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Panel on Home Affairs

**Background brief prepared by Legislative Council Secretariat
for the meeting on 9 February 2007**

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Purpose

This paper gives an account of the discussions of the Panel on Home Affairs on the reports submitted by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) to the United Nations (UN) under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), including the Panel's recent discussion on the second report of the HKSAR submitted to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (the UN Committee) under CEDAW as summarised in paragraphs 34 to 45 below.

Background

2. The Government of the United Kingdom extended CEDAW to Hong Kong in 1996. The People's Republic of China is a State Party to CEDAW. The Government of the People's Republic of China notified the Secretary-General of UN that the Convention would apply to the HKSAR with effect from 1 July 1997 with a number of reservations and declarations. Apart from the reservation against paragraph 1 of Article 29 of the Convention which relates to the arbitration of disputes among States Parties by the International Court of Justice, the declarations and reservations applicable to the HKSAR are substantially the same as those applicable to Hong Kong prior to 1 July 1997. These reservations and declarations include, among other things, the following -

- (a) laws, regulations, customs or practices that treat women more favourably do not constitute discrimination against women within the meaning of Article 1 of the Convention;
- (b) reservation of the right to continue to apply law enabling male indigenous villagers in the New Territories to exercise certain rights over property and to enjoy certain privileges in respect of land and property;

- (c) reservation of the right to discriminate against women in legislation relating to pensions and retirement and similar benefits; and
- (d) reservation of the right to apply any non-discriminatory requirement for a qualifying period of employment for women in respect of the application of provisions in Article 11(2) of the Convention.

3. CEDAW follows a four-year reporting cycle. The HKSAR's first report under the Convention was submitted to UN in 1998 as part of China's combined third and fourth reports. After consideration of the first report, the UN Committee issued its Concluding Comments on 3 February 1999.

4. The responsibility of drafting HKSAR's reports under CEDAW was transferred from the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) to the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau (HWFB) in May 2000. The HKSAR's second report was submitted to UN as part of China's combined fifth and sixth reports in 2004. After consideration of the second report, the UN Committee issued its Concluding Comments on 25 August 2006. The Concluding Comments were issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)2988/05-06(01).

Panel discussions on the first report of the HKSAR under CEDAW

First report submitted in 1998

5. The Panel on Home Affairs discussed the first report of the HKSAR submitted to UN under CEDAW with deputations and the Administration at its meetings on 9 November and 7 December 1998. The major issues raised by members at these meetings are summarised in paragraphs 6 to 11 below.

Incorporation of a gender impact assessment in the public policy-making and legislative process

6. Some members were supportive of the suggestion of incorporating a gender impact assessment in the public policy-making and legislative process. Mr James TO expressed the view that as the policy bureau concerned might not have the expertise to make the assessment, it would be appropriate to assign the task to an agency such as the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) or HAB. The Administration advised that HAB would consult the relevant bureaux and departments on the feasibility of the suggestion.

Data and statistics on gender issues

7. Miss Christine LOH expressed dissatisfaction that the Administration had neglected the importance of collecting and publishing sufficient data on gender issues. She was of the view that the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) should start to compile and publish annual statistics on gender issues. The Administration informed the Panel that in the household surveys (e.g. the General Household Survey and the

population censuses/by-censuses) and in some of the establishment surveys (e.g. the Labour Earnings Survey), the gender of the respondents was always included as a basic variable. Subsequent publications of the survey results would include tables using gender as a classifying variable where appropriate. More in-depth analysis of the issue was also undertaken from time to time. For example, "A Profile of Females in Hong Kong, 1996" was published in the July 1998 issue of the Hong Kong Monthly Digest of Statistics.

Women representation on advisory and statutory bodies

8. Some members were concerned about the absence of women representatives on certain important advisory bodies, and took the view that the Administration should ensure that a representative number of women served on advisory and statutory bodies. The Administration explained that it was not in favour of fixing a percentage of women for serving on these bodies as it might constitute a kind of affirmative action. The primary consideration should be suitability, rather than gender, of the appointees. Members nevertheless were of the view that HAB should take a more proactive approach to encourage women to participate in public service and identify suitable women candidates for serving on these bodies.

