

Setting up of a “Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Unit”

Background

The “Race Relations Unit” was set up in 2002 to conduct promotional activities and maintain a hotline for enquiry and complaints about racial discrimination.

2. On the basis of the “Race Relations Unit”, we propose to set up a similar unit as a 2-year pilot scheme in 2005-06 to handle gender identity and sexual orientation issues and to liaise with relevant NGOs. The unit will be named the “Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Unit” (the Unit).

The Set-up of the Unit

3. We will recruit two staff members to service the Unit. We intend to start recruitment of the staff around March 2005. A total funding of \$1.5 million has been earmarked for the Unit in the next financial year (including the existing annual budget of around \$0.5

million for the “Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme”).

Duties of the Unit

4. The Unit will be responsible for –
 - (a) administering the existing Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme;
 - (b) maintaining an enquiry and complaint hotline during office hours. Statistics and details of the enquiry and complaints will be kept for future reference;
 - (c) conducting research on gender identity and sexual orientation issues; and
 - (d) organizing further promotional activities to promote equal opportunities on the ground of sexual orientation;

(e) serving as the Secretariat of the Sexual Minorities Forum; and

(f) liaising with relevant NGOs.

Home Affairs Bureau

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