



# Ministerial Statement on the Review of the Sentencing Framework for Sexual and Hurt Offences

During sentencing, the Court considers the facts and circumstances, the relevant law, sentencing benchmarks, and sentencing principles.



## Sentencing Process and Principles

- Four key principles are usually taken into consideration, with appropriate weight attributed to each key principle:
  - Prevention
  - Deterrence
  - Rehabilitation
  - Proportionate Punishment



## The Government Takes a Tough Stance towards Sexual and Hurt Offences

- The Government has made significant changes to our laws over the years to enhance protection for victims of sexual and hurt offences.

## When sexual and hurt offences are committed by adult offenders, the principles of proportionate punishment and deterrence generally take precedence over rehabilitation

- Sexual and hurt offences committed by adult offenders are deeply offensive to our fundamental values.
- The starting point is that there are no excuses for these offences.
- An offender will not receive a lighter sentence simply because he has higher educational qualifications or has "better prospects".
- That said, relevant offender-specific mitigating factors will continue to be considered.



## Outcomes of the Review

The outcomes of the review of the current sentencing framework for sexual and hurt offences are as follows:

- Increase in penalties for three sexual offences, including outrage of modesty.
- The Attorney-General's Chambers will generally object to rehabilitative sentences for adult offenders who commit certain hurt and sexual offences.
- A Guide to Sentencing in Singapore that explains the sentencing process has been published online.

In addition, separate from the review, a Sentencing Advisory Panel will be set up to enable the proactive publication of guidelines to pre-empt or address areas of concern, to facilitate a more consultative process, and to provide greater clarity to the public about the likely sentence and the relevant factors to be considered in sentencing.

**Ultimately, a mindset shift at the societal level is needed.** Sexual and hurt offences must be viewed as gross violations of our fundamental values.