Establishment of a Women's Commission

9. Some members considered that the Administration should not dismiss the suggestion of establishing a Women's Commission as neither necessary nor desirable in the first report on the ground that the policy groups chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration (CS) had already provided the necessary coordination among various bureaux for the provision of women services. They pointed out that many organisations including EOC were not even aware of such coordination by CS. These members expressed support for the establishment of a Women's Commission which should report to CS in the coordination of women services among the Administration and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). They considered that the proposed Commission would play a more effective coordinating role, if given high-level decision-making powers.

10. The Administration responded that as the concerns of women had an impact on a wide range of policy areas, the existing mechanism was for the CS's Office to coordinate the efforts and suggestions of the relevant policy bureaux. The proposed Women's Commission would only add one more tier above HAB or the policy groups led by CS.

Coordination of services for rape victims

11. Ms Emily LAU expressed concern about the lack of coordination among government departments in dealing with rape victims. The Administration informed the Panel that increased efforts had been made by the Police and relevant departments in rendering services to victims of sex violence. The Police, in particular, had taken the following measures -

- (a) induction training and refresher courses of police officers had included skills to deal with victims of sex violence, and frontline police officers were trained to handle rape victims with sensitivity and sympathy;
- (b) special training was given to over 100 female officers deployed to police stations to provide early assistance and support to rape victims;
- (c) legislative amendments had been made to the Criminal Procedure Ordinance and the Evidence Ordinance enabling evidence to be taken in the form of live television link or video recorded interviews which were admissible evidence in the court; and
- (d) rape victims would be referred to the Social Welfare Department (SWD) for counselling and other services where necessary.

Concluding Comments issued by the UN Committee on HKSAR's first report

12. The Panel on Home Affairs discussed the Concluding Comments issued by the UN Committee of the first report with the Administration at its meeting on 8 March 1999. The Panel further discussed with the Administration at its meeting on 2 June 2000 the progress in implementing the recommendations made by the UN Committee. The major issues raised by members at these meetings are summarised in paragraphs 13 to 24 below.

A high-level central mechanism for development and coordination of a women-focused policy

13. Some members expressed support for the recommendation of the UN Committee to set up a high-level central mechanism to develop and coordinate a women-focused policy (e.g. a Women's Commission). The Administration reiterated that women's issues impinged on a wide range of policy areas, and HAB was responsible for the coordination on women issues. In addition, there were Policy Groups chaired by CS and attended by senior representatives of the relevant bureaux. It was therefore not necessary to set up a new high-level mechanism for women matters, particularly when the Government was streamlining its structure and cutting expenditure. These members queried the Administration's argument for not setting up a Women's Commission, given that there was a Commission on the Elderly to oversee elderly matters. They also expressed doubts about whether the Policy Groups had ever studied various policies from the perspective of women. Some of these members suggested that CS should explain what had been done to address women's needs and the Administration should provide the Panel with records of the relevant meetings of these Policy Groups at which women's issues or policies were discussed.

14. The Administration explained that the Policy Groups adopted an equal opportunity perspective in policy deliberations, and because of the wide areas of concerns of the Policy Groups, the women perspective was not highlighted unless women issues were discussed. As regards formulation of a women-focused policy,

the Administration had all along upheld the principle of equal opportunities for both sexes. HAB was the policy bureau responsible for women matters¹. The Administration aimed to provide a discrimination-free environment for the development of women's full potential in political, social, economic and cultural areas. A wide range of services for women including social welfare, education and employment, etc, was being provided to ensure a level-playing field for women and men.

15. The Administration subsequently informed the Panel that a Women's Commission would be set up in 2000 to promote the well-being and interests of women. The Women's Commission would be a central body to oversee women's needs and to specifically address matters of concern to women in a comprehensive and systematic manner and would assume four main roles, i.e. advisory, liaison, research, and educational/promotional.

