

CB2/PS/2/04
2869 9551
2509 9055

By Fax (2509 0577)
27 June 2005

The Honourable Donald TSANG Yam-kuen, GBM, JP
The Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
of the People's Republic of China
5/F Central Government Offices
Main Wing
Lower Albert Road
Hong Kong

Dear Mr TSANG,

Panel on Welfare Services

Subcommittee on Strategy and Measures to Tackle Family Violence

The Subcommittee on Strategy and Measures to Tackle Family Violence of the Panel on Welfare Services met with non-governmental organisation (NGO) representatives on the Working Group on Combating Violence (WGCV), the Committee on Child Abuse and the Working Group on Elder Abuse on 20 June 2005 to listen to their views on the existing centralised mechanism to handle family violence.

The Subcommittee concurred with the NGO representatives that the Government should accord top priority to combating family violence. Members recommended that the following measures be implemented to strengthen the existing strategy and measures to prevent and tackle family violence -

- (a) the WGCV, the Committee on Child Abuse and the Working Group on Elder Abuse should be amalgamated to form a central body for handling family violence, the roles and functions of which should be expanded from being an advisory body at present to also participate in the formulation of policies to prevent and tackle family violence and oversee the full and effective implementation of these policies;
- (b) a high-level commissioner post, preferably formed under the Chief Secretary for Administration's Office, should be created to

be the executive arm of the central body referred to in (a) above;
and

- (c) funds should be earmarked annually to conduct studies on ways to improve on the prevention and tackling of family problems, such as spouse battering, child abuse, elder abuse and sexual violence.

The Subcommittee hopes that you and Members of the Executive Council would give favourable consideration to the above recommendations.

I look forward to your early reply.

Yours sincerely,

(CHAN Yuen-han)
Chairman of the Subcommittee