

立法會
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Panel on Welfare Services

Subcommittee on Strategy and Measures to Tackle Family Violence

**Minutes of the 9th meeting
held on Thursday, 15 June 2006, at 4:30 pm
in the Chamber of the Legislative Council Building**

Members present : Hon CHAN Yuen-han, JP (Chairman)
Hon LEE Cheuk-yan
Hon Mrs Sophie LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, SBS, JP
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Hon LI Fung-ying, BBS, JP
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung

Member absent : Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung

Public Officers attending : Ms Linda LAI, JP
Deputy Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
(Family and Women)

Miss Hinny LAM
Principal Assistant Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
(Women)

Mrs Anna MAK
Assistant Director (Family and Child Welfare)
Social Welfare Department

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Ms PANG Kit-ling
Chief Social Work Officer (Domestic Violence)
Social Welfare Department

Mr NG Kam-wing
Chief Superintendent (Crime Support) (Crime Wing)
Hong Kong Police Force

Ms WONG Sui-hing, Queenie
Chief Inspector (Child Protection Policy Unit) (Crime Wing)
Hong Kong Police Force

Mrs TSANG LEE Kit-ying
Chief Manager/Management (Support Services)2
Housing Department

**Deputations
by invitation** : Against Elderly Abuse of Hong Kong

Ms Kennex YUE
Chief Executive Director

Association Concerning Sexual Violence Against Women

Miss NG Wai-ching
Service Co-ordinator

The Hong Kong Council of Social Service

Ms Elsa CHIU Lai-suen
Chief Officer, Service Development
(Family and Community)

Hong Kong Federation of Women's Centres

Miss TAN Kong-sau
Training Officer

The Law Society of Hong Kong

Mr Dennis HO
Chairman of Sub Committee on DVO

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Ms Joyce WONG
Director of Practitioners Affairs

Hong Kong Association for the Survivors of Women Abuse
(Kwan Fook)

Ms LIU Ngan-fung
Chairman

Ms LAU Siu-lai

Hong Kong Women's Coalition of Equal Opportunity

Ms CHUNG Yuen-yi
Co-ordinator

Harmony House

Ms Margaret WONG
Executive Director

Mr CHENG Tak-wah
Project Supervisor

Caritas Hong Kong - Family Service

Ms HO Yee-ching
Crisis Care Worker

Clerk in attendance : Miss Mary SO
Senior Council Secretary (2) 8

Staff in attendance : Ms Maisie LAM
Council Secretary (2) 2

Miss Maggie CHIU
Legislative Assistant (2) 4

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I. Preliminary proposed amendments to the Domestic Violence Ordinance (DVO) (Cap. 189)

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)2132/05-06(01) to (02), CB(2)2378/05-06(01) to (11) and CB(2)2423/05-06(01))

At the invitation of the Chairman, Deputy Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Family and Women) (DSHWF(F&W)) said that according to legal advice the term "molest" referred to in section 3 of the DVO also covered psychological abuse in addition to physical abuse. As the existing DVO already applied to psychological abuse, the Administration did not consider legislative amendment necessary as proposed by some deputations in their submissions.

Views of deputations

Against Elderly Abuse of Hong Kong
(LC Paper No. CB(2)2378/05-06(01))

2. Ms Kennex YUE presented the views of Against Elderly Abuse of Hong Kong as detailed in its submission. In particular, Against Elderly Abuse of Hong Kong was disappointed that a piecemeal approach had been adopted by the Administration to amend the DVO which failed to provide adequate protection to the elderly by refusing to include this group of people under the proposed amendment to expand the scope of the DVO. To better realise the "zero tolerance" policy against family violence, a fund should be set up by the Administration to provide financial support to organisations engaged in preventing and combating family violence. Consideration should also be given to requiring relevant professionals to report all family violence cases which they encountered/handled and extending the eligibility for applying compassionate rehousing for victims of family violence with the Housing Department (HD) to social workers of all non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

Association Concerning Sexual Violence Against Women
(LC Paper No. CB(2)2378/05-06(02))

3. Miss NG Wai-ching introduced the submission of the Association Concerning Sexual Violence Against Women which suggested the following -