16. Ms Cyd HO pointed out that many Legislative Council (LegCo) Members had already expressed the view during the Motion Debate on Women's Commission at the Council meeting on 31 May 2000 that the Women's Commission to be set up under the then Health and Welfare Bureau should not be accorded the status of a central mechanism as recommended by the UN Committee.

Small house policy

17. Miss Christine LOH enquired about the timetable for the review of small house policy. Referring to the press release which stated that the Administration would review the need for the retention of small house policy if changing circumstances suggested that the policy might no longer be necessary, she sought clarification as to whether the Administration had deviated from its previous undertaking to replace the small house policy. The Administration informed members that the review was being conducted by Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands, and would hopefully be completed by the end of 1999. The review committee on small house policy aimed at examining how discrimination against women could be eliminated or reduced. Miss LOH pointed out that according to the speech delivered by the then Secretary for Home Affairs during the Resumption of the Second Reading debate on the Sex and Disability (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 1996 at the Council sitting on 11 June 1997, the review committee was to examine how best to replace the existing small house policy.

Women in advisory and statutory bodies

18. Ms Emily LAU was strongly of the view that the Administration's statement that adopting affirmative action (e.g. quota system) for appointment of women to advisory and statutory bodies would go against the principle of appointment based on individual merits was an insult to women, as it implied that appointing a pre-determined number of women for advisory and statutory bodies could lead to appointment of incapable persons to these bodies. Ms LAU pointed out that

¹ The policy responsibility had been transferred to HWFB in 2000.

developed countries such as Norway had set a 40% quota of either sex for such bodies.

19. The Administration reiterated that pre-determining the number of either sex might not be appropriate for the HKSAR situation. Moreover, the proposal would deviate from the normal practice of appointing the best persons capable of meeting the specific requirements of the relevant bodies. Members may wish to note that the Administration informed the Panel in March 2003 that while no target or quota would be set for participation of women in advisory and statutory bodies, at least 25% of either gender had been suggested for the purpose of benchmarking.

Child care services

20. Miss CHAN Yuen-han expressed concern about the shortfall in the provision of child care facilities and queried the efforts made by the Administration in the past years. The Administration responded that SWD had noted the demand for more child care facilities. Apart from meeting the short fall according to planning ratio, SWD had been liaising with voluntary child care bodies on the proposal of extending their service hours and increasing the number of such child care centres by from five to 15. Consideration was also being given to re-deploying resources from the occasional child care services which were currently under-utilised so as to increase support for extended hour service.

Equal Pay for Work of Equal Value

21. Members noted that EOC had set up a task force with the objective of promoting the principle of equal pay for work of equal value. Mr Albert HO enquired whether Administration would play any active role in the implementation of the principle of equal pay for work of equal value as recommended by the UN Committee. The Administration responded that the Education and Manpower Bureau was working closely with EOC on the matter. The Task Force on Equal Pay for Work of Equal Value had an implementation plan to be rolled out in three phases. The civil service and public bodies would be included in the first phase, large companies with over 200 employees in the second, and small companies in the last phase. Each phase would take one or two years to complete but the work of the Task Force would be expedited where possible.

22. Members may wish to note that EOC finally released the findings of its Study on Equal Pay for Work of Equal Value on 23 November 2006.

Reservations and declarations

23. Members noted that the UN Committee had encouraged the HKSAR Government to review regularly the reservations entered to CEDAW. Mr Albert HO asked whether the Administration had a timetable to review the applicability of various reservations and declarations to the HKSAR. The Administration informed the Panel that it might be possible to amend some of the reservations to the Convention and would consider further with relevant bureaux and departments. The

Administration would also need to consult the Women's Commission. Since the circumstances of each reservation varied, the Administration could not provide a definite timeframe on the exercise but would take the issues forward as a matter of priority.

