

Summary of concerns and recommendations in the most recent Concluding Observations/Comments issued by the respective United Nations Treaty Monitoring Bodies in respect of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) under the six human rights treaties

I. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)

	Subjects of concern/ <i>(Relevant article(s) of the Covenant)</i>	Recommendations	Requests
1.	The limited mandate and power of the Ombudsman, including its lack of oversight function of the police, and the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC). <i>(article 2)</i>	To consider the establishment of an independent human rights institution compliant with the Paris Principles.	---
2.	Investigations of police misconduct are still carried out by the police themselves through the Complaints Against Police (CAPO), and the Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC) does not have the power to ensure proper and effective investigation of complaints or for the effective implementation of the recommendations.	To ensure that the investigation of complaints against the police is carried out by an independent body, the decisions of which are binding on relevant authorities.	---

	Subjects of concern/ (Relevant article(s) of the Covenant)	Recommendations	Requests
	<i>(article 2)</i>		
3.	There is an absence of adequate legal protection of individuals against deportation to locations where they might be subjected to grave human rights violations. <i>(articles 6 and 7)</i>	To establish an appropriate mechanism to assess the risk faced by individuals expressing fears of being victims of grave human rights violations in the locations to which they may be returned.	---
4.	Hong Kong residents detained on the Mainland encounter difficulties in having contact with their families in Hong Kong. <i>(article 10)</i>	To take measures to ensure that the notification system between the regional and Mainland authorities is complied with and that cases of detention are notified promptly to the relatives in HKSAR.	---
5.	There is no clear legislative framework regarding the capacity of law enforcement agencies to intercept communications and carry out covert surveillance.	To enact legislation on the matter which is in full conformity with article 17 of the Covenant, and provide a mechanism of protection and redress to individuals claiming interference with their privacy	---

	Subjects of concern/ (Relevant article(s) of the Covenant)	Recommendations	Requests
	<i>(article 17)</i>	or correspondence.	
6.	There are reports of intimidation and harassment against journalists and media personnel, frequently in connection with debates on political issues. <i>(article 19)</i>	To take vigorous measures to prevent and prosecute harassment of media personnel, and ensure that the media can operate independently and free from government intervention.	---
7.	The current definition of the offences of treason and sedition in the Crimes Ordinance is too broad. <i>(articles 19, 21 and 22)</i>	To amend legislation regarding the offences of treason and sedition to bring it into full conformity with the Covenant.	---
8.	Many families remain separated or their members feel necessitated to stay in HKSAR illegally as a result of the right of abode policies. In some cases, family members who have been repatriated to the Mainland are not even provided with two-way permits to visit their families in	To ensure that policies and practices regarding the right of abode fully take into consideration HKSAR's obligations regarding the right of families and children to protection enshrined in articles 23 and 24 of the Covenant.	---

	Subjects of concern/ (Relevant article(s) of the Covenant)	Recommendations	Requests
	HKSAR. (articles 23 and 24)		
9.	Concerns about the handling of domestic violence cases by the police and the funding of social services to assist the victims persist. (articles 3, 23 and 24)	To make sure that police officers have received proper training to deal with cases of domestic violence and ensure adequate allocation of resources for protection and provision of assistance to the victims.	---
10.	There were allegations of threats and acts of vandalism against some legislators during the run up to elections in 2004. (articles 19 and 25)	To investigate allegations of harassment of legislators and ensure that they do not recur, and take the necessary steps for full compliance with articles 19 and 25.	---
11.	The implementation of the procedure for interpretation of the Basic Law, such as on electoral and public affairs issues, does not include adequate arrangements to ensure that such interpretations are in	(a) To ensure that all interpretations of the Basic Law, including on electoral and public affairs issues, are in compliance with the Covenant; and	---

	Subjects of concern/ (Relevant article(s) of the Covenant)	Recommendations	Requests
	<p>compliance with the Covenant. The Committee reiterates that it still considers that the electoral system in Hong Kong does not meet the requirements of article 25, as well as articles 2, paragraph 1 and 26 of the Covenant.</p> <p><i>(articles 2, 25 and 26)</i></p>	<p>(b) To take all necessary measures whereby the Legislative Council is elected by universal and equal suffrage.</p>	
12.	<p>There is no relevant specific legislation to combat racial discrimination.</p> <p><i>(article 26)</i></p>	<p>To adopt the necessary legislation in order to ensure full compliance with article 26 of the Covenant.</p>	---
13.	---	---	<p>To submit within one year information on the follow-up given to the Committee's recommendations as summarized above in points 2, 6, 8 and 11, and to include in its next periodic report information on the remaining recommendations and on the implementation of the Covenant as a whole.</p>

Notes:

1. The Human Rights Committee considered the second periodic report of HKSAR on 20 and 21 March 2006. The Committee adopted the above concluding observations on 30 March 2006.
2. The HKSAR's third periodic report is due for submission in 2010.

II. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)

	Subjects of concern	Recommendations	Requests
1.	The protection afforded by the proposed racial discrimination law will not cover migrants from the Mainland and, according to the proposals made by the Home Affairs Bureau, the new law will not affect the existing immigration legislation in HKSAR.	<p>(a) To extend the protection afforded by the proposed racial discrimination law to internal migrants from the Mainland, and put a stop to the widespread discriminatory practices against them on the basis of their origin; and</p> <p>(b) To amend the relevant provisions of the existing immigration legislation governing entry into, period of stay, and departure from, HKSAR to ensure full conformity and consistency with the new racial discrimination legislation.</p>	---
2.	There is a lack of a clear asylum policy, and the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, to which China is a party, are	To reconsider the position regarding the extension of the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol to HKSAR, and	---

	Subjects of concern	Recommendations	Requests
	not extended to HKSAR.	strengthen its cooperation with the United Nations Human Rights Commission, in particular, in the formulation of a clear and coherent asylum policy based on the principle of non-discrimination.	
3.	There is a wage disparity between men and women despite that the Sex Discrimination Ordinance provides sufficient protection for women in the field of employment, in accordance with the principle of equal pay for work of equal value.	---	To provide in the next periodic report the results of the EOC's Study on Gender-based Pay Inequalities and the measures to follow up the findings of the study.
4.	The social security system in HKSAR does not include unemployment benefits.	To consider extending the social security system to cover unemployed workers through the payment of an unemployment benefit based on contributions from employers and employees.	---
5.	Foreign domestic workers are not	(a) To review the existing "two-week	---

	Subjects of concern	Recommendations	Requests
	entitled to social security.	<p>rule", with a view to eliminating discriminatory practices and abuse arising from the implementation, and to improving the legal protection and benefits for foreign domestic workers so that they are in line with those afforded to local workers, particularly with regard to wages and retirement benefits; and</p> <p>(b) To enable domestic workers to acquire pension rights through their inclusion in the Mandatory Provident Fund.</p>	
6.	(a) The levels of benefit under the existing social security system, the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) in particular, are not sufficient to guarantee a decent standard of living and many low-income	To review the eligibility criteria for CSSA so as to ensure that all those in need, including low-income persons and families, older persons and new migrants are adequately covered by the scheme to enable them to enjoy a decent standard of living.	---

	Subjects of concern	Recommendations	Requests
	<p>persons, in particular older persons, are not covered by the scheme; and</p> <p>(b) New migrants are unable to apply for CSSA due to seven-year residence requirement.</p>		
7.	<p>There are reports of the high incidence of trafficking in persons, especially women and children into HKSAR, mainly for the purpose of sexual exploitation.</p>	<p>To ensure respect for the necessary procedural safeguards when deporting victims of trafficking in persons, particularly when such victims are minors, and to provide them with the necessary medical, psychological and legal support.</p>	<p>(a) To provide in the next periodic report detailed information on the problem of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of persons and on measures taken to effectively address the problems; and</p> <p>(b) To report back to the Committee in the next periodic report on the result of the study by the Commission on Women on domestic violence.</p>

	Subjects of concern	Recommendations	Requests
8.	There are reports of increasing of poverty among the older persons.	To strengthen the efforts in combating poverty and social exclusion, in particular with regard to the disadvantaged and marginalized groups, and older persons, and adopt an official poverty line.	To provide in the next periodic report disaggregated and comparative annually-collected data on the number of people living in poverty and on progress made in reducing the incidence of poverty, and the impact, if any, that the newly-established Commission on Poverty has had on the issue of poverty in HKSAR.
9.	The spending on public hospitals has been on the decline, resulting in longer waiting lists for patients, and, under the current fee waiver system, low income patients still do not receive the most appropriate medical care.	(a) To continue the efforts in improving the health services, <i>inter alia</i> , through the allocation of adequate and increased resources; and (b) To consider revising the current subsidized drug list to meet the needs of the chronically-ill and the mentally-ill.	To submit in the next periodic report annually collected comparative statistical data, disaggregated by sex, age and urban/rural residence, paying particular attention to the disadvantaged and marginalized groups.
10.	The level of awareness of the general public of sexual and reproductive health	To develop a comprehensive sexual and reproductive health programme,	---

