at the back of a lorry. As we work towards using what we learn in school to build a better Singapore, we envision a community where everyone's safety is duly accounted for.

#HumansNotCargo

Between 2011 and 2020 alone, 58 workers on-board lorries died in road traffic accidents, and 4765 were injured.

We need no more lives taken to have the courage for what is right and necessary. We want to end lorry rides to save lives today.

Sign the statement here: <https://bit.ly/studentssigntoendlorryrides>

Join our Telegram channel here: <https://t.me/studentsformigrantrights>

View the list of signatories here: <http://bit.ly/studentssignatoriestoendlorryrides>