

Paper No. CB(2)2196/00-01(05)

August 15, 2001

Mr. Stanley Ma Kin Hung
The Legislative Council, Hong Kong
Tel: 2509 4125 (2869 9423); Fax: 2509 9055
Email: cb2@legco.gov.hk

RE: Subcommittee to Study Discrimination on the Ground of Sexual Orientation
Summary Cover Letter

Dear Mr. Ma,

Chi Heng Foundation is pleased to be invited to attend the meeting organized by the Subcommittee to Study Discrimination on the Ground of Sexual Orientation to be held on August 20.

Attached please find:

- (1) Summary of discussion of my speech to be presented on August 20, 2001;
- (2) My previous speech to Legco on December 12, 2000; and
- (3) Chi Heng Foundation's meeting with UN Human Rights Commission in February 2001;

Over the past few days, I also have sent you a number of documents, including:

- (1) A report on discrimination and its impact on AIDS prevention among MSM;
- (2) A report on domestic partnership (for same sex couples);
- (3) A report on legislature affecting the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people in the United States;
- (4) Newspaper clippings and information on Hong Kong;
- (5) Newspaper clippings and information on Taiwan; and
- (6) Newspaper clippings and information on other places.

Cover letters of the above packages are attached in this fax as well.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me in advance for your assistance.

.Thank you

Sincerely,

Chung To
Fax: 2548 5920; Email: chungto@netvigator.com;

TO: The Legislative Council
Subcommittee to Study Discrimination on the Ground of Sexual Orientation

FROM: Chung To
Chi Heng Foundation

DATE: August 20, 2001

Summary of Discussion

With regard to eliminating discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation, "self regulation and education are the preferred approach" of the Government over legislation.

We believe both public education and legislation (including an EOB) are necessary. They are not mutually exclusive and should be done at the same time.

We also believe that people, regardless of their sexual orientations, should be entitled to all civil rights and social benefits, including equal rights to access medical benefits, public housing, etc. and the right to form family.

If there were one theme of my presentation today, it would be the following:

Tongzhi wants equality, not special privileges.

This should be the guiding principle for legislators and other government officials when considering tongzhi related issues.

Justice and government's responsibility to take care of minority groups should override "majority views", which could sometimes be aimed to protect the majority's interest at the expense of minority groups. The Government should stop using public opinion as an excuse not to legislate.

Concern over "reverse discrimination" is not valid. Those who "choose not to accept non-heterosexuality" should tolerate the existence of others, and cannot prevent others from having equal rights.

Many progressive countries and cities have explicit laws and regulations protecting the rights of people with different sexual orientations. As an international city, Hong Kong should follow.

Legal Reform

Legal reform is necessary in order to provide equal rights for tongzhi. EOB currently covers gender, family status and disability. Sexual orientation should be covered as well.

Many tongzhi face discrimination in their work place, and live under tremendous fear at work on a daily basis. An EOB would provide them with legal protection.

There is no conflict between legal reform and public education. The Government could continue its public education work, while introducing an EOB on the ground of sexual orientation at the same time.

Even with an EOB, serious inequality still exists in the legal system, including minimum age of consent; civil union/ marriage; spousal benefits; child adoption, etc.

Minimum Age of Consent and Sodomy Law

There is obvious inequality between male homosexual intercourse and heterosexual intercourse. The reason behind such inequality is ridiculous. We urge the Subcommittee to further review the existing laws, and amend the inequality.

Same Sex Union

Chi Heng Foundation believes that people, regardless of their sexual orientations, should be entitled to all civil rights and social benefits, including equal rights to access medical benefits, public housing, etc. and the right to form family.

What many tongzhi want is not to get married in a heterosexual way, but the spousal benefits behind such marriage. As tax paying citizens, the tongzhi population cannot enjoy many social benefits such as forming a family and applying for public housing as a family unit.

Many countries have tackled the issue by introducing a civil union/ domestic partnership to same sex couples. Therefore, without upsetting the marriage system, same sex couples could become legal spouses of each other and enjoy the spousal benefits, such as medical, housing, insurance, etc. For further information, please

refer to the report on domestic partnership we submitted.

In recent years, Taiwan has experienced dramatic social and political changes. There is a draft legislature (Article 24) in Taiwan (already submitted to the Subcommittee) that deals with the rights to form family and to adopt children for same sex couples. It should offer new perspective to our current discourse in Hong Kong.