	Subjects of concern	Recommendations	Requests
	issues is low in HKSAR.	including a public awareness-raising campaign about safe contraceptive methods, and introduce education on sexual and reproductive health in the school curriculum.	
11.	The measures taken to facilitate enrolment in local schools of children of migrants from the Mainland and other foreign migrant workers, who do not have the legal right to remain in HKSAR, are insufficient.	To amend legislation to provide for the right to education of all school-aged children in its jurisdiction, including children of migrants without the legal right to remain in HKSAR.	---
12.	---	To ensure that human rights education is provided in schools at all levels, and raise awareness about human rights, in particular, economic, social and cultural rights among state officials and the judiciary.	---

Notes:

1. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights considered the initial report of China (including HKSAR) on 27, 28

and 29 April 2005. The Committee adopted the above concluding observations on 13 May 2005.

2. The Committee requested HKSAR to submit its second periodic report before 30 June 2010.

III. International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD)

	Subjects of concern/ (Relevant article(s) of the Convention)	Recommendations	Requests
1.	There is an absence of legal provisions in HKSAR protecting persons from racial discrimination to which they may be subjected by private persons, groups or organizations. <i>(article 2, paragraph 1(d))</i>	To review the existing unsatisfactory situation thoroughly, and adopt appropriate legislation to provide appropriate legal remedies and prohibit discrimination based on race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin.	---
2.	Concerns about the situation of foreign domestic workers in HKSAR and the existence of certain rules and practices, such as the so-called "two-week rule", which may be discriminatory in effect.	---	---
3.	---	---	To provide in subsequent reports of China, inter alia, detailed information on judicial cases relating specifically to violations of the Convention, including in the Special Administrative Regions, with special reference to the granting by

	Subjects of concern/ (<i>Relevant article(s) of the Convention</i>)	Recommendations	Requests
			courts of adequate reparation for such violations.

Notes:

1. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination considered the eighth and ninth periodic reports of China (including HKSAR) on 31 July and 1 August 2001. The Committee adopted the above concluding observations on 8 and 9 August 2001.

2. The Committee recommended that the requested the People's Republic of China submit its tenth periodic report jointly with its eleventh periodic report due on 28 January 2003.

IV. Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)

	Subjects of concern/ (Relevant article(s) of the Convention)	Recommendations	Requests
1.	The reference to "lawful authority, justification or excuse" as a defence for a person charged with torture, as well as the definition of a public official in the Crimes (Torture) Ordinance, are not in full conformity with article 1 of the Convention. <i>(article 1)</i>	To take the necessary steps to ensure that torture, as defined in article 1 of the Convention, is effectively prosecuted and appropriately sanctioned and make efforts to prevent other acts of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.	---
2.	There are as yet no prosecutions under the Crimes (Torture) Ordinance, despite circumstances brought to the attention of the Committee justifying such prosecutions.	To make continued efforts to ensure that IPCC becomes a statutory body, with increased competence.	---
3.	Not all instances of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment are covered by the Crimes (Torture) Ordinance.	To continue and intensify preventive measures against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, including training for law	---

	Subjects of concern/ (Relevant article(s) of the Convention)	Recommendations	Requests
		enforcement officials.	
4.	The practices in HKSAR relating to refugees may not be in full conformity with article 3 of the Convention. <i>(article 3)</i>	To bring laws and practices relating to refugees into full conformity with article 3 of the Convention.	---

Notes:

1. The Committee against Torture considered the third periodic report of China (including HKSAR) on 4, 5 and 9 May 2000. The Committee adopted the above concluding observations on 9 May 2000.
2. The next periodic report is due for submission in 2009.

