

**For discussion on
1 December 2006**

Sexual Minorities Forum

Public Education and Publicity Programme

Purpose

This paper seeks to brief members on the public education and publicity programme of the Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Unit (Unit) in 2006-07.

Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme

2. The Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme (Funding Scheme) is an annual programme to encourage community-based initiative to spread the message of equal opportunity for people of different sexual orientation.

3. The scheme has an annual budget of around \$0.5 million. From 1998-99 to 2005-06, \$3.64 million has been allocated to 81 projects organized by the sexual minorities groups and non-governmental organizations.

4. In 2006-07, we sponsor 11 projects and the approved amount of sponsorship is about \$0.54 million. The approved programme activities include dramas, art exhibitions, school workshops, forum, camp, song composer competition and research. So far, one project is completed and the remaining ten projects are expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2007.

Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Awareness Day

5. The Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Awareness Day (the Awareness Day) was held on 14 January 2006 at Kowloon Park to promote equal opportunities for people of different sexual orientation. The event comprised performances, game booths and exhibitions. Some of the game booths were operated by sexual minorities and human rights groups.

6. To continue our efforts in this area, we plan to organize the Awareness Day again in the first quarter of 2007. At the previous meeting on 13 February 2006, members made suggestions in relation to the location and publicity of the event. To draw on input of members in the organization of the 2007 Awareness Day, we proposed that three members of the Forum be selected to advise the Government on the issues relating to the Awareness Day. The Unit will commence works in this regard expeditiously.

Advice Sought

7. Members' views are invited on the suggestion in paragraph 6 above.

Home Affairs Bureau
November 2006