

# Deradicalisation in Singapore: Past, Present and Future

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Singapore has according to some estimates the most diverse population on earth. The main religions represented are:



Christianity  
18.8%



Buddism/Taoism  
43.2%



Islam  
14%



Hinduism  
5%

Since 2001, 94 individuals from the Muslim population in Singapore have been found to have been radicalised or involved in terrorism-related activities.

Jemaah Islamiah (JI) is al-Qaeda's principal offshoot in Southeast Asia.

Of those still in detention at the time of writing, approximately six are individuals from JI, while 16 are self-radicalised individuals, mostly arrested in the 2010s, without formal affiliation to any extremist group.

Many of these self-radicalised have shown sympathy or declared allegiance to Islamic State (IS), a group unknown in Singapore before 2007.

The sermons of Anwar al-Awlaki feature in the radicalisation trajectory of at least nine of Singapore's self-radicalisation individuals (with more likely not being reported).

There was an appreciable uptick in cases after the July 2014 declaration of the so-called caliphate.

Mirroring trends seen elsewhere, high levels of social media use have played a major role in the radicalisation of the majority of Singapore's self-radicalised cases.

A small number of Singaporeans – likely less than ten – are thought to have actually journeyed to the conflict zone in Syria/Iraq to join IS.

New types of individuals in Singapore are coming under the thrall of IS, with women for the first time beginning to feature in the ranks of the radicalised.

There have been unusually frank acknowledgements from Singapore officials that self-radicalised individuals are tougher to deradicalise than the earlier generation of JI detainees.

