

Sexual Minorities Forum

Survey on Public Attitudes towards Homosexuals

Purpose

This paper reports the preliminary results of the Survey on Public Attitudes towards Homosexuals commissioned by the Home Affairs Bureau.

The Survey

2. The objectives of the Survey on Public Attitudes towards Homosexuals are to:

- (a) assess public awareness of homosexuality;
- (b) assess public attitudes towards homosexuality;
- (c) assess public acceptance of homosexuals in different contexts and situations;
- (d) assess the extent of the problem of discrimination faced by homosexuals; and
- (e) examine what can be done to address the problem of discrimination faced by homosexuals.

3. To ensure that the survey questionnaire was fair and impartial, an independent Advisory Group, comprising Mr. Christopher Chan Yiu-chong, Professor Fanny Cheung Mui-ching and Dr. Priscilla Leung Mei-fun, was appointed in February 2005 to advise on the questionnaire design. The survey questionnaire is at Annex 1.

4. The fieldwork of the telephone survey was conducted during 22-31 October 2005. A random sample of 2 068 respondents aged between 18 and 64 were successfully contacted for telephone interview. As 28 respondents indicated that they did not know what homosexuality is, only 2 040 respondents were enumerated. The response rate of the Survey was 50.1%. The preliminary findings of the Survey are at Annex 2.

Advice Sought

5. Members are invited to **note** the contents of this paper.

Home Affairs Bureau

February 2006

Survey on Public Attitudes towards Homosexuals

Surname and Title of Respondent: _____ Tel. No. of Respondent: _____

Interviewer's Name: _____ No.: (_____) No. of Q'naire completed: _____

Interview Date: _____ Interview Time: _____ Start: _____ End: _____

INTRODUCTION: Hi! Good evening/afternoon! My name is _____. I am an interviewer from MVA, an independent opinion survey firm. We have been commissioned by the Home Affairs Bureau of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government to conduct an opinion survey on public attitudes towards homosexuals. The interview will not be long and the information you provide will be kept confidential. Thank you for your cooperation.

SCREENING

S1 To help us select a person in your household for this interview, please tell me which household member, including your domestic helper(s), has just had his/her birthday? This household member must be aged between 18 to 64 and should usually stay in the household for at least five nights a week.

If the answer is the respondent himself/herself..... 1	→ Skip to A1
If the answer is another household member..... 2	→ Continue with S2

S2 Could I conduct an interview with _____ (answer of S1 – the selected respondent) now ?

Yes..... 1	→ Repeat Introduction ; continue with A1.
No / Refusal..... 2	→ Terminate: "Thank You."
Not at home..... 3	→ Arrange for another interview (Date and time : _____)

SECTION A AWARENESS OF HOMOSEXUALITY

A1 Do you know what is homosexuality or not?

Know.....1	→ Continue with A2.
Don't know.....2	→ Terminate: "Thank You."

A2 Have you had any contact with homosexuals? (If the answer of the respondent is "Yes", continue to ask "Is it frequent or not?")

Yes (Frequent)1
 Yes (Not Frequent)2
 No3
 Not Sure / Don't Know999

SECTION B ACCEPTANCE LEVEL OF HOMOSEXUALS

Will you accept or not accept the following situations? **[Read out B1 – B6 one by one.]** (If the answer of the respondent is “Acceptable”, then ask whether he/she finds the statement “Strongly Acceptable” or “Acceptable”. If the answer is “Unacceptable”, then ask whether he/she finds the statement “Strongly Unacceptable” or “Unacceptable”.)

		Strongly Acceptable	Acceptable	Neutral	Unacceptable	Strongly Unacceptable	Don't Know / No comment
B1	You work with a homosexual	1	2	3	4	5	999
B2	A homosexual holds a senior position in the organization you work for	1	2	3	4	5	999
B3	A teacher who is a homosexual	1	2	3	4	5	999
B4	You make friends with a homosexual	1	2	3	4	5	999
B5	Your neighbour is a homosexual	1	2	3	4	5	999
B6	Your family member is a homosexual	1	2	3	4	5	999

SECTION C DISCRIMINATION FACED BY HOMOSEXUALS

The following are some possible situations faced by homosexuals. **[Read out C1 – C5 one by one.]** Do you find such situations very serious, serious, average, pose little problem or no problem at all in Hong Kong?

		Very Serious	Serious	Average	Pose Little Problem	No Problem At all	Don't Know / No comment
C1	An employer refuses to employ a person qualified for the job because he/she is a homosexual	1	2	3	4	5	999
C2	A club/association refuses to admit a homosexual as its member	1	2	3	4	5	999
C3	A landlord refuses to let his/her flat to a homosexual	1	2	3	4	5	999
C4	A homosexual student is discriminated against at school	1	2	3	4	5	999
C5	At present, homosexuals are discriminated against in Hong Kong because of their sexual orientation [#]	1	2	3	4	5	999

[#] If the respondent does not understand the term “sexual orientation”, please read “Sexual orientation is an enduring emotional, romantic, sexual or affectional attraction to another person. It includes homosexuality, heterosexuality and bisexuality”.

