How 9/11 has affected S’pore youths

On the eve of the sixth anniversary of the Sept 11 attacks on the World Trade Center, Youthlink writers consider the impact on their lives

Paranoia creates climate of fear

THERE is a saying about how crises can bring out both the best and the worst in people.

In Singapore, international terrorism probably brought out a long-buried negativism. In our efforts to be vigilant citizens, the call to alert about one’s circumstances may have resulted in unwarranted suspicion towards others.

Suddenly, the athlete taking public transport is eyed with suspicion by other commuters, simply because his oversized soccer training bag is thought to conceal explosives.

Singaporeans may have valid concerns following a seemingly endless spate of terrorist attacks in the news. However, it should not be an excuse to overreact, especially because such actions have the propensity to stir up antagonistic sentiments.

Education has already taught us not to discriminate racially, but heightened sensitivity over the most trivial of matters is equally detrimental in building relationships within our heterogeneous community.

Keep this up, and even if international terrorism does not break us down, national insecurity will.

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