

## **Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme**

### **Background**

At the last meeting of the Sexual Minorities Forum, members were informed that for the financial year ending 31 March 2005, about \$327,000 remained available for activities for the promotion of equal opportunities for sexual minorities. It was agreed that organizations which were interested in applying for funding to organize activities to promote equal opportunities for sexual minorities should submit their proposals as soon as possible. The brief description of the proposals selected by the Vetting Committee is at **Annex A**.

### **The Way Forward**

2. In 2005/06, a total amount of around \$500,000 has been earmarked for the Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme (the Funding Scheme).

3. Having reviewed the past experience, we would like to consider whether the impact of the Funding Scheme could be enhanced by introducing new initiatives. For example, we may consider setting annual themes so that activities approved may be more focused and organized; or we may consider changing the mode to a large-scale event, such as an exhibition or an “activity week” / “activity month” on promotion of equal opportunities for sexual minorities so that a large number of organizations may participate in the same occasion to arouse public attention. Some suggestions are at **Annex B** for Members’ consideration.

### **Advice Sought**

4. Members may wish to discuss whether the approach at paragraph 3 above should be adopted.

Home Affairs Bureau

January 2005

**Annex A**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Organization</b>
1	Equality and Inclusion: Promoting Equal Opportunities for People of Different Sexual Orientation on the Web	Association for the Advancement of Feminism
2	“Accepting the Difference”: the Plan to Promote Equal Opportunities on Ground of Sexual Orientation	Hong Kong Blessed Minority Christian Fellowship/ Hong Kong Christian Institute
3	Information leaflets on transgenders	Transgender Equality and Acceptance Movement (TEAM)
4	Equal Opportunities Public Educational Kit	Chi Heng Foundation

**Suggestions for annual themes**

- Public education targeted at youth
- Eliminating discrimination faced by sexual minorities
- Tackling the problems faced by sexual minorities
- Promoting acceptance of sexual minorities by the public
- Non-discrimination of sexual minorities at work
- The media's distortion of sexual minorities

**Suggestions for modes to be adopted**

- A large-scale exhibition on issues regarding sexual minorities, such as the problems faced by them, experience sharing, etc.
- Activity week/month consisting of a series of seminars, workshops and exhibitions to project a positive image of sexual minorities to the public.