- (a) the scope of the DVO should be further expanded to cover other familial relationships and persons, such as in-laws and siblings, who lived in the same household;
- (b) a definition of "domestic violence" should be introduced to the DVO to include physical abuse, psychological abuse, sexual abuse, stalking and molestation;

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- (c) the DVO should provide for a power for the court to order batterers to attend counselling programme as a part of any order. Consideration should also be given to enabling the court to order batterers who breached the injunction order to undergo counselling;
- (d) a court dedicated to the handling of family violence cases should be set up to increase the effectiveness of the judicial system in providing protection to victims of family violence;
- (e) aftercare support services for victims of family violence should be integrated with services provided by family crisis centres and refuge centres to provide comprehensive support and assistance to the victims. Legal support to victims of family violence seeking protection from the court should also be stepped up;
- (f) all staff assigned to handle family violence must first undergo training on such. A dedicated department/team should be set up in each organisation engaged in preventing and combating family violence to ensure the standards and quality of the training on family violence;
- (g) a mechanism to conduct post-event multi-disciplinary review on fatal or serious injury cases relating to family violence should be expeditiously put in place, and
- (h) the Administration should carefully consider the recommendations of the University of Hong Kong's study on suicide and murder cases in Hong Kong and of the Law Society of Hong Kong's Report on the DVO in its effort to strengthen the existing strategy and measures to prevent and tackle family violence.

4. Ms NG hoped that the Administration would first consult Members of the Legislative Council and all relevant stakeholders on the Emergency Referral Questionnaire and Action Checklist being developed by the Police for the handling of family violence before implementation.

Hong Kong Council of Social Service (HKCSS)
(LC Paper No. CB(2)2378/05-06(03))

5. Ms Elsa CHIU highlighted the following suggestions of HKCSS as detailed in its submission -

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- (a) it was necessary to clearly spell out in the DVO that the definition of "domestic violence"/"molest" already included psychological abuse and stalking, so as to provide legal clarity and certainty;
- (b) the Administration should set down a timetable for considering the feasibility of covering parents and parents-in-law living in the same household under the DVO, say, within two years' time;
- (c) the Administration should explore with the legal sector the feasibility of empowering the court to make order requiring the batterer to undergo counselling programme; and
- (d) a specialised family violence court that could handle all criminal and civil cases involving allegations of family violence or a violation of an injunction order should be set up.

6. Ms CHIU requested that the Subcommittee and all relevant stakeholders be consulted on the Emergency Referral Questionnaire and Action Checklist being developed by the Police at a future meeting of the Subcommittee before implementation.

*Hong Kong Federation of Women's Centres
(LC Paper No. CB(2)2378/05-06(04))*

7. Miss TAN Kong-sau presented the views of the Hong Kong Federation of Women's Centres as detailed in its submission tabled at the meeting. In particular, the Administration was urged to -

- (a) come up with a timetable on expanding the scope of the DVO to include parents and parents-in-law living in the same household;
- (b) introduce a definition of "domestic violence" in the DVO to include physical abuse, sexual abuse and psychological abuse; and
- (c) all relevant ordinances related to family violence should be consolidated to integrate civil and criminal laws to better protect victims of family violence, as the DVO mainly provided for a civil remedy for the victims to seek injunction order from the court and did not contain legal provisions criminalising violence acts.

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*Law Society of Hong Kong
(LC Paper No. CB(2)2378/05-06(05))*

8. Mr Dennis HO highlighted the following views of the Law Society of Hong Kong on the review of the DVO as detailed in the submission tabled at the meeting -

- (a) there must be a definition of "domestic violence" in the DVO and the definition must be as wide as possible to cover a wide range of unacceptable behaviours and not just physical assaults;
- (b) the duration of the power of arrest should be left to the discretion of the court as it deemed fit, as there appeared to be no explanation for the arbitrary 24-month maximum duration proposed by the Administration;
- (c) the scope of the DVO should also cover domestic relationships which should include parents of a child not living together and same sex co-habitees; and
- (d) there was no reason for the Administration to put off the consideration of the proposal of enabling the court to make order requiring the batterers to undergo counselling until the completion of the two pilot projects of Batterer Intervention Programme (BIP) in March 2008. At the very least, the Administration should consider attaching a proviso in the coming legislative amendments to the DVO that the new provision to enable the court to make counselling order would not come into force until a date to be announced.

