

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)1507/14-15
(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PS/5/12

Panel on Welfare Services

**Subcommittee on Strategy and Measures to
Tackle Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence**

**Minutes of meeting
held on Monday, 13 April 2015, at 2:00 pm
in Conference Room 2 of the Legislative Council Complex**

Members present : Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung (Chairman)
Hon CHAN Yuen-han, SBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Albert HO Chun-yan
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, BBS, MH, JP
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan
Hon TANG Ka-piu, JP

Member attending : Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP

Public Officers attending : Item I

Mr Stephen SUI Wai-keung, JP
Under Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Mr FUNG Man-chung
Assistant Director (Family & Child Welfare)
Social Welfare Department

Ms Annisa MA Sau-ching
Chief Social Work Officer (Domestic Violence)
Social Welfare Department

Mr Matthew Philip James Hemmings
Chief Superintendent (Crime Support) (Crime Wing)
Hong Kong Police Force

Ms Frances LEE King-hei
Superintendent (Crime Support) (Crime Wing) (Acting)
Hong Kong Police Force

Item II

Mr Stephen SUI Wai-keung, JP
Under Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Mr FUNG Man-chung
Assistant Director (Family & Child Welfare)
Social Welfare Department

Ms Annisa MA Sau-ching
Chief Social Work Officer (Domestic Violence)
Social Welfare Department

Mr NG Shu-chung
Senior Housing Manager / Tenancy Management Policy
Housing Department

**Attendance
by invitation**

: Item II

The Against Elderly Abuse of Hong Kong

Mr FOO Wai-lok
Principal Consultant (Policy and Legal Support)

Liberal Party

Ms Pearl TSANG
Representative

The Association for the Advancement of Feminism

Miss MAK Ka-lui
Organizer

Rainbow Action

Jimmy
Spokesperson

Rainbow of Hong Kong

Tommy Jai
Spokesperson

Women Coalition of HKSAR

YEO Wai-wai
Spokesperson

The Forthright Caucus

Ms DENG Zu-shun

Po Leung Kuk

Ms KONG Lai-chun
Assistant Principal Social Services Secretary
(Integrated Family Services)

Hong Kong Federation of Women's Centres

Ms Eva LEUNG
Centre-in-charge

Hong Kong Federation of Asian Domestic Workers Unions

Ms Shiella
Vice-chairperson

Union of Nepalese Domestic Workers in Hong Kong

Ms Bindu Mella
Executive Council Member

家暴婦女協助會

Ms TAN Shao-qun

The Democratic Party

Ms CHAN Shu-ying

PathFinders Limited

Ms Rachel Ganly
Research and Development Fellow

Civic Party

Miss Bonnie LEUNG Wing-man
Executive Member

Labour Party

Miss Judy NG
Representative

同根同天空

Ms FANG Cai-rong
Member

New Arrival Women League

Ms YEUNG Mei
Executive Director

Caritas Family Crisis Line and Education Centre

Ms WONG Chui-shan
Assistant Supervisor

Clerk in attendance : Miss Betty MA
Chief Council Secretary (2) 1

Staff in attendance : Ms Mina CHAN
Council Secretary (2) 1

Ms Kiwi NG
Legislative Assistant (2) 1

Miss Lulu YEUNG
Clerical Assistant (2) 1

Action

I. Application of Police's guidelines in handling domestic violence incidents

The Subcommittee deliberated (index of proceedings attached at **Annex**).

2. Members noted with concern that in addition to the classification of domestic violence incidents into three categories (viz. Domestic Violence (Crime), Domestic Violence (Miscellaneous) and Domestic Incidents) by the Police, it created a category of Family Violence (Crime) to deal with cases of crime involving violence occurring between persons who fell under the familial relationships other than spousal or intimate relationship (regardless of gender). Members were concerned about whether similar handling procedures were adopted by the Police for handling domestic conflict incidents and Family Violence (Crime) reports and making referral to the Social Welfare Department ("SWD") for appropriate support services.