Gender statistics

24. Ms Cyd HO expressed concern about the lack of gender statistics. She asked whether the Government had conducted any gender studies itself apart from the \$32 million allocated to academic institutions for conducting gender studies over the past three years. She pointed out that the census to be conducted by C&SD in 2001 was a good opportunity to collect gender data for future reference by a central mechanism on women's issues.

25. The Administration responded that the Administration acknowledged the need to conduct more gender studies and collect relevant data. One of the tasks of the Women's Commission would be to initiate surveys and research studies on women's issues. The Administration would discuss with C&SD to ensure that the right kinds of data was collected.

Panel discussions on the second report of the HKSAR under CEDAW

Outline of topics to be covered in the second report

26. The Panel on Home Affairs discussed the outline of topics to be covered in the second report of the HKSAR for submission to UN under CEDAW with deputations and the Administration at its meeting on 8 November 2002. The major issues raised by members at that meeting are summarised in paragraphs 26 to 32 below.

Status of the Women's Commission

27. To address the concerns about the status of the Women's Commission, the Administration stressed that the Commission had been placed very high in the government structure, in line with the other major commissions and advisory bodies. Members of the Commission were appointed by the Chief Executive. There were no restrictions on the policy areas the Commission could work on, and the Commission had advised the Administration on a wide range of issues that were of concern to women.

Participation of NGOs in the implementation of CEDAW

28. Ms Cyd HO was of the view that the Administration should enhance NGOs' understanding of CEDAW and form partnership with them in publicising the Convention among members of the public and in the implementation of the Convention. She opined that the Government had not provided sufficient assistance to NGOs in this respect.

Gender mainstreaming

29. Ms Cyd HO considered that gender mainstreaming should apply to the formulation, implementation and evaluation of the policy address and budgeting of the Government since Government policies and programmes had a significant impact on women's well being. The Administration explained that gender mainstreaming would be introduced to different policy areas on an incremental basis. It would be difficult to apply it to policy address and budgeting when gender mainstreaming had not been introduced in most policy areas.

Feminisation of poverty

30. Mr NG Leung-sing queried whether poverty of women was caused by an overall decrease in family income. EOC explained that there was a world trend of feminisation of women. 80% of employed persons who earned less than half of the median monthly earnings were women, and the biggest increase in recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) during the period from 1996 to 2001 was found in female recipients. Further, of single parent families who were CSSA recipients, 61% were headed by women, a situation unchanged since 1996. The adverse economic climate during the late 1990's and early 2000's had affected women tremendously and the Administration should adopt the concepts of gender mainstreaming and gender budgeting to ensure that Government policies and programmes would meet the needs of women and that relevant data would be available for assessing the effectiveness of these policies and programmes in this respect.

Consultation process on the second report

31. Some members were of the view that the Administration should release the initial draft of the second report for another round of consultation. Mr Andrew WONG held a different view. He said that the second report to be submitted by the HKSAR under CEDAW was a government report, and there was no need for that report to incorporate all the views expressed by organisations concerned.

32. The Administration explained to the Panel that HWFB had involved LegCo and NGOs in the report preparation process by inviting views on the implementation of the Convention and the draft outline of the report. HWFB would try to address and incorporate the comments and suggestions made in the report as appropriate. Although it might not be able to reflect each and every concern expressed in the text of the report, in accordance with established practice, HWFB would send full copies of each written submission to the UN Committee after the second report had been submitted. Furthermore, any organisation could forward its comments directly to the UN Committee. The Administration considered that such arrangements would obviate the need for a further round of consultation, which would unduly prolong the report preparation process.

33. The Administration further explained that HWFB would consult the Women's Commission on the draft report before submitting it to the Chief Executive's Office for approval. The report would then be submitted to CPG for incorporation into the China's report. After the China's report was submitted to UN, the HKSAR's second report would be released through the media and uploaded onto the websites of HWFB and the Women's Commission.

Second report submitted in 2004

34. The Panel on Home Affairs discussed the second report of the HKSAR submitted to UN under CEDAW with deputations and the Administration at its meeting on 9 June 2006. The major issues raised by members at that meeting are summarised in paragraphs 35 to 45 below.

