

# Human Rights & Labour Rights in Singapore:

The Dark Side of an Asian Tiger



Friday, 19 October 2018 ● 6pm – 8pm ● Unions NSW Auditorium

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## Did you know Singapore is

- Australia's fifth-largest trading partner and investor.
- one of the wealthiest countries in the world (per capita income), but has no minimum wage.
- reliant on low wage migrant workers for almost all construction work, domestic work, and much of the cleaning, manufacturing and retail sectors.
- these workers have very few labour rights and are paid around \$2/hour.
- a country where most forms of protest are illegal: a one person protest is an illegal assembly; the government has changed the constitution to keep human rights activists in jail; and the only recorded strike in recent decades resulted in jailing and deportation of multiple workers.

## Forum and panel discussion with three leading human rights and labour activists from Singapore



**Jolovan Wham** is a Singaporean social worker and activist. For 15 years he has been a leading advocate for migrant and local workers in Singapore. He is also a prominent LGBT, anti-death penalty, and civil liberties activist. He is the former executive director of Humanitarian Organisation for Migration Economics (HOME). He currently is facing numerous charges for organising peaceful assemblies and meetings.



**Rachel Zeng** is a former early childhood educator, and has been a human rights advocate since 2008. She has organised campaigns and projects against the death penalty, arbitrary detention, and for freedom of expression and assembly. She is no stranger to police interrogations and attempts to intimidate her into ceasing her advocacy work. Rachel currently lives and works in Sydney.



**Dr James Gomez** founder and chair of the Asia Centre, an independent, not-for-profit think tank. Dr. Gomez has over 25 years of international and regional experiences in leadership roles at universities, think-tanks, inter-governmental agencies and non-governmental organisations. He stood for parliamentary elections in Singapore with the opposition in 2006 and 2011.

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