3. In response to members' concerns, the Administration made the following points -

- (a) Family Violence (Crime) was introduced after the inclusion of same-sex cohabitation relationship in the Domestic and Cohabitation Relationship Violence Ordinance (Cap. 189) in 2009. The classification mechanism for domestic violence and family violence reports provided a useful tool for prioritising the actions to be taken and resources to be allocated for different types of domestic and family violence;

Action

- (b) the procedures for handling Family Violence (Crime) reports and domestic conflict reports were broadly the same. While the Police treated all reports with equal importance, the extent of resources to be deployed in dealing with reports of domestic or family violence depended upon the nature and actual circumstances of individual cases. Generally speaking, a designated domestic violence investigation unit in each Police District was set up to deal with domestic violence cases of serious nature. As for family violence reports, those with crime elements were handled by crime teams while serious cases would be taken up by district crime units. While an officer of Sergeant rank or above attending the scene was not a mandatory requirement for handling family violence reports, all such reports were handled by crime teams in accordance with the relevant operational guidelines. Such guidelines would be reviewed by the Police on a regular basis. Besides, upon receipt of a domestic conflict incident and family violence report, the responsible police officers must check all the parties involved against the Enhanced Central Domestic Violence Database, which contained details of all previous domestic violence reports and family violence reports, for carrying out risk assessment; and

- (c) SWD and the Police formulated respective operational guidelines according to their own roles and responsibilities in handling domestic and family violence. The two departments had all along worked closely in tackling the problem of domestic and family violence. SWD had also, in consultation with the relevant government departments and organisations, drawn up multi-disciplinary guidelines to assist the front-line professionals concerned in handling different types of domestic violence cases.

Clerk &
Admin

4. The Chairman suggested and members agreed that the Subcommittee Chairman should write to the Commissioner of Police, and copy the letter to the Chief Secretary for Administration, requesting the Police to provide its operational guidelines for handling domestic conflict incidents and Family Violence (Crime) reports, as well as the relevant statistics on Family Violence (Crime) reports received by the Police in the past years.

Action

II. Further discussion on shelter service and housing assistance for victims of domestic violence and sexual violence

5. The Subcommittee deliberated (index of proceedings attached at **Annex**).

6. The Subcommittee received views from 20 deputations attending the meeting, and noted two written submissions from organisations which had not attended the meeting. The major views and concerns expressed by deputations attending the meeting are summarised as follows -

- (a) to enhance the transparency of processing Compassionate Rehousing ("CR") and other housing assistance applications from victims of domestic violence and sexual violence, the Administration should make public the "Guidelines and Procedures for Processing Applications for Compassionate Rehousing and Other Housing Assistance";
- (b) in view of the inconsistency in the handling of housing assistance applications by front-line social workers, the Administration should set up an independent appeal mechanism to hear and determine appeals against decisions on housing assistance applications;
- (c) the Administration should review the processing of the Conditional Tenancy ("CT") Scheme applications, in particular those applicants who were awaiting a divorce decree. Consideration should also be given to waiving the seven-year residence requirement for the CT applicants who were victims of domestic violence and sexual violence;
- (d) additional resources should be provided to increase the number of places of refuge centres to better address the accommodation problem encountered by victims of domestic violence and sexual violence, in particular male victims and the elderly who were usually given less support when facing family problems and suffering abuse. The Administration should give higher priority for the provision of shelter service in its land use planning;

Action

- (e) the refuge centres should enhance their mutual referral mechanism so that better arrangement could be made to reserve adequate residential places for urgent cases amidst a tight supply situation;
- (f) with the recent upsurge of rent for housing in private sector, the current maximum rent allowance under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme ("CSSA") could not fully catch up with the increase in the actual rent. The Administration should review the mechanism for adjusting the amount of maximum rent allowance so as to assist those victims of domestic violence and sexual violence who were on CSSA but were ineligible for public rental housing, to rent private accommodation;
- (g) the Police should provide more support for the refuge centres for women by stepping up patrols in the vicinity of refuge centres to protect abused women taking refuge against continuous harassment by batterers, accompanying the abused women who needed to return home to collect personal belongings and establishing a communication mechanism with refuge centres;
- (h) the Administration should attach more importance to the problem of physical and sexual abuse encountered by foreign domestic helpers, who lacked knowledge of the avenues available for them to seek temporary accommodation and related support services. For those who had lodged complaints with the Police, they should be given alternative safe shelter options pending completion of police investigation and prosecution, if any. The Administration should arrange regular meetings with the representatives of foreign domestic helper unions and organisations to enhance its understanding of the multi-faceted problems faced by foreign domestic helpers suffering from physical and sexual assault; and
- (i) consideration should be given to setting up dedicated refuge centres as well as crisis and support centres for victims of domestic violence and sexual violence from vulnerable groups, such as ethnic minorities and sexual minorities, to cater for their specific needs.