*Hong Kong Association for the Survivors of Women Abuse (Kwan Fook)
(LC Paper No. CB(2)2378/05-06(08))*

9. Ms LIU Ngan-fung presented the views of Kwan Fook as detailed in its submission tabled at the meeting. Notably, the Administration was urged to consolidate all existing ordinances related to family violence, expand the scope of the DVO to include the elderly, enhance the roles and functions of the central mechanism for handling family violence, and implement the 12 recommendations made by the Coroner's Court on the Tin Shui Wai family tragedy occurred in April 2004 as well as the 14 measures set out in the motion on domestic violence carried at the Council meeting on 8 March 2006. Ms LIU also sought clarification from the Social Welfare Department (SWD) on whether it had rendered any assistance to the victims of two family violence incidents which occurred last week.

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10. Ms LAU Siu-lai, a victim of family violence, told the meeting of the difficulties she encountered in finding compassionate rehousing with HD after being forced to leave the refuge centre.

Hong Kong Women's Coalition of Equal Opportunity
(LC Paper No. CB(2)2378/05-06(09))

11. Ms CHUNG Yuen-yi introduced the submission of the Hong Kong Women's Coalition of Equal Opportunity. Specifically, the Administration was urged to expeditiously introduce the following judicial measures to combat family violence -

- (a) all existing ordinances related to family violence should be consolidated;
- (b) a specialised domestic violence court should be set up;
- (c) pro-arrest and protection of witness policies should be implemented on family violence cases to better safeguard the safety of victims of family violence; and
- (d) requiring the batterers to undergo counselling should be made a sentencing option by the court.

Harmony House
(LC Paper No. CB(2)2378/05-06(10))

12. Ms Margaret WONG presented the submission of the Harmony House tabled at the meeting. The Harmony House welcomed the proposed amendments to the DVO by the Administration, and further urged the Administration to -

- (a) step up educating the public and relevant professionals that the coverage of the term "molest" included psychological abuse;
- (b) provide a timetable on including in the DVO legislative sanction against stalking behaviour in domestic context, having regard to the fact that a great majority of family violence cases involved stalking behaviours. There should be no cause for concern about enforcement difficulties, as it should not be difficult for frontline Police to ascertain the relationship between the complainant and the alleged offender who had some form of domestic relationship;

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- (c) re-consider amending the DVO to take exposing a child to witness family violence as a form of child abuse and subject to criminal sanction; and
- (d) empower the court to require batterers to attend counselling programme as one of the sentencing options.

Caritas Hong Kong - Family Service
(LC Paper No. CB(2)2423/05-06(01))

13. Ms HO Yee-ching highlighted the following views of Caritas Hong Kong - Family Service on the proposed amendments to the DVO by the Administration, details of which were set out in its submission tabled at the meeting -

- (a) the scope of the DVO should be expanded to cover parents and in-laws who lived in the same household, in view of the rising number of elder abuse abuses and the ageing population;
- (b) psychological abuse should be defined in the DVO;
- (c) the proposal of extending the duration of injunction order and the power of arrest attached to a maximum period of 24 months should be expeditiously implemented;
- (d) the court should be provided with the jurisdiction to make an order requiring the batterers to undergo counselling, as this was the only effective way to stop the cycle of violence; and
- (e) a central database on family violence cases, jointly managed by SWD and the Police, should be set up to better enable agencies concerned and the Police to render timely and appropriate services to victims as well as perpetrators of family violence.

Discussion

14. The Chairman said that she shared the deputations' dissatisfaction about the small steps made by the Administration in making the DVO more effective in protecting victims of family violence. While she saw no reason for not supporting the proposed amendments to the DVO by the Administration, she asked the Administration whether it would re-consider including parents-adult son/daughter and parents-in-law relationships under the scope of the DVO, and if so, the timetable for implementing such, in view of the rising number of elder abuse cases.

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15. Mrs Sophie LEUNG said that although the proposed amendments to the DVO might not be able to meet all expectations and address all concerns, the implementation of these amendments was nevertheless a move in the right direction to realising the "zero tolerance" policy against family violence. Mrs LEUNG further said that merely relying on legislation to combat family violence was not enough, as family violence was a multi-dimensional issue requiring a co-ordinated community response. Mrs LEUNG hoped that more could be done by the Administration to mobilise multi-sectoral participation to combat the problem.

