

Date 2 July 2008

Legislative Council Race Discrimination Bill Committee
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road, Central

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express deep concern over the Anti-Racial Discrimination Bill in relation to the two-week rule imposed by the Immigration Department.

Even when foreign domestic helpers have rightful civil, criminal or labour claims, they cannot pursue these because they are not allowed to stay in Hong Kong under the two-week rule. They are forced to abandon their claims, through no fault of their own, and this situation adds to the injustice that they have suffered.

Unfortunately, the Anti-Racial Discrimination Bill does not apply to immigration-related policies such as the two-week rule. In this way, the Bill in effect allows discrimination against foreign domestic helpers.

The UN Committee on the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) has already asked the HK government to take action to protect foreign domestic helpers from abuse and exploitation.

In view of these, please include provisions in the Bill that will sufficiently protect the rights of foreign domestic helpers, including the elimination of the two-week rule.

Yours respectfully,

A/A K.A.