Action

7. Members shared the concerns raised by the deputations attending the meeting, and considered it necessary for the Administration to draw up a concrete timetable for increasing places of short-term accommodation for victims of domestic violence and sexual violence.

8. Regarding the views and concerns expressed by members and deputations at the meeting, the Administration made the following points -

- (a) the Administration was aware of the high utilisation rate of refuge centres, and SWD was making active effort to explore with the operators of refuge centres the possibility of increasing the number of places through in-situ expansion by utilising spare space and to bid for additional resources and manpower in accordance with the established mechanism. The Administration considered it necessary to take forward the long-term planning for development of refuge centres. SWD would also continue to maintain close communication with the operators of refuge centres, and would seek additional resources to further improve the existing shelter service;
- (b) to ensure proper use of limited public resources, housing assistance should be provided for people who had genuine, urgent and long-term housing needs but were unable to resolve them on their own. Currently, 2 000 flats were reserved in the Public Rental Housing Allocation Plan every year for CR. The number of 2 000 flats was only for planning reference, rather than the upper limit of allocation. In the past years, the actual number of allocation of public rental housing flats for CR had been over 2 000 and even reached 2 700, having regard to the housing needs of individual cases;
- (c) in considering whether CR should be recommended, social workers, who had received proper training on housing assistance policies, would exercise professional judgement having regard to individual circumstances of the applicants. That said, SWD would continue to make effort to enhance the training of social workers;

Action

- (d) at present there were many avenues available for the public to lodge complaints against public service. CR applicants, if not satisfied with the application results, might appeal to the officers-in-charge, supervisors of the concerned service units or the District Social Welfare Officers of the respective districts. Their complaints would be handled seriously. SWD would meet with The Hong Kong Council of Social Service and the relevant organisations in end April 2015 to collect views on enhancing the existing system for handling complaints relating to housing assistance applications; and
- (e) to enhance the transparency of the processing of CR and other housing assistance applications, SWD would consider enriching the content of the leaflet on housing assistance to incorporate some information contained in the internal procedural guidelines for handling housing assistance requests.

Admin

- 9. The Administration was requested to provide -
 - (a) a concrete plan for increasing the capacity of refuge centres before the commencement of the 2015-2016 legislative session such that additional provisions could be earmarked for the expansion of shelter service in the next financial year; and
 - (b) a copy of SWD's "Guidelines and Procedures for Processing Applications for Compassionate Rehousing and Other Housing Assistance" for members' reference.

III. Any other business

- 10. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4:50 pm.

**Proceedings of meeting of the Subcommittee on Strategy and Measures to
Tackle Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence
held on Monday, 13 April 2015, at 2:00 pm
in Conference Room 2 of the Legislative Council Complex**

