

**Notes of Discussion of the
Fourth Sexual Minorities Forum
held on 28 October 2005 at 3:00 p.m.
in the Conference Room, 30/F, Southorn Centre, Wanchai**

Present

Home Affairs Bureau (HAB)

Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (Chairman)	Mr Stephen FISHER
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs	Mrs Hedy CHU
Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs	Miss Vivian CHAN
Senior Statistician	Miss Julia HUI
Research Manager	Miss YAM Ho-kwan
Unit Manager	Mr LAI Wing-yiu
Unit Officer	Miss Kate CHOY

Education and Manpower Bureau (EMB)

Senior Curriculum Development Officer (Moral and Civic Education) 1	Mr MAK Ping-sum
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Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs)

AIDS Concern	Mr Paul LOUEY
Amnesty International Hong Kong Section	Ms Liz WHITELAM
Association for the Advancement of Feminism	Ms CHEUNG Yuet-fung
Civil Human Rights Front	Mr CHONG Yiu-kong
Civil Rights for Sexual Diversities	Mr Roddy SHAW Kwok-wah
Equal Opportunities Commission	Mr Ferrick CHU
F'Union	Ms Connie CHAN
Hong Kong Human Rights Monitor	Ms Baig Raees BEGUM
Hong Kong Ten Percent Club	Mr CHO Man-kit
Queer Sisters	Ms Eleanor CHEUNG
Rainbow Action	Ms YEO Wai-wai
The Transgender Equality and Acceptance Movement (TEAM)	Ms Robin BRADBEER
	Ms Lennie CHUI
	Mr Mark KING
Transgender Asia Research, Education &	Dr Sam WINTER

Welcoming remarks

1. The Chairman welcomed all participants.

Confirmation of notes of last meeting

2. The notes of the meeting on 20 May 2005 and the special meeting on 24 June 2005 were confirmed without amendments.

Matters Arising

3. The Chairman briefed members on the progress of the Survey on Public Attitudes towards Homosexuals. He informed the meeting that the questionnaire had been finalized by the Advisory Group taking into account comments made by members and various family values and religious concern groups. The fieldwork of the survey was in progress and would be completed by 31 October 2005. The results of the survey would be released in the first quarter of 2006. He said that the survey questionnaire and the Advisory Group's response to the suggestions made by members and various concern groups would be released to members upon completion of the fieldwork. This was because release of the survey questionnaire before completion of the fieldwork might

generate public discussion which could affect the outcome of the survey. [Post-meeting note: The questionnaire and the Advisory Group's response were issued to members and the concern groups on 17 November and 24 November respectively.]

4. A member submitted a research report on the extent of sexual orientation discrimination in Hong Kong conducted by the Women Coalition of HK to the Chairman.

Promotion of Sex Education in Schools

(Paper No.: SMF 8/2005)

5. Mr MAK Ping-sum introduced the paper.

6. Members expressed disagreement with the EMB's decision on commissioning the Society for Truth and Light (STL) to provide human rights courses for primary and secondary school teachers.

7. In reply to several members' concerns, Mr MAK explained the tendering process, selection criteria and monitoring mechanism of the EMB for commissioning organizations to provide training to teachers. He said that STL was chosen in view of its past experience in holding similar activities, the quality of its speakers, its cooperation with EMB and the bid tendered. He stressed that EMB would closely monitor the contractor's performance through reviewing the course materials,

teachers' feedback and observation of the course by EMB staff to ensure the quality and maintain impartiality of the course delivered.

8. The Chairman remarked that members could write to HAB for further questions regarding the issue and the questions would be relayed to the responsible officials of EMB.

9. A member asked whether changes had been made to the previous guideline in 1997 which suggested that gender identity was a psychological problem and required treatment. Mr Mak agreed to relay member's comment to EMB.

10. A member of TEAM would like to seek EMB's help to distribute the leaflets sponsored by Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme to all secondary schools. Mr Mak agreed to relay such request to the EMB. The Chairman supplemented that the sponsored organization was not required under the "Use of Sponsorship" guideline to submit its publication for HAB's approval before publishing.

11. A member expressed concern about the extent of discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation in schools and the inadequacy of sex education in schools. Mr Mak noted the member's comments.

12. A member proposed changes to the EMB's paper including in Appendix 1 the phrase "sex identity" should be "gender identity", and in

Appendix 4 “性取向” should be “性傾向”. Mr Mak noted member’s views.

13. A representative of Hong Kong Ten Percent Club presented its paper about the prejudices found in school textbooks and asked EMB to study its findings. Mr Mak noted the paper.

Progress report on the work of the Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Unit

(Paper No.: SMF 9/2005)

14. Mr Lai Wing-yiu introduced the paper. Members noted the progress of the work of the Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Unit.

Public Education and Publicity Programme

(Paper No.: SMF 10/2005)

15. Mr Lai Wing-yiu introduced the paper.

16. A member asked if the Unit would refer cases regarding harassment based on sexual orientation to other bodies such as Equal Opportunities Commission and had a referral list. The member further asked if members could be given a list of sponsored projects under the

Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme 2005-06.

17. Mr Lai replied that the list of sponsored projects could be found at HAB's website. Mr Ferrick CHU supplemented that harassment to sexual minorities would be covered by the Sex Discrimination Ordinance only if it was an unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature directed at the victim.

18. A member asked how NGOs could register their interest to operate game booths at the Carnival. Mr Lai replied that interested NGOs could approach the Unit.

Any other business

19. A member proposed to have two discussion items for Bureaux/Departments outside HAB in each forum meeting. The Chairman agreed but the time for each discussion item would be controlled more stringently. He also asked members to raise one or two issues for each discussion item so that the responsible government representatives could respond accordingly.

20. A member raised concern about the continuity of services provided to transgenders after the transfer/re-allocation of services from Queen Mary Hospital to other hospital clusters. The member explained that she was simply treated as a newcomer and required to pay the

newcomer's charge. The member also explained the difficulties she faced in certain aspects when undergoing the real-life test. The Chairman agreed to invite a representative of Hospital Authority to attend the next meeting.

Date of next meeting

21. There being no other business, the discussion ended at 6:30p.m. Members would be notified of the date of the next Forum nearer the time.

HOME AFFAIRS BUREAU

December 2005