

Article 10: Education and information on the prohibition of torture

General

10.1 The position remains broadly as explained in paragraphs 52 to 58 of the initial report.

Police

10.2 The position is essentially the same as mentioned in paragraph 52 of the initial report.

Correctional Services Department

10.3 The position is essentially the same as mentioned in paragraph 86 of the previous report. CSD will continue to provide relevant induction and regular in-service training programmes to staff with emphasis on the prevention of torture and degrading treatment or punishment of persons in custody.

Immigration Department

10.4 The position is essentially the same as mentioned in paragraph 87 of the previous report.

Independent Commission Against Corruption

10.5 The position is essentially as explained in paragraph 56 of the initial report.

Health care professionals

10.6 Healthcare professionals are trained to closely monitor the physical and mental well-being of patients in the course of routine patient care and are well equipped with the knowledge to recognise clinical features and physical signs that are suggestive of occurrence of abuse, including the sequelae of torture. For doctors, the Hong Kong College of Paediatricians conducts regular and mandatory courses on child

protection for all Paediatricians trainees and the subject of elderly abuse is part of college training for all Geriatrics trainees.

10.7 On training of nurses, topics such as child and elderly abuse are included in the curricula of basic nursing education. In the Hospital Authority (HA), the provider of public hospital services in Hong Kong, continuing education and on-job training are regularly organised for nurses who may encounter such incidents in their daily practice. These include orientation programmes for new recruits, advanced specialty training in gerontological nursing, training in child health and emergency nursing. Also, the HA has drawn up clinical guidelines on managing intimate partner violence and domestic violence.

10.8 For allied health professionals, the HKSAR Government has implemented measures to ensure that medical social workers and clinical psychologists are equipped with adequate training and knowledge in this regard. To enhance the knowledge of medical social workers in handling domestic violence, elderly abuse, child abuse and sexual violence cases, the SWD has been providing regular trainings for medical social workers stationing in the HA. Relevant skills including the provision of counselling to victims, perpetrators and their family members are particularly strengthened.

10.9 As to clinical psychologists, training in trauma psychology covers assessment for proper recognition and treatment of psychosocial and mental health problems related to abuse and trauma. This has been included as part of the curriculum of all recognised clinical psychology programmes in Hong Kong. Furthermore, continuing education and on-job training in psychological assessment and evidence-based treatment for trauma-related mental health problems have been organised for clinical psychologists working in the HA.

10.10 In paragraph 9 of the previous Concluding Observations, the Committee recommended that the HKSAR should ensure that health care professionals are equipped with the necessary training and information to recognise and detect signs and features that may suggest the occurrence of torture. Specific training programmes on the “Manual on the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or

Degrading Treatment or Punishment” (Istanbul Protocol) has been provided for officers of the ImmD and healthcare professionals in the public healthcare system (including doctors and other health professionals). The training helped to familiarise the personnel involved in handling torture claims on the requirements under the Istanbul Protocol, and equipped them with capability to recognise and detect signs and features of torture claimants that may suggest the occurrence of torture.