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s) / Discussion	Action Required
<i>Agenda item I - Application of Police's guidelines in handling domestic violence incidents</i>			
000000 - 000922	Chairman	Opening remarks	
000923 - 001630	Admin Chairman	Briefing by the Administration on the subject under discussion. [LC Paper No. CB(2)1213/14-15(01)]	
001631 - 002610	Chairman Mr Albert HO Admin	<p>Mr Albert HO enquired about the nature of those cases that were classified as "Domestic Incidents" under the Police's classification mechanism for domestic conflict reports and were referred by the Police to the Social Welfare Department ("SWD") for support services. The Police advised that the "Domestic Incidents" category was introduced to its classification mechanism for domestic conflict reports in 2009 to include all non-violent incidents occurring in a domestic context. Subject to the victims' consent, arrangement would be made to refer them to SWD for follow-up. However, for cases considered by the Police to be of high risk or serious nature, the Police would take the initiative to refer them for appropriate services, irrespective of the victims' consent for referral by the Police.</p> <p>Mr HO enquired about the Police's handling of the domestic violence cases with less serious crime elements, such as cases involving minor physical assault and psychological abuse cases. He asked whether the parties involved would be advised to settle the incident privately instead of filing the case with the Police.</p> <p>The Police advised that the suspect would be arrested as soon as possible if there were reasonable grounds for suspecting that he or she had committed an offence, and the suspect would then be prosecuted or bound over,</p>	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s) / Discussion	Action Required
		<p>depending upon the circumstances. Prosecution was dependant on the availability of sufficient evidence to prove a charge, and often relied upon the willingness of the victim to pursue the case.</p> <p>Mr HO asked whether the child victims of domestic violence were required to lodge complaints of abuse with the Police in person. The Police explained that in handling and investigating all complaints or reports of child abuse, it was necessary for the Police to conduct face-to-face interviews with the child victims in order to obtain first-hand account of the suspected abuse incidents before deciding on the appropriate follow-up action. Relevant information would also be collected from witnesses wherever applicable to ascertain the condition of the child victims.</p>	
002611 - 003809	Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che Chairman Admin	<p>Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che asked whether a unitary definition of domestic violence could be adopted by SWD and the Police to ensure consistency in handling domestic violence cases by the two departments and maintaining the relevant statistics.</p> <p>The Administration explained that in response to amendments to the Domestic and Cohabitation Relationships Violence Ordinance ("the Ordinance") (Cap. 189), the relevant procedural guidelines adopted by SWD were revised and developed accordingly to cover relationships defined in the Ordinance. Cases of domestic violence occurring between family members living together would be brought to the attention of Integrated Family Service Centres for appropriate assistance while those involving child abuse elements would be referred immediately to the Family and Child Protective Services Units for follow-up. The Police also had clear operational procedures and guidelines governing the handling of violence incidents occurred between persons of familial relationships as defined in the Ordinance. The Administration stressed that each case of domestic violence would be followed up in accordance with the relevant procedures and</p>	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s) / Discussion	Action Required
		<p>guidelines having regard to the nature and severity of the cases concerned.</p> <p>The Chairman and Mr CHEUNG's concern and the Administration's response regarding the definition of Family Violence (Crime) cases and the Police's classification of domestic violence cases into Domestic Conflict Reports and Family Violence (Crime) cases.</p> <p>In response to the Chairman's enquiry, the Police advised that the statistics on Family Violence (Crime) cases were not kept under the Police's classification for Domestic Conflict Reports.</p>	
003810 - 005021	Chairman Mr CHAN Chi-chuen Admin Deputy Chairman	<p>Mr CHAN Chi-chuen's enquiry and the Administration's response regarding the purpose of introducing the definition of Family Violence (Crime) by the Police.</p> <p>In response to Mr CHAN's enquiry about the referral mechanism between SWD and the Police for Family Violence (Crime) cases, the Police advised that front-line police officers would try to arrange for referral of the subject parties for follow-up services. If they agreed to the referral made by the Police, the case in question would be referred to the relevant departments for follow-up actions.</p> <p>To enhance the transparency in the procedures for handling Family Violence (Crime) cases by the Police, the Chairman requested the Police to provide a copy of the procedural guidelines for the handling of Family Violence (Crime) reports. The Deputy Chairman and Mr CHAN echoed the view. The Police advised that it might not be appropriate to make public the internal operational guidelines.</p> <p>The Chairman suggested and members agreed that the Subcommittee should write to the Commissioner of Police, with a copy of the letter to the Chief Secretary for Administration, requesting the Police to provide its operational guidelines for handling Domestic Conflict Reports and Family Violence (Crime) reports.</p>	Clerk & Admin

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s) / Discussion	Action Required
005022 - 010200	Dr KWOK Ka-ki Admin Chairman	<p>Dr KWOK Ka-ki's enquiry and the Administration's response regarding the Police's different handling procedures for Domestic Conflict Reports and Family Violence (Crime) reports, particularly the rank of police officer at the scene and whether investigation would be followed up by designated police units.</p> <p>Dr KWOK expressed dissatisfaction with the different classification of domestic violence cases as described in the Ordinance by the Police and SWD. He was concerned about whether Family Violence (Crime) reports would be duly referred by the Police to SWD for appropriate support services. He requested the Police to provide the relevant statistics on Family Violence (Crime) reports in the past years.</p>	Admin
010201 - 010507	Chairman	The Chairman remarked that various government departments should adopt consistent definition and classification system for handling and following up incidents of domestic violence occurring between persons with familial relationships as defined in the Ordinance. His reiteration of the request for the Police's relevant operational guidelines for handling Domestic Conflict Reports and statistics on Family Violence (Crime) cases.	Admin
<i>Agenda item II - Further discussion on shelter service and housing assistance for victims of domestic violence and sexual violence</i>			
010508 - 010700	Chairman	Opening remarks	
010701 - 011007	Chairman Mr FOO Wai-lok, The Against Elderly Abuse of Hong Kong	Presentation of views	
011008 - 011329	Ms Pearl TSANG, Liberal Party	Presentation of views	

