

**For discussion on
20 June 2008**

Sexual Minorities Forum

**Work Plan of the Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Unit
in 2008-09**

Purpose

This paper briefs members on the work plan of the Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Unit (the Unit) to launch publicity and education programmes in 2008-09.

The Unit

2. The Unit was set up in 2005 to promote equal opportunities for people of different sexual orientation and transgendered persons. To deliver this mission, the Unit launches publicity and education programmes to promote equal opportunities (including the operation of the Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme), maintains a hotline for enquiries and complaints in relation to sexual orientation and gender identity, and provides secretariat support to the Sexual Minorities Forum.

Publicity and Education Programmes

2008-09 Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme

3. The 2008-09 Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme (the Scheme) is in operation. The Scheme, which was set up in 1998, provides funding support to worthwhile community projects which aim at promoting equal opportunities on grounds of sexual orientation or

gender identity, or seek to provide support services for the sexual minorities. Thirteen applications have been received under the Scheme. The Unit is examining the applications. Applicants will be informed of the result of their application in early July.

Other Publicity and Education Programme

4. We will continue our efforts to promote equal opportunities on grounds of sexual orientation. This year, we will focus our promotional efforts on the Code of Practice Against Discrimination in Employment on the Ground of Sexual Orientation (the Code). This is in response to the discussions at the sixth meeting of the Sexual Minorities Forum held on 1 December 2006 that the Government should devote more efforts in promoting the Code. We plan to run a poster design competition with the theme of promoting equal opportunities in employment, including the Code. The winning design will be used in the poster campaign at MTR stations/bus shelters to be launched later in the year. We will also produce an Announcement in the Public Interest for radio broadcast to promote the Code.

Advice Sought

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

**Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
June 2008**