Composition of the Women's Commission

35. Miss CHAN Yuen-han pointed out that feminisation of poverty was serious as women made up some 70% of employees who received a monthly earning of less than \$5,000, and the discrepancies in wages earned by men and women were great. She and Mr WONG Kwok-hing were worried that the Women's Commission might not pursue proactive measures for the protection of the interests of women who belonged to the working class unless its membership included representatives of labour unions and women from the grassroots. They expressed the view that, as the problem of serious discrepancies in wages earned by men and women might be related to gender discrimination, the Administration should make legislative proposals and empower the Women's Commission to implement more effective measures. Miss CHAN suggested that LegCo might consider setting up a new Panel on Women to monitor women's issues.

36. The Administration responded that the current membership of the Women's Commission had already included female employees and women from the grassroots. The Administration pointed out that the economic and other needs of women were being addressed by different bureaux and departments. HWFB and the Women's Commission had also implemented a series of programmes to encourage women to pursue self development and to empower women through capacity building.

37. Ms Emily LAU enquired about the criteria of appointment of members to the Women's Commission and urged the Administration to enhance the transparency of the appointment mechanism. Mrs Sophie LEUNG considered that given the varied social stratum and different sectors of the Hong Kong community, it might not be feasible to have representatives of each sector on the Women's Commission. She suggested that the Commission should have more collaboration with different women's groups, NGOs and various sectors of the community in order to gain wider recognition of its work.

38. The Administration responded that it would not set a predetermined number of members for specific categories in relation to the composition of the Women's Commission, and each appointment was made on the basis of merit. The

Administration, however, undertook to take into consideration members' views in making appointments to the Women's Commission in future.

Domestic violence and sex violence

39. Miss TAM Heung-man expressed concern about inadequate protection for women against domestic violence and sex violence. Mrs Sophie LEUNG considered that the problem of domestic violence could not be tackled merely by prosecution as shown by international experience and echoed by the Women's Commission in its report entitled "Women's Safety in Hong Kong: Eliminating Domestic Violence". She urged the Administration to enhance the promotion of the Batterer Intervention Programme (BIP) which she considered to be effective in tackling domestic violence. Mr Albert HO considered that there might still be room for improvement in the handling of domestic violence cases by frontline police officers.

40. The Administration pointed out that, in the past two years, it had strengthened support services for women and children who fell victims to domestic violence cases as well as measures to be taken by frontline police officers in handling domestic violence cases. Since March 2006, SWD and the Hong Kong Family Welfare Society had launched two pilot projects of BIP which would last for two years. The experience drawn from these projects would provide useful reference for defining the goals, contents and standards of BIPs.

Mission of EOC

41. Referring to a submission from the Association for the Advancement of Feminism [LC Paper No. CB(2)2288/05-06(01)], Ms Emily LAU expressed concern about the observation that EOC had, after conducting a review in 2004, changed its mission, resulting in the adoption of a narrower and more conservative approach for implementation of the three anti-discrimination ordinances.

42. Mr Raymond TANG, the EOC Chairperson, explained to the Panel that the review, which was conducted by EOC members, Professor CHOW Wing-sun and Mrs LING LAU Yuet-fun, had found that the general public seemed to have expectations on the powers and functions of EOC which had exceeded those vested in EOC under the relevant legislation. They had suggested suitably revising the mission statement in order to give clearer messages to the public. Mr TANG clarified that the changes made to the mission statement would not bring about any change to the role and functions of EOC which had been clearly stipulated under the existing legal framework.

Gender mainstreaming

43. Mrs Sophie LEUNG considered it appropriate for the Women's Commission to continue to promote the application of gender mainstreaming within the Administration on an incremental basis. Dr Fernando CHEUNG, however, considered that the Women's Commission should adopt a more proactive approach for examining the Administration's policies and programmes to ensure that they adopted

gender perspective. He said that many new arrival women had become victims of the policy of introducing the seven years residence requirement as a criterion for eligibility to social security benefits and the policy should be reviewed from a gender perspective.