16. As prevention was the key to successfully fight against family violence and prevent tragedies, Mrs Sophie LEUNG said that the Police should refer actual, as well as potential, batterers to undergo counselling in the first instance and records in this regard should be kept. Should the potential batterers commit and the actual batterers repeat the violent act, they should be required to undergo mandatory counselling. Such arrangements did not require any legislative amendment, and would send a clear message to the public that batterers were accountable for their acts. To facilitate more referrals to counselling programme for batterers, Mrs LEUNG called upon HKCSS to step up work on providing counselling training for social workers.

17. Ms Margaret WONG said that Mrs LEUNG's suggestions merited consideration in the absence of any court-ordered treatment for batterers.

18. Regarding the proposal of further expanding the scope of "protected persons" under the DVO, DSHWF(F&W) responded as follows -

- (a) amending the DVO to provide better protection to victims of family violence was only part of the overall efforts of the Administration to prevent and tackle family violence;
- (b) the Administration had not ruled out the possibility of expanding the scope of the DVO to include parents-adult son/daughter and parents-in-law relationships under the scope of the DVO so that they could make application for an injunction order under the DVO. More in-depth studies needed to be conducted to ascertain whether such extension was necessary, having regard to the fact that most elders were reluctant to seek legal action against their adult children or children-in-law for abusing them. There was also the concern about the impact of such extension on family relations, as to do so might discourage adult children from living with their parents or parents-in-law;

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- (c) reference should be drawn to overseas experience on whether including parents-adult son/daughter and parents-in-law relationships under the scope of domestic violence legislation would be an effective mean to prevent elder abuse;
- (d) the reason for expanding the scope of the DVO to include former spouses and former co-habitees in the coming legislative amendment exercise to the DVO was because the majority of family violence cases were related to spousal and co-habitation relationships; and
- (e) although the number of elder abuse cases was on the rise, it did not necessarily mean that the problem had worsened. On the contrary, it could be attributed to the heightened efforts made in raising public awareness about elder abuse and the enhanced services provided to the elderly, measures of which the Administration considered to be a practical way forward to combat elder abuse.

19. The Chairman considered the Administration's explanation for not expanding the scope of the DVO to include parents-adult son/daughter and parents-in-law relationships unconvincing. For instance, if parents were reluctant to take legal action against their adult children or children-in law for abusing them, similar situation could occur in spousal and co-habitation relationships. Ms Elsa CHIU concurred and also said that although the majority of family violence cases were related to spousal and co-habitation relationships, this did not mean that the remaining family violence cases relating to parent-son/daughter and in-law relationships could be ignored. Ms CHIU further said that another reason why elders were reluctant to take legal action against their adult children or children-in law for abusing them was because the existing DVO did not provide protection for them. The situation would change if the scope of the DVO was expanded to include parents and parents-in-law.

20. Dr Fernando CHEUNG expressed disappointment that despite numerous discussions held with the Administration on ways to amend the DVO to provide better protection to victims of family violence, many of the recommendations put forward by members and deputations, such as empowering the court to make order requiring batterers to attend counselling programme and introducing a definition of "domestic violence" to the DVO to include psychologist abuse, continues to fall on deaf ear. Dr CHEUNG further asked when the Police would be in a position to discuss its Emergency Referral Questionnaire and Action Checklist with members and deputations before implementation.

21. DSHWF(F&W) responded as follows -

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- (a) to better help the public to understand the term "molest" under the DVO included psychological abuse, such information would be included in the information kits/leaflets for victims of family violence. Legal advice would be sought on the desirability of defining "molest" in the DVO; and
- (b) as explained in item 5 of Part II of LC Paper No. CB(2)2132/05-06(01), the Administration would consider the way forward on the merits of empowering the court to make order requiring batterers to undergo counselling after evaluating the effectiveness of the two pilot projects of BIP upon their completion in March 2008. In the meantime, the Administration would discuss with the Police on the feasibility of Mrs Sophie LEUNG's suggestion mentioned in paragraph 16 above and with the Judiciary to encourage it to refer alleged offenders on bind-over order to attend BIPs.