More Funding for Public Education

In addition to legal reform, there are many things that the Government could do. More funding from the HAB and other branches of the Government should be allocated to public education on equal opportunities and anti-discrimination against people based on sexual orientation.

Medical

According to the report (already submitted to the Subcommittee) conducted by the MSM (Men Who Have Sex With Men) Taskforce under the AIDS Prevention and Care Committee (APCC) of the Advisory Council on AIDS (ACA), it is obvious that discrimination does play a role in AIDS prevention among MSM in Hong Kong.

AIDS prevention seems to be a medical issue, but unlike many other diseases, discrimination against people with HIV/AIDS and misunderstanding of the disease are crucial factors in AIDS prevention. Many vulnerable groups, include MSM, are at high risk partly because of the discrimination against them. Moreover, there is a need to provide sensitivity training to medical staff.

HAB to Fund Large Scale Survey on Public Opinion

During our last meeting with Mr. Lam Woon Kwong and Mr. Charles Chan Kwai Chun of the HAB on December 11, 2000, there was a disagreement between Mr. Lam and us on the current level of public acceptance with regard to tongzhi issues. Mr. Lam believed that it is not the right time to legislate because of lack of public support.

It has been five years since the last survey on public opinion towards homosexuality was conducted. The society has changed significantly since then. At the end of the meeting, Mr. Lam agreed to conduct a large scale, independent survey to review the current public opinion towards tongzhi issues. It has been eight months since that

meeting. We urge the Subcommittee to remind Mr. Lam on his promise, and would appreciate it if he could give us a timetable about this project.

Clarification

In the Home Affairs Bureau's response paper to the Subcommittee (Paper No. CB(2) 981/00-01 (01)), Item 21 states that "In 2000, Chi Heng Foundation, a homosexual group, was granted subsidy under the [HAB's Funding] Scheme for organizing the First Media Award on Tong Zhi Coverage".

We would like to clarify that:

- (1) Chi Heng Foundation is not a homosexual group, although we do concern about minority issues, including those regarding homosexuality;
- (2) The First Media Award on Tongzhi Coverage was entirely funded by Chi Heng Foundation. No outside funding was received. The HAB did not grant any subsidy for the event;
- (3) The HAB did grant us \$50,000 (we initially applied for \$100,000) on the publication of "Tongzhi and the Media", a book published after the event. We are grateful for HAB's support in the publication.

About Chi Heng Foundation

Chi Heng Foundation's predecessor was founded in early 1998 and was subsequently registered under the current name in 1999 in Hong Kong. The Foundation aims to eliminate discrimination and promote equal opportunities through organizing and funding meaningful projects.

This year, the Foundation has organized a fund raising film event at the HK Convention Center, as well as the First Tongzhi Media Award. Chi Heng also participates in a number of activities for minority rights, including tongzhi community's endorsement campaign in the 2000 Legco Election.

Contact Information

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香港立法會 民政事務委員會

二千年十二月十二日 會議

智行基金會 杜聰 講詞

如果我今日來這裡所講的話有任何意義的話，將會是以下的訊息：

「同志社群所要求的，並不是特權，而是平等的對待，包括法律上的平等。」

而這一點應該是各位議員，在日後考慮同志議題、和決定有關同志的法案和政策時，所應有的【導向性】原則。

I 公眾教育

主流社會對同志的不接受和歧視，往往是源自因缺乏了解而產生的無知。【在消除歧視的過程中扮演重要角色的】政府有責任要積極地幫助大眾市民去了解同志議題。近年，民政事務局在這方面亦有一定的成績。

【在公眾教育方面，我希望提出兩點意見：

第一，「智行基金會」曾針對中學生的性教育問題作街頭訪問，發現絕大多數的被訪中學生均覺得學校的性教育課程不足夠。【要改變社會，消除歧視，如何教育新生代非常重要。因為如果她／他們能得到全面的性教育，從小就對不同性取向有所認識，當她／他們長大後，為人父母、主宰社會時，便會懂得尊重和包容。】現時雖有相關指引，但在落實執行上似有困難。

