

**Legco Panel on Home Affairs
Subcommittee to study discrimination
on the ground of sexual orientation**

**Non-discrimination in Education
on the ground of sexual orientation**

Purpose

This paper aims to inform Members that civic education courses are in place in primary and secondary schools and tertiary institutions to develop concepts and values in relation to non-discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation and that all students, regardless of their sexual orientation, have equal opportunities in education.

Civic Education

(I) Primary and Secondary Schools

2. Under the existing school curriculum, students are provided with ample opportunities to develop concepts and values in relation to non-discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation. Concepts and values, such as anti-discrimination, human rights, values and ways of life, are taught in subjects such as Social Studies, Civic Education, Economic and Public Affairs, Government and Public Affairs at secondary levels and General Studies at primary levels. Examples on relevant topics covered in the primary and secondary curriculum are at Annex. Teacher training is provided to teachers from time to time to enhance their competency in promoting these concepts to students. In addition, ED produces different types of teaching packages for teachers' reference.

(II) Tertiary Institutions

3. In local tertiary institutions, the issues on equal opportunities and human rights including the right to different sexual orientation are covered in some of the courses. Examples include "Social Ethics", "The Representation of Gender and Sexuality", etc.

4. In addition, seminars, exhibitions and other education programmes on related topics are also organized at the tertiary institutions by their Student Affairs Offices, Equal Opportunity Unit or University Health Service, etc.

Equal Opportunities in education

(I) Primary and Secondary Schools

5. All children, irrespective of their sexual orientation, enjoy the same rights in receiving primary and secondary education. Schools are reminded of their role in ensuring equal opportunities for participation and learning are given to all students. A circular on “Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination” was issued by the Education Department (ED) to all primary and secondary schools in May 1999 drawing their attention to their responsibilities in this regard. Based on ED’s records, there is so far no complaint on discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation.

(II) Tertiary Institutions

6. Sexual orientation is neither a consideration in student enrolment nor a yardstick in assessing students’ performance in tertiary institutions. All students, regardless of their sexual orientation, are entitled to the same services, enjoy equal rights in forming associations, and have equal access to school facilities.

7. The tertiary institutions advocate respect and equal opportunities for each and every member of the society. Provisions on equal opportunities are reflected in their Policy Statements on Equal Opportunities, Codes of Ethics in the Workplace or their governing ordinances.

8. Tertiary institutions have not received any complaints on discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation.

**Examples of topics relating to the idea of
Non-discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation
in school curriculum**

Subject	Level	Topics
Social Studies	Secondary one	Developing social maturity in relationship with members of the same and opposite sexes; Respecting the opposite sex
Civic Education	Secondary two	Citizenship and civil society: rights and duties, fellowship among human beings
	Secondary three	Citizenship and civil society: fairness and justice
Economic and Public Affairs	Secondary one	Rights and duties of citizens
	Secondary four and five	Rights and duties of citizens
Government and Public Affairs	Secondary six and seven	The protection of human rights