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011330 - 011731	Miss MAK Ka-lui, The Association for the Advancement of Feminism Chairman	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)1282/14-15(01)]	
011732 - 011851	Jimmy, Rainbow Action	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)1261/14-15(02)]	
011852 - 012204	Tommy Jai, Rainbow of Hong Kong	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)1261/14-15(03)]	
012205 - 012332	YEO Wai-wai, Women Coalition of HKSAR	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)1261/14-15(04)]	
012333 - 012601	Ms DENG Zu-shun, The Forthright Caucus Chairman	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)1262/14-15(01)]	
012602 - 012914	Ms KONG Lai-chun, Po Leung Kuk Chairman	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)1213/14-15(05)]	
012915 - 013325	Ms Eva LEUNG, Hong Kong Federation of Women's Centres	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)1261/14-15(05)]	
013326 - 013554	Ms Shiella, Hong Kong Federation of Asian Domestic Workers Unions	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)1261/14-15(06)]	
013555 - 013643	Ms Bindu Mella, Union of Nepalese Domestic Workers in Hong Kong	Presentation of views	
013644 - 013913	Chairman Ms TAN Shao-qun, 家暴婦女協助會	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)1262/14-15(02)]	
013914 - 014237	Ms CHAN Shu-ying, The Democratic Party	Presentation of views	
014238 - 014549	Ms Rachel Ganly, PathFinders Limited	Presentation of views	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s) / Discussion	Action Required
014550 - 014931	Miss Bonnie LEUNG Wing-man, Civic Party	Presentation of views	
014932 - 015310	Miss Judy NG, Labour Party	Presentation of views	
015311 - 015727	Ms FANG Cai-rong, 同根同天空 Chairman	Presentation of views	
015728 - 020121	Ms YEUNG Mei, New Arrival Women League Chairman	Presentation of views	
020122 - 020424	Ms WONG Chui-shan, Caritas Family Crisis Line and Education Centre	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)1261/14-15(07)]	
020425 - 020520	Chairman	The Chairman advised that issues relating to support service for victims of domestic violence and sexual violence involving minority groups, such as foreign domestic helpers, ethnic minorities and sexual minorities, would be discussed by the Subcommittee at future meetings. The services and support for male victims of domestic violence and sexual violence would also be discussed by the Subcommittee in due course.	
020521 - 021810	Admin Chairman	The Administration's response to the views expressed by deputations at the meeting	
021811 - 021845	Chairman	Extension of meeting by 15 minutes	
021846 - 022259	Chairman Ms Emily LAU Admin	Ms Emily LAU shared the view of Ms Eva LEUNG of Hong Kong Federation of Women's Centres that dedicated refuge centres or crisis and support centres should be set up to cater for the special needs of ethnic minority women and sexual minorities. She agreed that the issue should be examined in details by the Subcommittee at future meetings. She called on the Administration to strengthen its efforts to address the housing needs of victims of domestic violence and sexual violence.	

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022300 - 023049	Mr Albert HO Admin Chairman	<p>Mr Albert HO considered it unnecessary for the Administration to conduct district consultation on the proposed establishment of refuge centres given that the location of refuge centres would be kept confidential for the safety of residents. Furthermore, he saw no reason why the district council concerned would object to the proposal.</p> <p>The Administration explained that government departments would keep district council members abreast of government policies and plans and the specific proposals that would likely affect the residents and those working in the districts.</p> <p>Mr HO requested the Administration to give due consideration to the call from both service providers and users of refuge centres for the Police to increase patrol in the vicinity of refuge centres to deter some batterers from further harassing the women and their children taking refuge. The Administration responded that it would convey the concern to the Police for further consideration.</p> <p>Mr HO sought clarification about the difference in eligibility between the Compassionate Rehousing ("CR") and the Conditional Tenancy ("CT") Schemes. The Administration explained that as far as victims of domestic violence or sexual violence were concerned, the CT Scheme is a form of housing assistance under CR for those who were on divorce proceedings to meet their genuine and imminent housing needs while awaiting the court decision on their divorce applications. SWD would recommend eligible applicants to HD for allocation of public rental housing flats in the form of CT until completion of the divorce proceedings, after which they might apply for converting their CT into a normal tenancy.</p> <p>Mr HO's enquiry about the Administration's response regarding the proposal of setting up an independent appeal mechanism to hear and determine appeals against decisions on housing assistance applications. The Administration advised that careful consideration had to be</p>	Admin