44. The Administration explained that it was an established policy that women's needs and perspectives had to be taken into account in the formulation and review of public policies, programmes and legislation. It considered that, as the Gender Mainstreaming Checklist had only been introduced recently, more time would be needed for the Checklist to be gradually introduced into more policy areas.

Accessibility of Maternal and Child Health Centres (MCHCs) and women's health centres to women with disabilities

45. Dr Fernando CHEUNG expressed concern about the serious problem of inaccessibility of MCHCs under the Department of Health to women with disabilities. He requested the Administration to review how far the public hospitals, public clinics and MCHCs had complied with the requirements of the Design Manual: Barrier Free Access 1997, and to provide the outcome of the review. The Administration provided the information which was issued vide LC Paper No. CB(2)321/06-07(02). The Administration also undertook to consider applying the Gender Mainstreaming Checklist to services for women with disabilities to address their needs.

Relevant motions and questions moved/raised at Council meetings

46. Ms Emily LAU moved a motion for debate at the Council meeting on 21 April 1999 urging the Administration to implement expeditiously the recommendations made by the UN Committee after consideration of the initial report submitted by the HKSAR under CEDAW. The motion was carried.

47. Ms Cyd HO moved a motion for debate on the setting up of the Women's Commission at the Council meeting on 31 May 2000. The motion urged the Government, among others, to set up a central mechanism to examine various government policies, public finance and legislative proposals from the angle of safeguarding equality for both sexes, and to entrust the Women's Commission with the responsibility for overseeing the operation of the central mechanism and include women representatives from the grassroots in the Commission's membership. The motion was negatived.

48. Miss Christine LOH raised a written question on the initiatives taken to eliminate discrimination against women at the Council meeting on 26 January 2000. Ms Cyd HO raised a written question on the second report of the HKSAR under CEDAW at the Council meeting on 11 February 2004.

Relevant papers

49. A list of relevant papers, minutes of meetings and reports is in the **Appendix**. Soft copies of these documents are also available on the LegCo website.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
6 February 2007

**Relevant documents on the Convention on the Elimination
of All Forms of Discrimination against Women**

Date of meeting	Meeting	Minutes/Paper	LC Paper No.
9.11.98	Panel on Home Affairs	Minutes of meeting	CB(2)853/98-99 http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr98-99/english/panels/ha/minutes/ha091198.htm
		Initial report on the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) under Article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)	CB(2)405/98-99 http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr98-99/english/panels/ha/papers/p405e.pdf
		Submission from the Association for the Advancement of Feminism and the Hong Kong Women Christian Council	CB(2)810/98-99(01) (Chinese version only)
		Submission from the Hong Kong Women Workers' Association	CB(2)810/98-99(02) (Chinese version only)
		Submission from the Hong Kong Association for the Survivors of Women Abuse	CB(2)810/98-99(03) (Chinese version only)
		Submission from the Zi Teng	CB(2)810/98-99(04) (Chinese version only)
		Submission from the Centre for Comparative and Public Law of the University of Hong Kong	CB(2)578/98-99 (Chinese version only)

Date of meeting	Meeting	Minutes/Paper	LC Paper No.
7.12.98	Panel on Home Affairs	Minutes of meeting	CB(2)1404/98-99 http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr98-99/english/panels/ha/minutes/ha071298.htm
		Administration's response to submissions to the Panel on Home Affairs concerning the initial report on the HKSAR under the CEDAW	CB(2)1364/98-99(01) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr98-99/english/panels/ha/papers/p1364e01.pdf
		Submission from Equal Opportunities Commission	CB(2)754/98-99(01) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr98-99/english/panels/ha/papers/p754e01.pdf
		Submission from Hong Kong Council of Social Service	CB(2)754/98-99(02) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr98-99/english/panels/ha/papers/p754e02.pdf
		Submission from Hong Kong Women Development Association	CB(2)754/98-99(03) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr98-99/english/panels/ha/papers/p754e03.pdf
		Submission from Hong Kong Federation of Women	CB(2)754/98-99(04) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr98-99/english/panels/ha/papers/p754e04.pdf
		Submission from Hong Kong Family Planning Association	CB(2)754/98-99(05) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr98-99/english/panels/ha/papers/p754e05.pdf