SECTION D WAYS TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM OF DISCRIMINATION FACED BY HOMOSEXUALS

The following are the views some people have on how to address the problem of discrimination faced by homosexuals. **[Read out D1 – D6 one by one.]** Do you strongly agree, agree, stand neutral, disagree or strongly disagree with the view?

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Stand Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know / No comment
D1	The community should ensure equal opportunities for homosexuals	1	2	3	4	5	999
D2	At present, addressing the problem of discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation [#] by means of public education is already sufficient	1	2	3	4	5	999
D3	The Government should introduce legislation to outlaw discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation [#] in the field of education e.g. school admission, etc.	1	2	3	4	5	999
D4	The Government should introduce legislation to outlaw discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation [#] in the field of employment e.g. recruitment and promotion, etc.	1	2	3	4	5	999
D5	The Government should introduce legislation to outlaw discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation [#] in the provision of services, facilities or goods e.g. renting apartments, purchase of goods, using swimming pools and tennis courts, etc.	1	2	3	4	5	999
D6	At this stage, the Government should not introduce legislation to outlaw discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation [#]	1	2	3	4	5	999

SECTION E SOCIAL IMPACT OF INTRODUCING LEGISLATION TO OUTLAW DISCRIMINATION ON THE GROUND OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION

The following are the views some people have on the social impact of introducing legislation to outlaw discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation. **[Read out E1 – E2 one by one.]** Do you agree or disagree with their views? (If the answer of the respondent is "Agree", then ask whether he/she "Strongly Agrees" or "Agrees" with the statement. If the answer is "Disagree", then ask whether he/she "Strongly Disagrees" or "Disagrees" with the statement.)

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Stand Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know / No comment
E1	If the Government introduces legislation to outlaw discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation [#] , homosexual behaviour would be encouraged	1	2	3	4	5	999
E2	If the Government introduces legislation to outlaw discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation [#] , the community of Hong Kong would become more harmonious and accommodating	1	2	3	4	5	999

SECTION F ATTITUDES TOWARDS HOMOSEXUALITY

The following are the views some people have regarding homosexuality. **[Read out F1 – F5 one by one.]** Do you agree or disagree with their views? (If the answer of the respondent is "Agree", then ask whether he/she "Strongly Agrees" or "Agrees" with the statement. If the answer is "Disagree", then ask whether he/she "Strongly Disagrees" or "Disagrees" with the statement.)

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Stand Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know / No comment
F1	Work ability is not directly related to homosexuality	1	2	3	4	5	999
F2	Promiscuity is not directly related to homosexuality	1	2	3	4	5	999
F3	There is no conflict between homosexuality and family values	1	2	3	4	5	999
F4	Homosexuals are psychologically normal people	1	2	3	4	5	999
F5	Homosexuality contradicts the morals of the community	1	2	3	4	5	999

[#] If the respondent does not understand the term "sexual orientation", please read "Sexual orientation is an enduring emotional, romantic, sexual or affectional attraction to another person. It includes homosexuality, heterosexuality and bisexuality".

SECTION G DEMOGRAPHICS OF RESPONDENT

For the purpose of analyzing the survey results, I would like to know some of your personal particulars. The information you provide will be used for analysis only and will be kept strictly confidential. **(DO NOT READ OUT ANSWERS)**

G1 Could you tell me your age?

18-19.....	1	40-44.....	6
20-24.....	2	45-49.....	7
25-29.....	3	50-54.....	8
30-34.....	4	55-64.....	9
35-39.....	5	Refused to answer.....	999

G2 Could you tell me your sex? **(Or to be recorded by the interviewer)**

Male.....	1
Female.....	2
Refused to answer.....	999

G3 Could you tell me your level of education?

Below Primary.....	1
Primary.....	2
Lower Secondary (F.1 to F.3).....	3
Upper Secondary (F.4 to F.7).....	4
Post-secondary or above.....	5
Refused to answer.....	999

G4 Could you tell me your ethnic origin? **(Read out answers)**

Chinese.....	1
Caucasian.....	2
Southeast Asian.....	3
East Asian.....	4
South Asian.....	5
Others [Do not read out]	6 (Please specify _____)
Refused to answer.....	999

G5 Have you lived outside Hong Kong for more than one year continuously ?

Yes.....	1	→	G5a Where? (Multiple answers allowed)	
			Mainland China.....	1
			Europe.....	2
			North America.....	3
			Southeast Asia.....	4
			East Asia.....	5
			South Asia.....	6
			Others (Please specify).....	7
No.....	2			
Refused to answer.....	999			

G6 Could you tell me your marital status?

Single.....	1
Married.....	2
Cohabiting.....	3
Others (including widowed, divorced, separated).....	4
Refused to answer.....	999

G7 Do you have any children, including adopted children?