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s) / Discussion	Action Required
		<p>given to the proposal having regard to its far-reaching implication on the existing assessment mechanism for housing assistance applications. The service users might lodge complaints with SWD and the management of the organisations if they were dissatisfied with the services of the organisations concerned.</p>	
023050 - 023504	Dr Helena WONG Admin	<p>Dr Helena WONG asked how the Administration would estimate the demand from victims of domestic violence and sexual violence for shelter service and whether there was any timetable or concrete plan for increasing the number of temporary or short-term accommodation places to meet the demand.</p> <p>The Administration advised that in view of the fluctuation in the service demand for refuge centres in the past few years, the Administration had to examine thoroughly the overall trend for shelter service and the situation of domestic violence and sexual violence in Hong Kong when making the estimation of the future service demand for refuge centres. That said, having regard to the over-utilisation of refuge centres in recent years, the Administration saw the need to increase the number of places of refuge centres. It was exploring with the operators of refuge centres the possibility of providing more places (approximately 20 to 30 places) through in-situ expansion by utilising spare space and bidding for additional manpower and resources for the purpose.</p> <p>Dr WONG asked about the target service users of the additional places of refuge centres. The Administration advised that SWD would discuss with service providers the mode of service delivery in response to the increase in places to ensure that resources were put to the optimal use.</p>	

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023505 - 024314	Mr CHAN Chi-chuen Admin Chairman	<p>Mr CHAN Chi-chuen asked whether the Administration would consider the suggestion of setting up a dedicated crisis and support centre for sexual minorities suffering from domestic violence or sexual violence. The Administration advised that SWD maintained continuous communication and met with sexual minority groups on a regular basis. To meet the changing needs of the community, the Administration considered that it was high time to conduct a comprehensive review on the provision of shelter service to cater for the needs of different user groups.</p> <p>Mr CHAN asked about the Administration's response regarding the inclusion of representatives from sexual minority groups in the Working Group on Combating Violence ("the Working Group") and the collection of data from sexual minority groups under the reporting mechanism for domestic and sexual violence cases, which were raised at previous meetings.</p> <p>The Administration responded that the composition of the Working Group should be based on the principle of balanced representation. The suggestion of inviting representatives of sexual minority groups to join the Working Group was being considered together with the views received recently from other relevant organisations. As stated in previous meetings, a concrete response would be provided to the Subcommittee in May 2015.</p> <p>In respect of the concern about the consistency in data collection under the reporting mechanism for domestic and sexual violence cases, the Administration explained that the reporting officers under the existing mechanism were professionals of government departments, service providers, schools and Hospital Authority.</p> <p>The Chairman took the view that while close collaboration with service providers was essential in tackling the problem of domestic violence and sexual violence, the</p>	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s) / Discussion	Action Required
		Administration should also attach equal importance to the views expressed by service users.	
024315 - 024715	Chairman	<p>The Chairman considered that there should be a timetable for increasing the capacity of refuge centres. The planning process should be transparent with the participation of the relevant stakeholders. He requested the Administration to provide the concrete plan before the commencement of the 2015-2016 legislative session such that additional provision could be earmarked for the expansion of shelter service in the next financial year.</p> <p>The Chairman also requested the Administration to provide for members' reference a copy of SWD's "Guidelines and Procedures for Processing Applications for Compassionate Rehousing and Other Housing Assistance".</p> <p>The Chairman shared a similar view with Mr Albert HO that it was not necessary for the Administration to conduct district consultation on the proposal to set up a refuge centre having regard to the confidentiality of the locations of refuge centres.</p>	<p>Admin</p> <p>Admin</p>
024716 - 024935	Chairman Miss Judy NG, Labour Party	Concern raised by Miss Judy NG of the Labour Party about the classification of Family Violence (Crime) reports by the Police	
024936 - 025014	Chairman	Closing remarks	