第二，如今距離上次有關性傾向的調查已有四年之久，是時候應該進行一項全面性的獨立研究，並希望該項研究能有同志社群的參與。】

II 立法

在同志議題上，港府近年傾向公眾教育多於立法。其實，公眾教育與立法兩者並無衝突，可以同時進行。再者，有了公眾教育並不代表政府就可以不立法。【港府在推行公眾教育之餘，亦應同時在法律上提供比同志社群、一般公民應有的基本權益。】兩者應同時進行。

【立法，是替同志社群帶來平等對待的重要一環。】目前平等機會法

只包括基於性別、殘疾和家庭崗位的歧視，性傾向歧視亦應該包括在內。

但是那樣並非足夠，因為同志仍然未能夠完完全全地跟非同志主流社會看齊，例如同性伴侶不能獲得法律的承認，繼而令她、他們享受不到合法配偶的種種的福利和權利，包括房屋、醫療、保險、子女領養等。

而這些分配房屋、提供醫療福利、和接受子女領養申請的機構，往往用同性伴侶沒有合法地位為藉口，來拒絕提供比同志這些福利，【這些可以結婚的人都能享有的福利。】

這邊廂又話因為沒有結婚而唔比福利，而那邊廂又不容許同志結婚，【同志社群嚴重地被剝削。】這些是否“官字兩個口”的一種體現？

作為一群奉公守法、年年納稅、對社會作出無數貢獻、為數達幾十萬之巨的同志社群，點解她、他們不能夠跟所愛的人得到法律的承認？點解她、他們不能夠享有其他人認為是理所當然的社會福利？點解她、他們每日要提心吊膽般工作，即使被歧視亦投訴無門？點解香港政府要她、他們要做二等公民？

【又例如一個二十二歲的男人，跟一個二十歲的女性發生性行為，是合法的。但是那個二十二歲的男人，如果跟一個二十歲的男性發生性行為的話，則是非法。】

【由於時間的關係，我不能夠逐一列出不公平的例子。】

III 民政事務委員會報告的兩點回應

最後我想針對民政事務委員會的報告作出兩點回應：

第一，報告中提及立法可能會造成所謂“逆向歧視”。【其實同志所要求的，是平等的對待，而不是多於常人的特權。】這些所謂“逆向歧視”的受害者，包括那些“選擇不接受非異性戀”的宗教和教育界人士”。【立法的目的只是讓同志跟她、他們看齊，而不會對她、他們造成歧視。】立法成功後，這些所謂“逆向歧視”的受害者大可以繼續選擇不接受同志，但是這些人一直在享受同志目前不能享受的福利，她、他們無權阻且同志去爭取公平的對待。

第二點亦是最後一點，港府以大部份市民反對立法作為不立法的理由之一。但是，有時大眾市民的看法不應該是政府立法與否的指標。特別是當一個政府要在公義和民意之間作出決擇時，公義和政府照顧小眾的責任應該要凌駕在民意之上，因為大眾很多時會因為要維護自己的既得利益，而剝削小眾，和阻止小眾受到平等的對待。如果美國政府一直依照大多數白人人口的民意來辦事，相信當地的黑人和其他少數族裔不會有平等機會的一日。

同樣的道理，要等到大眾民意接受同志社群才立法，是本末倒置的。相反地，正正因為大眾對同志社群的不接受和誤解，我們才需要一邊向大眾推行公民教育，一邊為同志提供平等的法律。

【很多進步的國家同城市都有明確的法律去提供比同志平等的對待。一直以成為一個文明進步的國際大都會為目標的香港，亦應跟隨。】

有關智行基金會：

「智行基金會」的前身成立於九八年初，繼而於九九年以現時的名稱於香港註冊。自成立以來，基金會以提倡平等機會和消除歧視為目標，資助和參與多項活動。

今年舉辦的活動包括於二月在會議展覽中心舉行的電影籌款義演，和五月舉行的第一屆「同志議題報道獎」，評判包括劉慧卿、胡紅玉、白先勇、張國榮等，扮獎嘉賓和出席扮獎禮的嘉賓包括陸恭蕙、蔡素玉等。基金會今年亦曾參與和資助多項活動，包括同志社群支持九月立法會選舉的活動和印制「同志選舉手冊」等。

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傳送日期： 2001 年 2 月 13 日 AM 02:14
附加檔案： rule150.gif; CUNHCR.jpg; clicktozoom.gif
主旨： Fw： 智行基金會與聯合國人權委員會交流實況

Chi Heng Foundation met with the representatives of the United Nations' Human Rights Committee.

