



## NUS Student Investigated Over Viral Racist Remarks – What We Know So Far

### Description

*Editor’s note: Imagery on this post is being updated to match Little Big Red Dot’s editorial standards. Photographs sourced from the originating organisation will replace any temporary placeholders shortly.*

A **National University of Singapore (NUS)** student has come under intense public scrutiny this week after videos of her making racist remarks went viral across social media platforms, sparking a wider conversation about racial harmony in Singapore.

Here’s everything you need to know about the incident, the university’s response, and what it means for Singapore’s ongoing conversation on race.

### What Happened?

The controversy centres on a video believed to have been posted in early April 2026 and subsequently shared widely across platforms including TikTok, Instagram, and Telegram. In the clip, the student – who identified herself as a recruitment head for NUS’s 2026 Orientation Week – made a series of derogatory remarks directed at the Indian community, including comments that appeared to stereotype the group based on hygiene and personal habits.

The video quickly went viral, garnering significant attention and condemnation from Singaporeans of all backgrounds.

According to reports by **Mothership** and **The Online Citizen**, the student subsequently posted a separate video offering an apology. However, many who watched the apology felt it fell short of a genuine acknowledgement of wrongdoing. She reportedly said she understood her remarks – may have offended a few people – but maintained it – was not my intention.

### Public Reaction

Public reaction has been swift and largely critical. An online petition calling on NUS to take "serious disciplinary action" was launched on 19 April and had gathered more than **730 signatures** as of noon on 24 April 2026.

Social media commentators, including popular content creator DineshTheBigBaby, described the apology as insincere and argued it lacked genuine remorse. The incident also drew commentary from academics and community leaders, many of whom noted that such remarks "even if intended as humour" are harmful and have no place in Singapore's multicultural society.

The student has since stepped down from her student leadership role on the orientation committee.

## NUS's Response

NUS issued a media statement on **24 April 2026**, stating that it will "take all necessary disciplinary action" against the student. The university said it is "committed to the principles of respect and dignity" and that the student's conduct was "not acceptable."

The student is also reported to have moved out of on-campus housing following the backlash.

NUS has not publicly specified what disciplinary measures are being considered, but university regulations can include written warnings, community service requirements, suspension, or in severe cases, expulsion.

## Why This Matters for Singapore

Singapore prides itself on being a multiracial, multi-religious society, and racial harmony is considered a cornerstone of the nation's social fabric. The Maintenance of Religious Harmony Act and various provisions under the Penal Code govern speech and conduct that could stir racial or religious tensions.

While a single individual's remarks do not define an institution or a generation, incidents like these serve as important reminders that racial sensitivity "particularly among young people in positions of leadership" cannot be taken for granted.

As observers have noted, university orientation periods can sometimes foster an environment where exclusionary humour is normalised. This incident offers NUS and other universities an opportunity to revisit their leadership training, orientation programmes, and the values they wish to instil in student leaders.

## The Broader Conversation on Race in Singapore

Singapore has long maintained that it is a model for multiracial coexistence. The **CMIO framework** (Chinese, Malay, Indian, Others) shapes much of how race is understood and discussed officially, though it has also been critiqued for oversimplifying identity and sometimes inadvertently reinforcing racial categorisation.

Recent years have seen an increasing number of high-profile racial incidents shared on social media, followed by public debate about accountability and the adequacy of apologies. The National Conversation on Race launched in 2021 highlighted that while Singapore has made enormous progress, racial prejudice — often subtle or unconscious — persists in everyday life.

This incident adds to that ongoing dialogue. Whether it results in meaningful institutional change at NUS, and how the student's disciplinary case is handled, will be closely watched.

## What Happens Next

NUS has confirmed its investigation is ongoing. The university community — and the wider public — will be watching to see how the case is resolved and what, if any, structural changes are put in place to prevent similar incidents in future orientation cycles.

For now, the incident has prompted many Singaporeans to reflect on the state of racial harmony in the country — not just in universities, but in workplaces, social circles, and online spaces as well.

*Little Big Red Dot will update this article as more information becomes available.*

### **Date Created**

24/04/2026

### **Author**

claratan

default watermark