

11 February 2011

Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Chairperson
LegCo Panel on Constitutional Development

Dear Mr. Tam,

Request to have a public hearing on the effectiveness and implementation of RDO and ways forward for the Government

The Government and the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) has been implementing the Race Discrimination Ordinance (RDO) for more than a year. Civil society organizations and front line social service providers continue to express concern over the effectiveness and implementation of the RDO. Due to the loopholes of the RDO, victims of racial discrimination have no avenue to seek justice even though unjust acts or treatments such as the denial of opening a bank account occurred. The Government has the responsibility to review the inadequacy of the RDO and to make relevant amendments at the earliest possible opportunity to achieve equal opportunities and racial harmony.

The co-signed organizations and individuals urge your Panel to hold public hearings to invite the EOC to explain to the public the cases and difficulties in enforcing the RDO, and request the Government to explain its future directions and schedule of reviewing the RDO. Members of the public including civil society organizations, front line service providers and legal professions should be invited to discuss the issues.

Yours sincerely,

Hong Kong Human Rights Monitor
Hong Kong Unison
Hong Kong Christian Council Justice & Social Concern Committee
The Association for the Advancement of Feminism
International Human Rights Forum
Society for Cultural Integration
Christian Action
The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong
South Asians Youth Service
Hong Kong Catholic Commission For Labour Affairs
Hong Kong Christian Institute
Hon Wong Yuk-man, Legislative Councilor
Human Rights Task Force, Civil Human Rights Front
Hong Kong Federation of Students
Hong Kong Aircrew Officers Association