

**For information on  
22 December 2010**

**Sexual Minorities Forum**

**Training and Publicity Concerning the  
Domestic Violence (Amendment) Ordinance 2009**

**Purpose**

At the Sexual Minorities Forum (SMF) meeting of 22 December 2009, it was agreed that the Administration would update SMF members on the training provided for social workers handling domestic and cohabitation relationship violence as well as the publicity work concerning the Domestic Violence (Amendment) Ordinance 2009 (“the Amendment Ordinance”). This information paper sets out the progress in this regard.

**Training**

2. The Amendment Ordinance, which took effect on 1 January 2010, extended the coverage of legal protection under the former Domestic Violence Ordinance to include same-sex cohabitants. To prepare for the smooth implementation of the Amendment Ordinance, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has arranged a series of training programmes for social workers in SWD and the non-governmental organizations concerned. Such training was also open to other related professionals such as clinical psychologists and police officers to keep them abreast of the latest developments on the legislative front, and to enhance their professional sensitivity, knowledge and assessment skills in handling

same-sex cohabitation relationship violence. Since November 2009, over 500 participants have attended training programmes arranged/organized by SWD.

3. In order to enhance police officers' professional sensitivity in the handling and investigation of cases involving same-sex cohabitants, the Police have delivered a training package comprising the legislative amendments arising from the Amendment Ordinance, video clips on professional sensitivity and understanding on same-sex relationship, etc. The training package was delivered through 20 sessions of road show to over 1 400 police officers in December 2009. Relevant training materials have also been uploaded onto the Police intranet for ease of access by officers.

### **Publicity**

4. SWD continues to publicise the legislative changes after the enactment of the Amendment Ordinance, as well as the welfare and support services for victims of domestic and cohabitation relationships violence through dialogue with relevant stakeholders and territory-wide publicity campaign. In the past year, SWD communicated the above with the relevant parties through various meetings and forums, such as the Working Group on Combating Violence, District Fight Crime Committees, District Liaison Groups on Family Violence and District Co-ordinating Committees on Family and Child Welfare. Dialogue with the Family Court has also been maintained to facilitate the processing of court cases involving domestic and cohabitation relationships violence.

5. In addition, information on services and legal protection for victims of cohabitation relationship violence has been uploaded on SWD's website. Service leaflets aside, SWD's website also provides access to the brochure on "How to apply for injunctions under the Domestic and Cohabitation Relationships Violence Ordinance", which

was updated by the Judiciary to facilitate victims of domestic and cohabitation relationships violence to apply for legal remedies under the Amendment Ordinance. On the other hand, territory-wide and district-based publicity programmes on combating domestic violence, irrespective of the gender, age, race or sexual orientation of the victims, have been, and will continue to be, launched.

**Labour and Welfare Bureau**  
**Social Welfare Department**  
**Hong Kong Police Force**  
**December 2010**