

GE 2020: Email your politicians

Refer to [this spreadsheet](#) for the list of email addresses per district.

Subject:

Please help the LGBTQ+ people in Singapore

Email body:

Hi there,

My name is [insert name], and I'm a resident of [insert district]. As a voter in your constituency, I would like to raise issues of LGBTQ+ discrimination in Singapore. I hope that, should you be elected into office, you can help alleviate the steep discrimination that they face in this country.

The LGBTQ+ community here face huge amounts of systemic discrimination in many different areas. In housing, LGBTQ+ couples need to wait up to a decade longer than non-LGBTQ+ couples to buy their first flat, and will likely have to buy it on the resale market and pay 30-65% more. Standard tenancy agreements provided by CEA also allows landlords to legally evict LGBTQ+ tenants if they wish to.

In employment, LGBTQ+ individuals don't only face bullying and harassment, but (until the law provides clarity) can likely be fired on the basis of their identity.

Discrimination of LGBTQ+ students is common in schools, not only by fellow students, but also by teachers. Teachers are role models who are in positions of power, so it's extremely alarming that any such bullying is allowed to take place. It's also extremely disappointing that schools forbid teachers from providing their students with LGBTQ-affirming messages.

IMDA prohibits positive portrayals of LGBTQ+ characters in free-to-air TV channels. This means that the general Singapore population will only see negative portrayals of the community, which further reinforces false stereotypes. In a recent example, Mediacorp's Channel 8 show "My Guardian Angels" spent 7 episodes fleshing out a gay character, but he's written to be a predatory pedophile who has STD. This is an extremely negative stereotype, and is very harmful to the public's perception of the gay community in Singapore. It perpetuates the false stereotypes that gay men are pedophiles.

20% of LGBTQ+ individuals reportedly live in hostile home environments, meaning they face hostility from their family members about their identity. Cases of physical abuse aren't uncommon. On top of that, "conversion therapy", which has been denounced as fake science and proven to be extremely harmful to LGBTQ+ individuals, remains legal in Singapore. We need to do more to protect the mental and physical wellbeing of our youths.

Systemic discrimination heavily impacts the quality and cost of life for LGBTQ+ people in Singapore. The reality is undeniable, whether the laws or rules were intended to be anti-LGBTQ or not. If we want to build a Singapore for everyone, our policies and laws need to reflect that, or it will just be empty words.

LGBTQ+ people are Singaporeans too, and they deserve as much protection as any other person. I hope that you will find the courage to stand up against senseless discrimination, especially those inflicted upon our youths.

Thank you.