Yes..... 1
 No..... 2
 Refused to answer..... 999

G8 Do you have any religion?

Yes..... 1 → G8a Which religion? **(Multiple answers allowed)**
 Catholicism.....1
 Protestantism.....2
 Buddhism.....3
 Others (Please specify)4

No..... 2
 Refused to answer..... 999

G9 Could you tell me your occupation?

Owner/Self-employed..... 1
 Manager/Executive 2
 Professional 3
 Clerk..... 4
 Service/Sales 5
 Craftsman/skilled worker 6
 Domestic Helper..... 7
 Elementary occupations (e.g. street vendors, security guards, construction labourers)... 8
 Student..... 9
 Homemaker 10
 Retired 11
 Unemployed..... 12
 Others (Please specify) 13
 Refused to answer 999

G10 Could you tell me your monthly total personal income (in Hong Kong Dollars)? Total personal income should include all your monthly salary, bonus, housing allowance, social security (e.g. Comprehensive Social Security Assistance, Disability Allowance), investment income, etc.

No Income..... 1	HK\$20,000 – HK\$29,999 7
Less than HK\$4,000..... 2	HK\$30,000 – HK\$39,999 8
HK\$4,000 – HK\$6,999 3	HK\$40,000 – HK\$49,999 9
HK\$7,000 – HK\$9,999 4	HK\$50,000 or above 10
HK\$10,000 – HK\$14,999 5	Refused to answer 999
HK\$15,000 – HK\$19,999 6	

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

**Preliminary Results of the
Survey on Public Attitudes towards Homosexuals**

1. Public Attitudes towards Homosexuality

	<i>% of respondents who</i>		
	<i>strongly agreed/ agreed</i>	<i>stood neutral</i>	<i>strongly disagreed/ disagreed</i>
Work ability is not directly related to homosexuality.	88.8	1.5	8.5
Promiscuity is not directly related to homosexuality.	61.1	3.6	29.4
Homosexuals are psychologically normal people.	47.0	5.5	41.9
There is no conflict between homosexuality and family values.	41.2	4.3	49.1
Homosexuality contradicts the morals of the community.	38.9	6.4	49.0

2. Public Acceptance of Homosexuals

<i>Acceptance of a homosexual as one's</i>	<i>% of respondents</i>		
	<i>strongly acceptable / acceptable</i>	<i>neutral</i>	<i>strongly unacceptable / unacceptable</i>
Colleague	79.9	11.1	6.9
Superior in office	77.5	10.3	8.6
Teacher	60.2	8.9	28.3
Neighbour	78.0	12.8	8.2
Friend	76.1	8.7	13.7
Family member	40.0	5.0	51.4

3. Discrimination Faced by Homosexuals

<i>Area</i>	<i>Situation</i>	<i>% of respondents who considered the situation</i>		
		<i>very serious/ serious</i>	<i>average</i>	<i>posed little problem/ no problem at all</i>
<i>School</i>	A homosexual student is discriminated against at school.	29.7	29.0	30.3
<i>Employment</i>	An employer refuses to employ a person qualified for the job because he/she is a homosexual.	17.6	39.9	30.4
<i>Renting accommodation</i>	A landlord refuses to let his/her flat to a homosexual.	15.4	32.8	39.3
<i>Club membership</i>	A club/association refuses to admit a homosexual as its member.	13.2	36.4	37.4
<i>Overall</i>	At present, homosexuals are discriminated against in Hong Kong because of their sexual orientation.	29.7	41.7	25.2

4. Ways to Address the Problem of Discrimination Faced by Homosexuals

	<i>% of respondents who</i>		
	<i>strongly agreed/ agreed</i>	<i>stood neutral</i>	<i>strongly disagreed/ disagreed</i>
The community should ensure equal opportunities for homosexuals.	54.2	34.1	10.2
At present, addressing the problem of discrimination by means of public education is already sufficient.	23.5	31.4	41.6
The Government should introduce legislation to outlaw sexual orientation discrimination in the field of education .	37.3	35.8	22.4
The Government should introduce legislation to outlaw sexual orientation discrimination in the field of employment .	41.6	30.1	24.9
The Government should introduce legislation to outlaw sexual orientation discrimination in the provision of services, facilities or goods .	37.2	30.1	29.2
The Government should not introduce legislation to outlaw sexual orientation discrimination at this stage.	34.5	33.7	28.7

5. Social Impact of Introducing Legislation to Outlaw Discrimination on the Ground of Sexual Orientation

	<i>% of respondents who</i>		
	<i>strongly agreed/ agreed</i>	<i>stood neutral</i>	<i>strongly disagreed/ disagreed</i>
Homosexual behaviour would be encouraged if the Government introduces anti-discrimination legislation.	27.9	7.0	61.6
Hong Kong would become more harmonious and accommodating if the Government introduces anti-discrimination legislation.	47.8	9.9	38.4