

CHILDREN'S COUNCIL WORKING COMMITTEE
兒童議會工作委員會

Written Submission to the Panel on Home Affairs of the Legislative Council on the Report of the HKSAR under the Convention on the Rights of the Child

1. The poor awareness of the UNCRC in Hong Kong

- Public even children very seldom heard of it
- Not included in the school curriculum
- The government only produced the TVAPI to promote the Convention but it is ineffective in reaching the young children and the message is ambiguous

2. The discrepancy of expectation on the UNCRC between children and the government

- Government remains at the initial stage 10 years ago in promoting the Convention superficially and half-heartedly
- As the time goes by, children want actual implementation and put the rights of children written in the articles into practice
- Children took the steps forward to actualize their own rights by organizing themselves and voice out whenever possible, but they gain no recognition and support from the government
- So far, there is not a recognized platform where children could voice out on matters of their concern

3. The frequent educational reforms without children to take part in consultation

- Children feel themselves being the guinea pigs of government
- Children become passive on matters affecting themselves
- Another clear example of no platform for children to voice out on matters of their concern

4. Suggestions on effective promotion of the UNCRC in Hong Kong

- To establish a recognized platform for children to voice out on matters of their concern, so children will be happy to participate when they know that people will really listen to their views
- To include child rights education in the school curriculum as early as possible, so children could learn about their rights from the young age

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About us

The Children's Council Working Committee is formed by children with the majority of them under the age of 18. Members are recruited through the UNCRC – Child Ambassadors' Scheme and the Children's Council Project since 2000. These projects were co-organized by 3 agencies concern about children's rights namely Against Child Abuse, Hong Kong Committee for UNICEF and Hong Kong Committee on Children's Rights with the sponsorship of Home Affairs Bureau and support from many parties. We pledge to be actively involved in the promotion of children's rights in line with the Convention. So far, we have accumulated about 80 members. We are structuring ourselves and would try to reach as many children as we can to ensure that we are a truly child-led organization and could represent the voices of children in Hong Kong.

Recently we have compiled an independent Children's Report and has submitted to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. The views and opinions inside were child-related issues being discussed in the Children's Council Meetings for and by children in the past two years. We also sent 2 child delegates to attend the Pre-Sessional Working Group Meeting of the CRC and another Informal Meeting in Geneva on 6th and 7th June 2005 to present our views. We sincerely hope that our voices can make an influence and impact on the Hong Kong Government's future decisions and policies.

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