V. Convention on Rights of the Child (CRC)

	Subjects of concern/ (Relevant article(s) of the Convention)	Recommendations	Requests
1.	<u>General measures of implementation</u> (articles 4, 42 and 44 (para. 6))		
	(a) Reservations with respect to articles 32 and 37(c) remain in force in HKSAR.	To review and withdraw all reservations to the Convention for all areas.	---
	(b) There is a lack of a comprehensive Plan of Action for the implementation of the Convention in HKSAR.	To improve the coordination of the activities on the implementation of the Convention by developing and implementing a Plan of Action for HKSAR.	---
	(c) There is an absence of an independent national human rights institution with a specific mandate on child rights in HKSAR.	To establish a national human rights institution in HKSAR which includes a clear mandate for the monitoring of children's rights and the implementation of the Convention at national, regional and local levels and in accordance with	---

	Subjects of concern/ (Relevant article(s) of the Convention)	Recommendations	Requests
		the Principles relating to the Status of National Institutions (The Paris Principles) contained in General Assembly resolution 48/134 of 20 December 1993. Such an institution can be a specialized branch of the existing Office of the Ombudsman in HKSAR.	
	(d) Resources allocated to reduce poverty are insufficient and income disparities are increasing within the population in HKSAR.	To work out budget allocations targeted towards reducing income disparities in HKSAR, and establish an adequate monitoring system to ensure that budgetary allocations benefit the most vulnerable population.	---
	(e) There is limited public accessibility to reliable and comprehensive statistical data on the Mainland on all areas covered by the Convention.	To explore the development of central databanks on children's statistics for the Mainland and the Special Administrative Regions so as to ensure that statistical data is used for the development, implementation and monitoring of	---

	Subjects of concern/ (Relevant article(s) of the Convention)	Recommendations	Requests
		appropriate policies and programmes for children.	
	(f) Professionals working with and for children, as well as children and parents themselves, have limited awareness and understanding of the Convention in HKSAR.	<p>(a) To further strengthen the efforts to disseminate the Convention in all languages, and also through the use of child-friendly materials and school curricula;</p> <p>(b) To expand the programmes for enhancing the sensitivity of parents and children about the Convention; and</p> <p>(c) To increase the efforts to provide adequate and systematic training on children's rights for professional groups working with and for children.</p>	---
2.	<u>General principles</u>		

	Subjects of concern/ (Relevant article(s) of the Convention)	Recommendations	Requests
	<i>(articles 2, 3, 6 and 12)</i>		
	(a) Discrimination against refugee, asylum-seeking and undocumented migrant children persists in HKSAR and there is a lack of legislation specifically prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race or sexual orientation.	To expedite the efforts to draft and adopt legislation prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race or sexual orientation in HKSAR.	To provide more detailed information on this issue in the next periodic report.
	(b) Children's views are not sought systematically on all policies and programmes affecting them.	(a) To strengthen the efforts to ensure that children have the right to express their views freely in all matters affecting them and have those views to be given due weight in policy-making, administrative proceedings, schools and the home; (b) To ensure systematically active participation of children's organizations when developing	---

	Subjects of concern/ (Relevant article(s) of the Convention)	Recommendations	Requests
		<p>policies or programmes affecting them such as the current education reform; and</p> <p>(c) To consider establishing a standing body to represent children's views in the political process.</p>	
3.	<p><u>Civil rights and freedoms</u></p> <p><i>(articles 7, 8, 13-17, 19 and 37(a))</i></p>		
	<p>Corporal punishment within the family is not prohibited by law and continues to be practised at home in HKSAR.</p>	<p>(a) To prohibit explicitly by law corporal punishment in the family, schools, institutions and all other settings, including penal institutions; and</p> <p>(b) To expand public education and awareness-raising campaigns with the involvement of children on alternative non-violent forms of</p>	---

	Subjects of concern/ (Relevant article(s) of the Convention)	Recommendations	Requests
		discipline in order to change public attitudes about corporal punishment.	
4.	<u>Family environment and alternative care</u> (articles 5, 18 (paras.1-2), 9-11, 19-21, 25, 27 (para. 4) and 39)		
	(a) Existing quotas for persons entering HKSAR from the Mainland and regulations regarding the right of abode in HKSAR contribute to separation of children from their parents and hinder family reunification.	---	---
	(b) Adoption	To extend the application of the 1993 Hague Convention No. 33 on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption to HKSAR as	---

	Subjects of concern/ <i>(Relevant article(s) of the Convention)</i>	Recommendations	Requests
		soon as possible, and ensure incorporation of the legal provisions of the 1993 Hague Convention into domestic legislation in HKSAR.	
	(c) Policies and programmes to assist child victims of violence are not fully effective.	(a) To define in a more explicit manner the forms of sexual abuse and increase education and training for professionals working with and for children on the identification, handling and prevention of all forms of abuse; (b) To strengthen coordination and follow-up of individual cases of abuse, neglect and maltreatment and ensure that all victims of any form of abuse, and their families, have access to social services and assistance, and; (c) To ensure handling investigations	---

