

Chairperson  
Panel on Welfare Services  
Legislative Council  
8 Jackson Road  
Central  
February 4, 2009

**Fighting for the inclusion of same-sex cohabiting partners under the protection of Domestic Violence Ordinance**

I support the proposal to further expand the scope of the Domestic Violence Ordinance (DVO) to cover same sex co-habitants.

I am shocked and extremely upset by the groundless arguments put forward by some fundamentalists, who generate moral panic not just among themselves, but also among the general public.

It is clear that the DVO and the marriage law are two separate laws and the protection of same sex cohabitants in the DVO does NOT lead to the legalization of same sex marriage.

If the protection of same sex cohabitants would destroy the "traditional family values" stated by some fundamentalists, so would the divorced and single parented. I see such opposition as a complete discrimination based on sexual orientation.

DVO is an ordinance which recognizes the particularities of domestic violence, in which the victims are partially or entirely dependent on the abusers financially. They are also emotionally attached to the abusers in one way or another, which made it more difficult for victims to escape from the control of their abusers and to seek necessary help from outsiders.

Some suggested changing the name of the ordinance so as to include tenants, flat mates or anybody under the same roof. Such suggestion ignores the particularities of domestic violence as these people may not be financially interdependent or emotionally attached to each other, and hence do not counter the same difficulties.

Hong Kong is (or is said to be) a diversified, multicultural metropolitan (I thought we are the Asian World City ?). It is not up to the religious groups to define the concept of "family". We are not a city ruled by religion.

I respectfully urge your Panel and your able members to request the Administration to come up with a proposed amendment bill that duly extends protections to same-sex cohabitants into the DVO, which will allow for a more concrete and productive discussion.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,  
Yaki Wo