22. Regarding when the Police would be in a position to discuss its Emergency Referral Questionnaire and Action Checklist with members and deputations before implementation, Chief Superintendent (Crime Support) (Crime Wing) referred members to paragraphs 3 and 5 of the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(2)2389/05-06(01)) which set out the salient features of these two tools. Chief Superintendent (Crime Support) (Crime Wing) further said that the contents of the Emergency Referral Questionnaire and the Action Checklist had addressed the requirements of what these tools should contain by HKCSS. Work was being carried out to format the Emergency Referral Questionnaire and the Action Checklist into a pocket-size booklet to facilitate the work of frontline Police as suggested by HKCSS.

23. Dr Fernando CHEUNG said that merely publicising the definition of "molest" in information kits/leaflets for victims of family violence was not useful, as it was very difficult for the general public to identify which type of act amounted to a conduct which could properly be regarded as such a degree of harassment as to call for the intervention of the court. Dr CHEUNG further asked the Police how it could ensure that its frontline officers would strictly apply the Emergency Referral Questionnaire and the Action Checklist when handling family violence cases, and would not, say, let the batterers go free if the victims refused to take legal action against their abusers and leave the victims to go on their own to seek medical assistance.

24. Mr Dennis HO welcomed the Administration's plan to seek legal advice on defining the term "molest" in the DVO to provide legal clarity and certainty. The

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Law Society of Hong Kong, however, considered that there should be a definition of "domestic violence" in the DVO and that the definition should be as wide as possible to include psychological abuse, emotional abuse, stalking and harassment apart from physical abuse. Adaptation of the relevant provisions in New Zealand's Domestic Violence Act 1995 was recommended.

25. Responding to Dr Fernando CHEUNG's concern about people not understanding their rights under the DVO, DSHWF(F&W) said that action would be stepped up to educate the public through publicity and information kits/leaflets on the circumstances under which victims of family violence could seek protection from the DVO. SWD would also provide training for its frontline social workers and NGO staff on the applicability of the DVO to help victims of family violence.

26. As regards Dr Fernando CHEUNG's concern about frontline Police officers refraining from arresting the abusers if the victims refused to press charges against their abusers, Chief Superintendent (Crime Support) (Crime Wing) assured members that there was no cause for such concern as the Action Checklist would spell out arrest actions must be taken based on prevailing evidence. There was also no cause for concern that frontline Police officers would leave the injured victims to arrange medical assistance on their own, as it was the first and foremost responsibility of Police officers to check if the victims were injured or in pain upon arrival at the scene and would arrange the victims for medical treatment if they displayed signs of pain and/or bodily injuries.

27. Mrs Sophie LEUNG urged the Administration to better utilise community wisdom in combating family violence, as the problem required concerted and co-ordinated efforts from the whole community. Mrs LEUNG urged the Administration to consider one of the recommendations made by the Women's Commission in its Report entitled "Women's Safety in Hong Kong: Eliminating Domestic Violence" on producing a booklet on the importance of domestic violence evidence gathering to educate professionals, stakeholders, concerned individuals and particularly victims. Mrs LEUNG pointed out that in order for the criminal justice system and law enforcement to be effective, it was important to know what the court could use as evidence. This meant that everyone must become more aware of the need to collect and properly record evidence and know what evidence was needed and how to collect it.

28. Ms CHUNG Yuen-yi, Miss NG Wai-ching and Ms LIU Ngan-fung were of the view that the main reason why the problem of family violence continued unabated was because of the failure of the Administration to make use of community wisdom in combating the problem, as evidenced by its reluctance to implement many recommendations made by various studies. Ms Elsa CHIU said that the existing approach adopted by the Administration to prevent and tackle

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family violence was too fragmented, and urged that a comprehensive plan be developed.

29. The Chairman thanked the deputations for their continuous input on ways to take forward the "zero tolerance" policy against family violence since the set up of the Subcommittee. The Chairman hoped that the Administration would not treat family violence from the angle of social welfare, as the problem was too multi-faceted for it to be handled solely by SWD and/or the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau.

30. Dr Fernando CHEUNG asked the Administration what lessons it had learnt from the two recent family violence cases occurred in public rental housing (PRH) flats which resulted in two deaths. The Chairman hoped that HD would not only accede to request for household splitting until serious bodily injury was inflicted on the applicant.

