

ABOUT THE COMMITTEE TO REVIEW AND ENHANCE REFORMS IN THE FAMILY JUSTICE SYSTEM (RERF COMMITTEE)

1. The Committee to **Review and Enhance Reforms** in the **Family Justice System (RERF Committee)** is an inter-agency committee that was formed in November 2017. It built on the work of the Committee for Family Justice, which had culminated in the enactment of the Family Justice Act and the establishment of the Family Justice Courts on 1 October 2014.
2. The RERF Committee released its recommendations in September 2019. Its recommendations aimed to further strengthen the family justice system by incorporating principles of therapeutic and restorative justice in the resolution of family disputes. This includes promoting the use of multi-disciplinary approaches and processes (e.g. counselling, mediation and conciliation) to resolve family disputes outside the court, which minimises the need for families to undergo litigation. The emphasis was on healing relationships and re-opening communication channels between family members caught in acrimonious disputes, to achieve more sustained and positive family outcomes. MinLaw and MSF subsequently held a public consultation from 20 September to 1 November 2019 on the Committee's recommendations.
3. The RERF Committee was co-chaired by Presiding Judge of the Family Justice Courts Justice Debbie Ong, then-Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Law Mr Ng How Yue, and Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Social and Family Development Mr Chew Hock Yong.
4. Other members of the Committee were:
 - Professor Leslie Chew, S.C., Dean, School of Law, Singapore University of Social Sciences
 - Justice Vincent Hoong, Judge, Supreme Court
 - Dr Sudha Nair, Executive Director, Promoting Alternatives to Violence
 - Mr Sim Gim Guan, Chief Executive Officer, National Council of Social Service
 - Mr Alfred Tan, Chief Executive Officer, Singapore Children's Society
 - Ms Michelle Woodworth, Co-chairperson of the Family Law Practice Committee, The Law Society of Singapore