From the South China Morning Post:

Little had changed in Hong Kong since the Government was criticised for violating an international human rights treaty on the right of abode in 1999, a UN expert said yesterday.

On the eve of his meeting with Tung Chee-hwa, Mr Justice P.N. Bhagwati, a member of the United Nations Human Rights Committee, said little could be done to force the Government to comply with the abode issue.

Mr Justice Bhagwati and fellow committee member Christine Chanet yesterday completed day two of a five-day examination of human rights in the SAR.

2001 年 2 月 8 日

智行基金會與聯合國人權委員會

交流平等機會及性傾向歧視實況

智行基金會乃爭取平等機會、關注小眾及弱勢社群權益的註冊團體。今日較早前，智行基金會幹事杜聰、伍成邦、陸鴻海及陸寶珠，與訪港之聯合國人權委員會副主席 P.N. Bhagwati 先生及聯合國人權委員會委員 Christine Chanet 女士會面，雙方就人權問題交換意見，並集中討論自香港回歸以來，同志社群的現況，包括性傾向歧視，及香港特區政府在推動平等機會性傾向歧視的進度。會面期間，提出多項促請港府立即改善措施的建議。

同志較從前開放

自聯合國人權委員會代表上次於 1995 年訪港以來，香港同志社群的氣氛較五年前略為開放，社群之間的凝聚力量有所提升，社交聯誼空間稍有擴大，這些開放現象，很大程度由同志社群中活躍組織與人士策動，與及社會整體氣氛開放使然；反觀香港特區政府，在糾正性傾向歧視的教育工作方面，進度非常緩慢，公眾教育工作，遠遠不能跟上同志社群的實際狀況及社會處境的需要。

特區政府拒立法

特區政府在平等機會性傾向歧視的議題上拒絕立法，僅應允以公民教育改善性傾向歧視狀況，唯縱觀過往數年，港府為糾正性傾向歧視教育而投入的資源，實屬寥具一格，在糾正社會對性傾向歧視的態度上，無疑是杯水車薪。

特區政府的論據立場是，社會大部分人認為，現階段並不適宜立法保障性傾向免受歧視。智行基金會認為，若等候社會大部分認同與接納才有所行動，根本失去立法保障小眾的意義。正因為這是少數與及弱勢社群，政府有責任從良知及公義的角度來取諸平衡，而不能以「大多數人不能接納同性戀」便拒絕立法。

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以公義維護少數及弱勢社群的合理權益，是政府的責任；而少數及弱勢社群的權益，不應受制於大眾的反對意見。

智行基金會促請港府立即

1. 聘用大型的獨立顧問公司，就下列項目展開深入調查：

- 香港法律對不同性傾向人士的不公平條文；
- 同志社群在生活中被受歧視的實況；
- 社會人士對不同性傾向議題的態度。

2. 加強資源在糾正性傾向歧視的教育工作：

- 增加撥款予同志團體；
- 增加由政府直接籌劃的公民教育活動；
- 增加中、小學生對性傾向的正確認知。

3. 除公民教育外，港府亦應該從法律改革途徑，為不同性傾向人士提供平等對待，並就以下範疇表：

3a. 解釋香港法例第200章第118C條《刑事罪行條例》涉及男同性性行為的法例中，為何類同條文，在法例上要以男女有別的方法處理(即第200章第124條)。

3b. 提交「平等機會性傾向歧視」條例予立法會審議。

3c. 公平對待同性伴侶的合法地位，承認同性之間的婚姻權，及享有公平申請社會福利。

智行基金會 啓

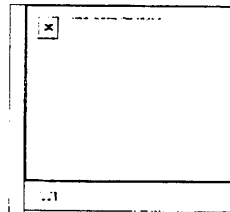
SAR violating rights treaty, says UN expert

JIMMY CHEUNG and RAVINA SHAMDASANI

Little had changed in Hong Kong since the Government was criticised for violating an international human rights treaty on the right of abode in 1999, a UN expert said yesterday.

On the eve of his meeting with Tung Chee-hwa, Mr Justice P. N. Bhagwati, a member of the United Nations Human Rights Committee, said little could be done to force the Government to comply with the abode issue.

Mr Justice Bhagwati and fellow committee



Under the news: Right-of-abode protesters in Wan Chai yesterday. Their representatives met visiting UN human rights officials who said abode-seekers' rights were being violated. Picture by Robert Ng

2001/8/16

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member Christine Chanet yesterday completed day two of a five-day examination of human rights in the SAR.