Date of meeting	Meeting	Minutes/Paper	LC Paper No.
		Submission from Hong Kong Federation of Women's Centre	CB(2)754/98-99(06)
		Submission from Dr Philip BEH, Faculty of Medicine University of Hong Kong	CB(2)754/98-99(07) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr98-99/english/panels/ha/papers/p754e07.pdf
		Submission from the Hong Kong Federation of Women's Centre	CB(2)797/98-99(01) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr98-99/english/panels/ha/papers/p797e01.pdf
		Submission from the Harmony House	CB(2)797/98-99(02) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr98-99/english/panels/ha/papers/p797e01.pdf
		Submission from Hong Kong Association of Business and Professional Women	CB(2)797/98-99(03) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr98-99/english/panels/ha/papers/p797e03.pdf
		Submission from the Women Affairs Group of the Democratic Party	CB(2)832/98-99(01) (Chinese version only)
		Submission from the Citizens Party	CB(2)832/98-99(02) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr98-99/english/panels/ha/papers/p832e02.pdf
8.3.99	Panel on Home Affairs	Minutes of meeting	CB(2)1650/98-99 http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr98-99/english/panels/ha/minutes/ha080399.htm

Date of meeting	Meeting	Minutes/Paper	LC Paper No.
		Administration's paper on "Hearing of the United Nations (UN) Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on the initial report on the HKSAR under Article 18 of the CEDAW"	CB(2)1429/98-99(02) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr98-99/english/panels/ha/papers/p1429e2.pdf
		Concluding comments of the UN Committee on the Initial Report on the HKSAR under the CEDAW	CB(2)122/99-00 http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr99-00/english/panels/ha/papers/122e.pdf
2.6.00	Panel on Home Affairs	Minutes of meeting	CB(2)2574/99-00 http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr99-00/english/panels/ha/minutes/ha020600.pdf
		Progress report by the Administration on "Follow-up on concluding comments of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on the initial report on the HKSAR under CEDAW	CB(2)2159/99-00(02) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr99-00/english/panels/ha/papers/b2159e02.pdf
8.11.02	Panel on Home Affairs	Minutes of meeting	CB(2)590/02-03 http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr02-03/english/panels/ha/minutes/ha021108.pdf
		Administration's paper on "A draft outline of the topics to be covered in the second report on the HKSAR under the CEDAW"	CB(2)2812/01-02(01) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr01-02/english/panels/ha/papers/ha_cb2-2812-1e.pdf

Date of meeting	Meeting	Minutes/Paper	LC Paper No.
		Administration's paper on "Second report under CEDAW"	CB(2)244/02-03(01) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr02-03/english/papers/ha1108cb2-244-1e.pdf
		Administration's response dated 27 February 2003 on second report under the CEDAW	CB(2)1341/02-03(01) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr02-03/english/papers/ha1108cb2-1341-1e.pdf
		Submission from Harmony House	CB(2)268/02-03(01) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr02-03/english/papers/ha1108cb2-268-1e.pdf
		Submission from Hong Kong Women Development Association	CB(2)268/02-03(02) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr02-03/english/papers/ha1108cb2-268-2e.pdf
		Submission from Hong Kong Council of Social Service	CB(2)289/02-03(01) (Chinese version only)
		Submission from Equal Opportunities Commission	CB(2)297/02-03(01) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr02-03/english/papers/ha1108cb2-297-1e.pdf
		Submission from Democratic Party	CB(2)297/02-03(02) (Chinese version only)
		Submission from Hong Kong Women's Coalition of Equal Opportunities	CB(2)327/02-03(01) (Chinese version only)

