

香港兒童權利委員會
THE HONG KONG COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Submission to the Home Affairs Panel on the HKSAR Report under the CRC

Some key points

1. The HKSAR Report is very informative and detailed but it only gives a systematic coverage of data and information of the Hong Kong system and practices without any indicators that can monitor the progress of implementation and status of children.
2. The Report is lack of vision and future direction on the implementation of the Convention; and there is no discussion on the difficulties encountered and strategies planned.
3. The Report concentrates too much on the welfare and protection side and the approach is welfare-based instead of *rights-based as what the Convention has been emphasizing. It failed to put children in focus and as an individual citizen.
4. The Report does not address to the Concluding Observations made by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child made in 1996 and does not explain why majority of the recommendations could not be implemented.
5. The Report dismissed the needs of a Children's Commission in Hong Kong although there are growing concern and voices from the community. It could not explain why children do not deserve to have one when we allow the establishment of Commissions on youth, women and elderly.
6. The Report does not address to the repeated calls of the children asking for a recognized platform in Hong Kong to keep in line with the best international practices (eg. children's council/parliament) where children's views would be respected and given due weight as adults on policies, legislation and practices related to them.
7. The Report is closely related to over one-fifth of the total population in Hong Kong that is under the age of 18 but no child friendly version has been produced to reach out to children.

8. The Report is not widely publicized and the consultation is not genuine. Only a number of selected parties were invited to involve in the consultation process when the "Outline Report" was produced.

9. Last but not least, we noticed that in the Concluding Observations of another Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights that have been released on 13 May 2005, some of the remarks made by the UN Committee were also related to children. They included paragraphs 85, 89, 101 and 102. Since all these conventions would be examined by the same LegCo Panel. I sincerely hope that the Panel Members could address these matters and ensure all the recommendations made by the treaty bodies would be followed properly by the government and that the reporting mechanism is worthwhile.

Submitted by: Ms Billy Wong
Executive Secretary
on behalf of The Hong Kong Committee on Children's Rights

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Remarks:

- Our full alternative NGO Report could be viewed at:
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* Rights-based approach/child rights programming has been applied in many European countries. It emphasizes that decisions about children must always consider children's interests and wishes, as well as the long-term implications of such decisions on children. Through translating the principles of children's rights enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) into true understanding, concepts, actions and directions to generate changes for the betterment of children in society. It can be applied to the government structure, schools, NGOs and many parties closely related to children.