The committee expressed serious concerns in its 1999 report on a number of controversies, including the right-of-abode furore and the subsequent decision by the Government to seek interpretation from Beijing to overturn a ruling by the Court of Final Appeal in January 1999.

Mr Justice Bhagwati said: "We have said that something should be done about it. We have said that it [the Government's action] violates some of the articles of the [international] covenant."

Asked if the UN expected to become more sympathetic after meeting representatives of right-of-abode seekers, he replied: "The situation is the same. There is no change in the situation as I can see. We have said that this is violation of some of the covenants. It's all that we can say. We have no sanctions.

"We have drawn their attention. What more can we do? We have no other authority. We can only recommend."

The Hong Kong Human Rights Commission, which briefed the delegates on the right-of-abode saga, hoped members would urge the Government to rule out future requests for reinterpretations of the Basic Law on internal affairs.

The delegates "clearly expressed their discontent that the Hong Kong Government has ignored their recommendations from the November report and will discuss it with the Government", said Ho Hei-wah, director of the Society for Community Organisation.

It had appealed to the UN to ask the Hong Kong Government to submit a preliminary report on human rights in the territory earlier than the current 2003 submission date. "Our feeling is that the human rights situation in Hong Kong has deteriorated in recent years, so we asked the human rights commission to ask the SAR Government for an earlier report," Mr Ho said.

Earlier in the day, more than 100 right-of-abode seekers staged a rally in Wan Chai ahead of a meeting between their representatives and the UN envoys.

August 10, 2001

Mr. Stanley Ma Kin Hung
The Legislative Council, Hong Kong
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Email: cb2@legco.gov.hk

RE: Subcommittee to Study Discrimination on the Ground of Sexual Orientation
Attachment: Report on Discrimination and AIDS Prevention in Hong Kong

Dear Mr. Ma,

Chi Heng Foundation is pleased to be invited to attend the meeting organized by the Subcommittee to Study Discrimination on the Ground of Sexual Orientation to be held on August 20.

On behalf of the MSM (Men Who Have Sex With Men) Taskforce under the AIDS Prevention and Care Committee (APCC) of the Advisory Council on AIDS (ACA), I hereby submit our collaborative report on how discrimination plays a role in AIDS prevention in Hong Kong.

The MSM Taskforce is a special taskforce established under APCC. It comprises of around 15 members of the tongzhi community, including myself and other officers of Chi Heng Foundation. For more information about the Taskforce and its findings, please contact the APCC or the Red Ribbon Center.

Chi Heng Foundation will submit more information regarding discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation in the next few days.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me [REDACTED]

Thank you in advance for your assistance. I look forward to seeing you.

Sincerely,
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RE: Subcommittee to Study Discrimination on the Ground of Sexual Orientation
Attachment: Report on Domestic Partnership in the US

Dear Mr. Ma,

Chi Heng Foundation is pleased to be invited to attend the meeting organized by the Subcommittee to Study Discrimination on the Ground of Sexual Orientation to be held on August 20.

Chi Heng Foundation aims to promote equal opportunities and eliminate discrimination. We believe people, regardless of their sexual orientations, should be entitled to all civil rights and social benefits, including equal rights to access medical benefits, public housing, etc. and the right to form family. I hereby submit a report published in the United States on domestic partnership. Although the report was catered for the U.S. society, it offers a comprehensive and useful reference for us in Hong Kong.

Chi Heng Foundation will submit more information regarding discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation in the next few days.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. [REDACTED]

Thank you in advance for your assistance. I look forward to seeing you.

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Attachment: Report on US Legislature Affecting GLBT

Dear Mr. Ma,

Chi Heng Foundation is pleased to be invited to attend the meeting organized by the Subcommittee to Study Discrimination on the Ground of Sexual Orientation to be held on August 20.

Chi Heng Foundation aims to promote equal opportunities and eliminate discrimination. With regard to eliminating discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation, we believe both public education and legislation (including an EOB) are necessary. They are not mutually exclusive and should be done at the same time.

We hereby submit a report published in the United States on legislature affecting the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people there. The report is a useful reference source for us in Hong Kong.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me [REDACTED].

Thank you in advance for your assistance. I look forward to seeing you.

