

Speech at LEGCO Public Forum on the Domestic Violence Ordinance

23 Jan 2009

Mr Chairman,

I am a working mother with two kids.

It seems what is controversial is not whether we should protect people with different sexual orientation from violence, which I totally agree. **The bone of contention lies in the word ‘domestic’ / ‘家庭’ in the ordinance given the proposed extension of its scope to cover relationships that cannot be defined as ‘familial relationships’. The inconsistency and ambiguity arising from the amendment will definitely open a loophole for future lawsuits against HK’s family and marriage ordinances.**

The majority of HK people take the word ‘family’ as referring to one of the basic units of a society consisting of a man and a woman, and children, if any, in a marital relationship. We teach our kids this way as this is something in our blood and conscience. I accept the reality that there are people with different sexual orientation, homosexual, bi-sexual and even asexual. We shouldn’t discriminate them as they are just like people having different sexes, temperaments, disabilities, intelligence, etc. **But there are social boundaries we should accept too.** For instance, we don’t accept a man entering a female toilet or vice versa. People without physical disabilities can’t join the Olympic Games for the Physically Disabled. This is not discrimination, but rather demarcation for the benefit of achieving certain purposes. Therefore, if ‘same sex couples’ does not appear in the existing ‘Marriage and Family Ordinances’ and is not considered to be equivalent to ‘family’ by the vast majority of HK people, we shouldn’t include it in an ordinance that bears ‘family’/ 家庭 in its title. **Again this is not a matter of discrimination, but rather demarcation for the purpose of maintaining the integrity of the laws of Hong Kong.**

Parents are having a hard time teaching children the right values in this moral degrading society. **Family values and family system are parents’ last territories! I request the administration either exclude ‘same sex couples’ from the DVO or carefully reword its title to avoid inconsistencies, ambiguity and future lawsuits.** Thank you.

Chu Fung Mei