



# 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.