Sincerely,

Chung To
Email: chungto@netvigator.com
Fax: 2548 5920

August 15, 2001

Mr. Stanley Ma Kin Hung
The Legislative Council, Hong Kong
Tel: 2509 4125 (2869 9423); Fax: 2509 9055
Email: cb2@legco.gov.hk

RE: Subcommittee to Study Discrimination on the Ground of Sexual Orientation

Attachment: Newspaper Clippings and Information on Hong Kong

Dear Mr. Ma,

Attached please find some newspaper clippings and information on Hong Kong. We hope the information would enable members of the Subcommittee to further understand the current situation.

During our last meeting with Mr. Lam Woon Kwong and Mr. Charles Chan Kwai Chun of the HAB on December 11, 2000, there was a disagreement between Mr. Lam and us on the current level of public acceptance with regard to tongzhi issues. Mr. Lam believed that it is not the right time to legislate because of lack of public support.

It has been five years since the last survey on public opinion towards homosexuality was conducted. The society has changed significantly since then. At the end of the meeting, Mr. Lam agreed to conduct a large scale, independent survey to review the current public opinion towards tongzhi issues. It has been eight months since that meeting. We urge the Subcommittee to remind Mr. Lam on his promise, and would appreciate it if he could give us a timetable about this project.

Chi Heng Foundation aims to promote equal opportunities and eliminate discrimination. With regard to eliminating discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation, we believe both public education and legislation are necessary. They are not mutually exclusive and should be done at the same time.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me: ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

Sincerely,
Chung To
Fax: 2548 5920; Email: chungto@netvigator.com

August 15, 2001

Mr. Stanley Ma Kin Hung
The Legislative Council, Hong Kong
Tel: 2509 4125 (2869 9423); Fax: 2509 9055
Email: cb2@legco.gov.hk

RE: Subcommittee to Study Discrimination on the Ground of Sexual Orientation
Attachment: Newspaper Clippings and Information on Taiwan


Dear Mr. Ma,

Attached please find some newspaper clippings and information on Taiwan, including its recent proposed legislative measures regarding rights to form family and adopt children for same sex couples. We hope the information would enable members of the Subcommittee to further understand the issue.

In recent years, Taiwan has experienced dramatic social and political changes. While many people argue that the situation in Western societies should not be applicable to Hong Kong (which in itself might not be true in our opinion), Taiwan is a Chinese society and geographically very close to Hong Kong. With regard to legal protection and social acceptance on tongzhi issues, Taiwan seems to be more progressive than Hong Kong.

The attached news clippings and the draft legislature (please refer to Article 24) deal with the rights to form family and to adopt children for same sex couples. It should offer new perspective to our current discourse regarding the situation in Hong Kong.

Chi Heng Foundation aims to promote equal opportunities and eliminate discrimination. With regard to eliminating discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation, we believe both public education and legislation are necessary. They are not mutually exclusive and should be done at the same time.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me .

Sincerely,
Chung To
Fax: 2548 5920; Email: chungto@netvigator.com

Legislative Council 立法會
Meeting on 20/8/2001 會議

Chung To 杜聰
Chi Heng Foundation 智行基金會
17 of 17 pages

August 15, 2001

Mr. Stanley Ma Kin Hung
The Legislative Council, Hong Kong
Tel: 2509 4125 (2869 9423); Fax: 2509 9055
Email: cb2@legco.gov.hk

RE: Subcommittee to Study Discrimination on the Ground of Sexual Orientation
Attachment: Newspaper Clippings and Information on Other Places

Dear Mr. Ma,

Attached please find selected newspaper clippings and information on tongzhi issues worldwide. Information regarding the situation in Hong Kong and Taiwan have been sent to you separately. We hope the information would enable members of the Subcommittee to further understand the issue.

There is so much information on tongzhi issues, and I am sure members of the Subcommittee are aware of most, if not all, of them. Instead of overwhelming members with information, I have selected just a few news stories, which should serve as thought provoking pieces, instead of comprehensive analyses.

Also attached are articles on the Red Cross/ blood donation incident. As you can see, some of the arguments are quite offensive, irrational and discriminative.

Chi Heng Foundation aims to promote equal opportunities and eliminate discrimination. With regard to eliminating discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation, we believe both public education and legislation are necessary. They are not mutually exclusive and should be done at the same time.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me ~~2548 5920~~.

Sincerely,

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