



Cause Kit

Guilty by Sun Ji

What do you need to know?

In Singapore, a juvenile is defined as one who is between 7 to 16 years of age. There has been a decline in juvenile arrests from 1,516 (2015) to 1,088 arrests in 2017. However, the same period has seen upward trends in shop theft, wilful trespass, and possession of dangerous weapons. In addition, 16 out of 100 of juvenile offenders re-offend within 3 years.

Cases are also becoming more complex due to various root causes like dysfunctional families, weak attachment to school, negative peer influence and involvement in youth gangs.¹

Why should you care?

85 Beyond Parental Control (BPC) cases were filed in 2017 which is the highest since 2009.² About half of BPC cases involved youths between 13 and 14 years of age.³ Individual cases are becoming increasingly complex and there needs to be more awareness and support for family counselling programmes prior to filing a BPC. Filing a BPC complaint should be a last resort as it destroys the relationship between a parent and a child.

Youth violence, online and offline, is on the rise. 3 out of 4 youths between the age of 13 to 19 have been victims of cyberbullying, and almost all did not report the incidents to their parents.⁴ Cyberbullying may lead to more online violence and in some cases self-harm and even suicide if it is not acted upon early.

There is a need for more upstream and holistic approaches in addressing youth needs. Chiefly, it is important to address the reasons of youth crime, rather than just the symptoms. For example, public acts of violence can be rooted in issues of stress or the lack of anger management, which should be resolved.

¹ MSF (2013). [National Report on Youth Crime](#).

² The Straits Times (2018). [Beyond Parental Control Cases Hit High](#).

³ MSF (2018). [Beyond Parental Control \(New Cases\)](#).

⁴ CNA Insider (2018). [3 in 4 youngsters say they have been bullied online](#).

Where is help available?

Juvenile offenders only have the option of residential or community-based rehabilitation. There is also a lack of awareness of alternative pathways to success and opportunities that can increase youth work capabilities.

The National Committee on Youth Guidance and Rehabilitation addresses problems and issues related to juvenile delinquency in Singapore. The Ministry of Social and Family Development has a Youth Residential Service where they rehabilitate, protect and reintegrate youth in secure care at the Singapore Boys' Home and Singapore Girls' Home.

Homes such as Boys' Town, The Ramakrishna Mission Boys' Home and Pertapis Education and Welfare Centre provide residential care for youths in need.

Youth Employment & Advancement Hub is a social enterprise that provides employment and training opportunities for youths in need.

How can you help?

Be a Donor

Boys' Town is a charity that provides residential care, street outreach, fostering, and community and school-based programmes for families, children, and youths-in-need. Support their cause at giving.sg.

Be a Volunteer

Boys' Town provides frequent volunteering opportunities to volunteers. They require help from volunteers to befriend youths in need so that they remain on a path towards success. Volunteer for the cause at giving.sg

Be an Ambassador

Help to increase social awareness about the issues that youths encounter through hosting screenings with your friends, colleagues, and families. Be a 15 Shorts ambassador, visit www.15shorts.com