	Subjects of concern/ (Relevant article(s) of the Convention)	Recommendations	Requests
		without any discrimination as to whether the alleged perpetrators are from within or outside the family.	
5.	<u>Basic health and welfare</u> (articles 6, 18 (para.3), 23, 24, 26, 27 (paras.1-3))		
	(a) Health and health services	To develop policies and programmes to adequately address the problems of malnutrition and obesity in children and promote breastfeeding through strengthening the implementation of the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes in all parts of the State party, including the China Code for Marketing of Breast Milk Substitutes, and through the promotion of Baby Friendly Hospitals in HKSAR.	---

	Subjects of concern/ (Relevant article(s) of the Convention)	Recommendations	Requests
	(b) There is a lack of information on high incidence of teenage pregnancies and abortions in HKSAR.	(a) To pay close attention to adolescent health and the provision of appropriate adolescent health services; (b) To strengthen the efforts to promote adolescent health, including sexual and reproductive health education in schools; and (c) To introduce school health services, including youth-sensitive and confidential counselling and care.	---
	(c) Mental health	To continue strengthening the efforts to prevent youth suicide.	---
	(d) HIV/AIDS	To strengthen the efforts to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS in the Mainland and the Special Administrative Regions and continue to raise awareness about	---

	Subjects of concern/ (Relevant article(s) of the Convention)	Recommendations	Requests
		HIV/AIDS among adolescents particularly among those belonging to vulnerable groups.	
	(e) Child poverty exists among vulnerable populations such as the unemployed, immigrants and single parent families, and there is a lack of an established poverty line which hinders the formulation of appropriate policies to combat poverty.	To establish a poverty line and develop appropriate policies to combat child poverty which address the problem of widening income disparities while expanding access to social welfare benefits to all vulnerable populations including new immigrants.	---
7.	<u>Education, leisure and cultural activities</u> (articles 28, 29 and 31)		
	(a) Concerns about drop out rates in secondary schools, the competitive nature of the school system and	(a) To develop programmes aimed at addressing the drop out rates in secondary education;	---

	Subjects of concern/ (Relevant article(s) of the Convention)	Recommendations	Requests
	bullying in schools.	<p>(b) To further strengthen existing programmes aimed at addressing violence in schools, including with the participation of students themselves; and</p> <p>(c) To enhance the quality of education in a manner that seeks to reduce the competitiveness of the education system and promote active learning capacities and the right of a child to play and leisure.</p>	
8.	<u>Special protection measures</u> (articles 22, 38, 39, 40 , 37 (b)-(d), 32-36)		
	(a) Refugee children and undocumented migrant children are not guaranteed access to	To amend legislation and regulations to ensure that all refugees, asylum-seeking or undocumented migrant children in	---

	Subjects of concern/ (Relevant article(s) of the Convention)	Recommendations	Requests
	education.	HKSAR are able to attend school without undue delays.	
	(b) There is an absence of any data or reported cases of child prostitution in HKSAR and the application of the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography has not yet been extended to HKSAR.	(a) To further develop and enhance systems of early prevention of sexual exploitation and trafficking; (b) To further strengthen the efforts to identify and investigate trafficking cases, to improve understanding of the issues of trafficking and ensure that perpetrators are prosecuted; (c) To develop and adopt a comprehensive policy to prevent and combat sexual exploitation and trafficking in children, including the root causes and actors that place children at risk of such exploitation;	---

	Subjects of concern/ <i>(Relevant article(s) of the Convention)</i>	Recommendations	Requests
		<p>(d) To provide adequate programmes of assistance and reintegration for sexually exploited and/or trafficked children in accordance with the Declaration and Agenda for Action and the Global Commitment adopted at the 1996 and 2001 World Congresses against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children; and</p> <p>(e) To ratify the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000).</p>	
	<p>(c) The age of criminal responsibility of ten is too low, and children</p>	<p>(a) To raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility to an</p>	<p>---</p>

	Subjects of concern/ <i>(Relevant article(s) of the Convention)</i>	Recommendations	Requests
	<p>between the ages of 16 and 18 are not accorded consistently special protection when coming into conflict with the law.</p>	<p>internationally acceptable level;</p> <p>(b) To abolish life sentences for persons who have committed offences while under the age of 18;</p> <p>(c) To ensure that all children under the age of 18 are accorded consistently special protection when coming into conflict with the law, and that their cases are heard in specialized juvenile courts by appropriately trained magistrates, and;</p> <p>(d) To ensure that deprivation of liberty is always used as a last resort, and strengthen and expand possibilities for alternative sentencing, such as mediation, probation, community service or suspended sentences.</p>	

Notes

1. The Committee on the Rights of the Child considered the second periodic report of China (including HKSAR) on 19 and 20 September 2005 and adopted the above concluding observations on 30 September 2005.
2. The next periodic report is due for submission by 31 March 2009.

