

Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation hotline to be launched

A hotline for enquiries and complaints on discrimination on the grounds of gender identity and sexual orientation would start operation on July 7, the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) announced today (July 4).

A bureau spokesman said the hotline (2835 1565) was part of the service of the Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Unit set up in May this year under the HAB to promote equal opportunities for persons of different sexual orientation.

"The Government is committed to eliminating discrimination and to foster a culture of tolerance and mutual respect," the spokesman said.

"The HAB established the Sexual Minorities Forum in September, 2004, to provide a formal channel of communication among the Government, the sexual minorities groups and human rights NGOs."

The Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Unit has two staff members. In addition to maintaining the hotline for enquiries and complaints, it will serve as the secretariat to the Forum.

The Unit will also organise publicity and education programmes, manage and monitor the Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme, and conduct research on issues regarding sexual orientation and gender identity.

People are welcome to use the telephone hotline. They can also contact the Unit by fax (2121 1716) or by e-mail (gisou@hab.gov.hk).