Date of meeting	Meeting	Minutes/Paper	LC Paper No.
		Submission from Hong Kong Human Rights Monitor	CB(2)327/02-03(02) (Chinese version only)
9.6.06	Panel on Home Affairs	Administration's paper on "Hearing of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on the Second Report of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women"	CB(2)2219/05-06(03) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr05-06/english/panels/ha/papers/ha0609cb2-2219-3e.pdf
		Paper provided by Women's Commission on "Accomplishments of the Women's Commission in promoting the well-being and interests of women in Hong Kong"	CB(2)2219/05-06(04) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr05-06/english/panels/ha/papers/ha0609cb2-2219-4e.pdf
		Background brief prepared by Legislative Council Secretariat	CB(2)2219/05-06(05) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr05-06/english/panels/ha/papers/ha0609cb2-2219-5e.pdf
		Second report on the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr03-04/english/panels/ha/papers/hacb2-cedaw-2rpt-e.pdf
		Submission from Equal Opportunities Commission	http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr05-06/english/p

Date of meeting	Meeting	Minutes/Paper	LC Paper No.
			anel/ha/papers/ha0609cb2-2219-6e.pdf
		Submission from Action for Reach Out	http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr05-06/chinese/panels/ha/papers/ha0609cb2-2280-1ec.pdf
		Submission from Women Coalition of Equal Opportunity	http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr05-06/chinese/panels/ha/papers/ha0609cb2-2350-2c.pdf (Chinese version only)
		Submission from Democratic Party	http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr05-06/chinese/panels/ha/papers/ha0609cb2-2350-3c.pdf (Chinese version only)
		Submissions from the Association for the Advancement of Feminism	http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr05-06/chinese/panels/ha/papers/ha0609cb2-2219-7c.pdf http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr05-06/chinese/panels/ha/papers/ha0609cb2-2288-1c.pdf (Chinese version only)
		Submission from Association Concerning Sexual Violence Against Women	http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr05-06/chinese/panels/ha/papers/ha0609cb2-2350-4c.pdf (Chinese version only)

Date of meeting	Meeting	Minutes/Paper	LC Paper No.
		Submission from Islands District Council	http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr05-06/english/panels/ha/papers/ha0609cb2-2280-2e.pdf
		Submission from Hong Kong Women Development Association	http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr05-06/chinese/panels/ha/papers/ha0609cb2-2219-8c.pdf (Chinese version only)
		Submission from Association of Women with Disabilities	http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr05-06/chinese/panels/ha/papers/ha0609cb2-2350-5c.pdf (Chinese version only)
		Submission from the Hong Kong Federation of Women's Centres	http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr05-06/chinese/panels/ha/papers/ha0609cb2-2350-6c.pdf (Chinese version only)
		Hong Kong Association for the Survivors of Women Abuse	http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr05-06/chinese/panels/ha/papers/ha0609cb2-2350-7c.pdf (Chinese version only)
		Submission from Civic Party	http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr05-06/english/panels/ha/papers/ha0609cb2-2350-8e.pdf (English version only)
		Submission from Kugen	http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr05-06/chinese/panels/ha/papers/ha0609cb2-2350-9e.pdf

Date of meeting	Meeting	Minutes/Paper	LC Paper No.
			09cb2-2219-30c.pdf (Chinese version only)
		Submission from Zi Teng and 326 identical joint statements from the individuals/organisations	http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr05-06/chinese/panels/ha/papers/ha0609cb2-2280-3c-scan.pdf http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr05-06/chinese/panels/ha/papers/ha0609cb2-ag-ac.pdf (Chinese version only)
		Joint Submission from Society for Community Organization, Hong Kong Human Rights Commission and Committee on Concern for New Immigrant Women	http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr05-06/chinese/panels/ha/papers/ha0609cb2-2350-9c.pdf (Chinese version only)
		Minutes of meeting	http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr05-06/english/panels/ha/minutes/ha060609.pdf

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