

**Thirteenth Meeting of the Human Rights Forum**  
**6 November 2007 at 3:00 p.m.**  
**Conference Room, 30/F, Southorn Centre**

**Present**

*Non-government Organizations (NGOs)*

Amnesty International Hong Kong	Ms Milabel Cristobal Amar
The Association for the Advancement of Feminism	Ms Au Mei-po, Mabel
Centre for Citizenship Education, HKIEd	Dr Leung Yan-wing
Civil Human Rights Front	Ms Wei Siu-lik
Equal Opportunities Commission	Mr. Ferrick Chu
Hong Kong Bar Association	Mr. Phillip Ross
Hong Kong Christian Institute	Mr. Fan Lap-hin
The Hong Kong Council of Social Service	Ms Belinda Hui
Hong Kong Human Rights Monitor	Mr. Law Yuk-kai Mr. Kwok Hiu-chung
Hong Kong Informal Education Research Centre	Ms Yiu Yan-ling
Hong Kong Women Christian Council	Miss Loh Yuen-ching
Hong Kong Sex Culture Society	Mr. Matthew Mak
Human Rights Council of Hong Kong	Mr. Hilton Cheong-Leen

Justice	Mr. Frank Ching Council Member
Office of Emily Lau, Legislative Councillor	Ms Tam Kwan-yi Ms Yeo Wai-wai
Sham Shui Po Community Association	Mr. Chong Yiu-kwong
Society for Community Organisation	Ms Annie Lin
The Society for Truth and Light	Ms Helen Fu
Youth Christian Institute	Mr. Renwill Yang
Law Society of Hong Kong	Mr. Kevin She

***Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB)***

Mr. Arthur Ho (Chairman)	Deputy Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Mr. Victor Ng	Principal Assistant Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Mr. Stanley Ng (Secretary)	Assistant Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

**Introduction**

1. The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting. The Chairman said that the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau had taken up coordinating responsibility relating to human rights from the Home Affairs Bureau as a result of reorganization of the Government Secretariat, and that the Administration would continue its commitment on protection of human rights.

**Papers discussed at the legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs Subcommittee on Human Rights Protection Mechanism (Agenda Item 1)**

2. Members had the following comments and questions –

- (a) A Member considered the protection mechanism of human rights in Hong Kong insufficient. He suggested that the Administration should consider establishing an independent human rights commission in accordance with the Paris Principles. The Chairman responded that human rights are fully protected by the Basic Law and relevant ordinances. There also existed an extensive mechanism for protection of human rights in Hong Kong, including the rule of law, an independent judiciary and the relevant statutory institutions. The Government would monitor development and make improvement if needed.
- (b) A Member asked whether it was true that the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (SDO) did not provide protection for a provider of goods, services and facilities. Mr. Ferrick Chu responded that whilst there was protection for a victim of sexual harassment by a provider of goods, services and facilities, section 40 of the SDO did not provide protection for a victim who was providing such goods, services and facilities. As for the protection of an employee, it was stipulated in the SDO that the employer should not engage in conduct which would create a sexually hostile working environment for the employee.
- (c) Some Members expressed concern that the Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC) did not have the power to conduct investigation. The Chairman said that the Hong Kong Police had good reputation and record in its performance. In the light of different views on how police should conduct their internal investigation, the Administration had introduced the IPCC Bill to the Legislative Council in August 2007 to establish the existing IPCC as a statutory body and to provide for its functions, powers and operation. It codifies the existing two-tier police complaint system, thereby enhancing the independence of the IPCC and increasing public confidence in the system. It also provides additional flexibility for the IPCC to employ its own staff and deploy its resources.

### **Any other business**

3. Some members referred to the letter from Civic Human Rights Forum dated 21 September 2007 and expressed their wish for discussion of the following items:

- (a) development of the Human Rights Forum;
- (b) public broadcasting policy and protection of freedom of news and speech;
- (c) the Independence Police Complaints Council Bill; and
- (d) progress of the Race Discrimination Bill.

The Chairman explained that Members were welcome to proposed discussion items for the Forum. Relevant bureaux and departments would be invited to attend the Forum if needed.

4. The Chairman informed Members that the Legislative Council Race Discrimination Bill Bills Committee had resumed scrutinizing the Bill. The Administration would work closely with the Bills Committee with a view to resuming Second Reading of the Bill in this legislative session.

5. In responses to questions from a Member regarding a survey to be conducted by the Human Rights Education Task Force of the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education, the Chairman said that he would check developments with Home Affairs Bureau.

### **Date of next meeting**

6. To be advised by the Secretariat.

**Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau  
November 2007**