

Survey on Public Attitudes towards Homosexuals

PURPOSE

This paper reports progress on the conduct of a survey on public attitudes towards homosexuals.

THE SURVEY

2. We plan to conduct a telephone survey on public attitudes towards homosexuals to:

- (i) assess public awareness of different sexual orientations, including homosexuality, heterosexuality and bisexuality;
- (ii) assess public attitudes towards homosexuals;
- (iii) assess public acceptance of homosexuals in different contexts and situations;
- (iv) assess public attitudes towards the rights of homosexuals;
and
- (v) find out what can be done to address the problem of discrimination faced by homosexuals.

3. We have commissioned a research firm to conduct the survey. The survey, with a sample size of 2 000, will cover as target population all persons aged 18-64 in Hong Kong. We intend to consult the various concern groups on the overall design of the questionnaire of the survey. A small advisory group will be formed to advise on the questionnaire design before finalizing the questionnaire for data collection.

4. Preparatory work for the survey is in hand. We are now working on the questionnaire for the survey. A sketch of the overall design of the questionnaire is at the Annex. The survey will be conducted in the second quarter of 2005 and the survey findings will be announced in the latter half of 2005.

FURTHER SURVEY

5. Arising from two recent suicides of transsexuals, transgender groups in Hong Kong have pointed out that transgenders have experienced social discrimination and urged the Government to include transgenders in the study. In this connection, we intend to conduct a separate survey on public attitudes towards transgenders at a later stage. This survey will proceed after the survey on public attitudes towards homosexuals has been completed.

ADVICE SOUGHT

6. Members are invited to note the contents of this paper.

Home Affairs Bureau

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Questionnaire Design

The questionnaire will comprise five sections.

Section A: Public Awareness

This section will ask respondents questions on their awareness of :

- homosexuality and bisexuality;
- measures which have been taken by the Government to enhance public understanding and acceptance of different forms of sexual orientation.

Section B: Public Attitudes

This section will ask respondents questions on :

- their understanding of homosexuality;
- their attitudes towards homosexuals.

Section C: Public Acceptance

This section will ask respondents questions on their level of acceptance of homosexuals as relatives, friends, colleagues, classmates, teachers, employees, tenants, etc.

Section D: Rights of Homosexuals

This section will ask respondents questions on their views on :

- the rights of homosexuals with regard to spousal rights, welfare benefits, public housing, etc. ;
- the legal age of consent for homosexual conduct.

Section E: Addressing the Issue of Discrimination

This section will ask respondents questions on their views on measures to address discrimination, including public education, promotion of equal opportunities, legislation, etc.