VI. Covenant on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

	<p align="center">Subjects of concern/ (<i>Relevant article(s) of the Covenant</i>)</p>	<p align="center">Recommendations</p>	<p align="center">Requests</p>
<p>1.</p>	<p>The prosecution rate of domestic violence is low.</p>	<p>(a) To strengthen the efforts in combating all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence;</p> <p>(b) To enhance women's access to justice, including by ensuring an effective response to complaints and carrying out more proactive investigations of complaints, and improve gender-sensitivity training for judicial and law enforcement officials and health and social workers on violence against women; and</p> <p>(c) To allocate sufficient resources to combat all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence, and provide</p>	<p>---</p>

	Subjects of concern/ (Relevant article(s) of the Covenant)	Recommendations	Requests
		<p>details about budget allocation in its next periodic report.</p> <p>(d) To re-establish the Hong Kong rape crisis centres so as to ensure that victims of sexual violence receive specific attention and counselling in full anonymity.</p>	
2.	Only indigenous men, but not indigenous women, are entitled under the Small House Policy to apply for a permit to build a residence in the New Territories.	To repeal all discriminatory provisions from the Small House Policy and ensure that indigenous women have the same rights and access to property as indigenous men.	---
3.	<p>The level of political representation of women, including in the functional constituencies is low.</p> <p><i>(article 4 (para. 1))</i></p>	To take temporary special measures in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention and the Committee's general recommendation 25 so as to increase women's representation in politics, including in the functional constituencies.	---

	Subjects of concern/ (Relevant article(s) of the Covenant)	Recommendations	Requests
		<p>(Note: The Committee's general recommendation 25 is reproduced below -</p> <p><i>"The Committee encourages the State party to take sustained measures, including temporary special measures, such as the establishment of adequate numerical goals and targets, and timetables, so as to progress more expeditiously towards women's full and equal representation in elected and appointed bodies in all areas of public life, from the local to the national levels, and in all branches of Government, including in the country's foreign service. The Committee recommends that the State party conduct training programmes on leadership and negotiation skills for current and future women leaders. It further urges the State party to undertake</i></p>	

	Subjects of concern/ (Relevant article(s) of the Covenant)	Recommendations	Requests
		<i>awareness-raising about the importance of women's participation in decision-making processes at all levels of society."</i>	
4.	Concerns about the situation of female foreign domestic workers who may be subject to double discrimination on the basis of their sex and ethnic background, the "two-week rule" that may push foreign domestic workers to accept new employment which may have unfair or abusive terms and conditions in order to be able to stay in HKSAR, and reports about abuse perpetrated by employment agencies against domestic workers, such as lower wages, fewer holidays and longer working hours than what are prescribed by law.	<p>(a) To ensure that female foreign domestic workers are not discriminated against their employers or subject to abuse and violence, repeal the "two-week rule" and implement a more flexible policy regarding foreign domestic workers;</p> <p>(b) To strengthen its control of employment agencies and provide migrant workers with easily accessible avenues of redress against abuse by employers and permit them to stay in the country while seeking redress; and</p>	---

	Subjects of concern/ (Relevant article(s) of the Covenant)	Recommendations	Requests
		(c) To make migrant workers aware of their rights so that they have access to justice and can claim their rights.	
5.	Concerns about the situation of women asylum seekers and refugees in HKSAR and HKSAR has no intention of having the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees extended to the territory.	To extend the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees to HKSAR so as to ensure that women asylum seekers and refugees can fully benefit from its protection.	---

Notes

1. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women considered the fifth and sixth periodic reports of China (including HKSAR) on 10 August 2006 and adopted the above concluding comments on 25 August 2006.
2. The Committee requested China to submit its seventh periodic report, due in September 2006, and its eighth periodic report, due in September 2010, in a combined report in 2010.