31. Chief Manager/Management (Support Services)2, HD (CM/M(SS)2, HD) responded as follows -

- (a) the young woman alleged to be killed by her 70 year-old husband on 8 June 2006 in Lik Yuen Estate only approached HD staff for the first time several days before her death concerning housing arrangements arising from her recent divorce from her husband. The victim was scheduled to meet with HD staff at 11:00 am on 8 June 2006 but the tragedy occurred before that at around 9:30 am;
- (b) as regards the second case involving the death of an elderly woman alleged to be killed by her husband in Long Ping Estate, HD staff did approach her, upon referral from SWD back in 2004, about her request for splitting of household due to dispute with her spouse over the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) payment and other matters. The victim replied then that she did not wish to pursue her request. HD staff subsequently learnt from SWD that the CSSA payment had been equally split between her and her spouse. Since 14 September 2004, the victim had never approached HD staff regarding splitting of household; and
- (c) frontline HD staff had been reminded to adopt a reasonable and sympathetic approach when dealing with requests for housing assistance from PRH tenants.

32. The Chairman asked whether the reason why HD was not able to address the imminent housing needs of PRH tenants was due to lack of legal support for

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doing so.

33. CM/M(SS)2, HD responded that granting of splitting of household did not require legislation. However, it was incumbent upon HD to ensure that each splitting request was fully justified to safeguard the equitable allocation of public housing resources. Hence, HD staff would ascertain whether the conflict between the applicant and her/her family member(s) was serious or minor. If the conflict appeared to be serious, HD would refer the case to SWD for its social workers to gather in-depth information on the tenant(s)' family background and verify relevant information and documents to decide their eligibility for household splitting or compassionate rehousing. If the conflict appeared to be minor, HD would refer the PRH tenant(s) concerned to SWD for counselling and other supportive services if agreed to by the tenant(s).

34. CM/M(SS)2, HD further said that compassionate rehousing and splitting of household were two different policies, although they both concerned providing additional PRH units to the aggrieved parties. Under the compassionate rehousing scheme, temporary accommodation in a PRH estate in the form of a conditional tenancy (CT) would be offered to those with genuine immediate housing need, such as victims of family violence seeking divorce regardless of whether they had no offspring or did not bring along any dependent children, upon recommendation by SWD. CT tenancy beneficiaries might have their CT converted into a normal tenancy upon the court's award of divorce decree if they passed the Comprehensive Means Test with income and asset limits pitched at the prevailing Waiting List levels and the Domestic Property Test. As regards household splitting, HD would normally only allow it if the circumstances were so unique and extenuating that an exception should be granted. For household members who were sharing accommodation on a voluntary basis, such as family members, splitting would be considered only on fully justified grounds with support from SWD as necessary. Justifying circumstances included serious disharmony among household members, insurmountable social barrier or unavoidable conflicts among members.

35. The Chairman asked whether HD would grant CT to the aggrieved party upon recommendation by SWD. CM/M(SS)2, HD replied in the positive. The Chairman refuted that this was not always the case, as had been her experience in handling several requests for housing assistance from PRH tenants in Wong Chuk Hang Estate. The Chairman further said that many victims of family violence were not aware of the existence of CT and splitting of household policies, and urged HD to provide housing assistance to these victims who were forced to live in the same household with their abusive spouses after divorce because of lack of means.

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Conclusion

36. In closing, the Chairman requested the Administration to set up a dedicated working group comprising all relevant stakeholders and Members of Legislative Council (LegCo) to review the DVO. Dr Fernando CHEUNG expressed support.

37. DSHWF(F&W) responded that she did not see the need for setting up a working group comprising all relevant stakeholders and LegCo Members to review the DVO, as there were established channels for the Administration to listen and consult the views of all stakeholders on the matter. It was the Administration's intention to consult all stakeholders on the proposed amendments to the DVO after the meeting. Meetings would also be arranged for exchange of views.

38. The Chairman requested the Administration to provide a response in writing about her request of the Administration setting up a dedicated working group comprising all relevant stakeholders and LegCo Members to review the DVO by the end of the current legislative session.

39. The Chairman suggested to discuss the Emergency Referral Questionnaire and the Action Checklist in July 2006 if the Police was in a position to do so. Members agreed.

40. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 6:38 pm.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
31 October 2006