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LABOUR AND WELFARE BUREAU  
GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT

Central Government Offices  
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8 June 2015

Dr Fernando CHEUNG  
Chairman of Subcommittee  
Panel on Welfare Services  
Subcommittee on Strategy and Measures  
to Tackle Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence  
Legislative Council, Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central  
Hong Kong

Dear Dr Cheung,

**Panel on Welfare Services**

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

The Chief Secretary for Administration has asked me to thank you for your letter to her dated 18 May 2015, conveying the views of Members of the Subcommittee on Strategy and Measures to Tackle Domestic Violence (the Subcommittee) on the membership of the Working Group on Combating Violence (Working Group). She has asked me to reply on her behalf.

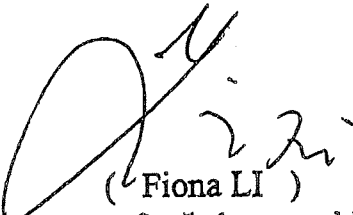
The Working Group, convened by the Social Welfare Department (SWD), is tasked to map out the overall strategies and approaches to tackle the problem of intimate partner violence and sexual violence in Hong Kong. Chaired by the Director of Social Welfare, the Working Group comprises 22 members representing the relevant government bureaux and departments, the Hong Kong Council of Social Service and non-governmental organisations. Attached are the Terms of Reference and current Membership of the Working Group. SWD has carefully considered the request of the Subcommittee to invite a reasonable number of representatives from sexual minority groups to join the Working Group, and SWD's views are set out in the paper (paragraphs 13 to 14)

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to be put forward by the Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB) to the next meeting of the Subcommittee to be held on 9 June 2015.

SWD is mindful of the need to better understand the problems and specific needs of sexual minorities facing domestic violence, and is committed to having regular meetings with different sexual minority groups/organisations so as to have in-depth discussions and exchanges on various issues concerning domestic violence faced by them. As a matter of fact, SWD has met with the representatives of the Alliance against Domestic Violence (the Alliance) since April 2011 to understand the domestic violence problem among the sexual minorities and to exchange views on the support services. To address the specific concerns of the Alliance, SWD lined up the Hong Kong Police Force to meet with the representatives of the Alliance on 29 May 2015. I should also add that representatives of LWB and SWD will have a further meeting with the Alliance some time later this month.

Yours sincerely,



( Fiona LI )  
for Secretary for Labour and Welfare

c.c. Chief Secretary for Administration  
Director of Social Welfare

Encl.

## Working Group on Combating Violence

### Terms of Reference

1. To examine the problem of violence in Hong Kong, with main focus on spouse/cohabitant battering and sexual violence;
2. To map out strategies and approaches in handling the problem, including prevention, public education, publicity and provision of services;
3. To examine the existing procedures and guidelines on handling the problem and recommend improvement measures;
4. To strengthen coordination and cooperation among government departments, non-government organisations and professionals in handling and combating the problem;
5. To coordinate statistics and facilitate research studies; and
6. To form task groups or sub-groups to examine specific issues where necessary.

## Membership List

Post/ Department/ Agency	
<b>A.</b>	<b>Official Members</b>
1.	Director Social Welfare Department [Chairman]
2.	Assistant Director (Family and Child Welfare) Social Welfare Department
3.	Chief Clinical Psychologist Social Welfare Department
4.	Principal Assistant Secretary (Welfare) Labour and Welfare Bureau
5.	Principal Assistant Secretary Security Bureau
6.	Senior Assistant Director (Public Prosecutions) Department of Justice
7.	Senior Legal Aid Counsel Legal Aid Department
8.	Senior Medical Officer (Family and Health Services) Department of Health
9.	Officer-in-charge Consultant Forensic Pathologist Department of Health
10.	Chief Manager (Cluster Performance) Hospital Authority
11.	Principal Inspector (Guidance and Discipline) Education Bureau
12.	Senior Executive Officer (I) Home Affairs Department
13.	Superintendent of Police (Crime Support) Hong Kong Police Force

<b>Post/ Department/ Agency</b>	
14.	Chief Manager/ Management (Tuen Mun & Yuen Long) Housing Department
15.	Chief Information Officer (Promotion) Information Services Department
<b>B.</b>	<b>NGO Representatives</b>
16.	Executive Director Association Concerning Sexual Violence Against Women
17.	Head of Family Service Caritas – Hong Kong
18.	Business Director (Service Development) Christian Family Service Centre
19.	Executive Director Harmony House
20.	Assistant Principal Social Services Secretary (Integrated Family Services) Po Leung Kuk
21.	Assistant Community Services Secretary (Youth & Family) Tung Wah Group of Hospitals
22.	Chairperson Hong Kong Association for the Survivors of Women Abuse (Kwan Fook)
23.	Business Director (Service Development) Hong Kong Council of Social Service
<b>C.</b>	<b>In Attendance</b>
24.	Chief Social Work Officer (Domestic Violence) Social Welfare Department
25.	Senior Social Work Officer (Domestic Violence) Social Welfare Department [Secretary]
26.	Senior Social Work Officer Family and Child Protective Services Unit Social Welfare Department

Post/ Department/ Agency	
27.	Social Work Officer (Domestic Violence) 1 Social Welfare Department

Social Welfare Department  
May 2015



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區  
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China



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18 May 2015

Mrs Carrie LAM CHENG Yuet-ngor, GBS, JP  
Chief Secretary for Administration  
25/F, Central Government Offices  
2 Tim Mei Avenue  
Tamar, Hong Kong

Dear *Carrie,*

### **Panel on Welfare Services**

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

On behalf of the Subcommittee, I write to convey to you members' concerns about the membership of the Working Group on Combating Violence ("the Working Group"), which is chaired by the Director of Social Welfare and seeks to keep the current procedures and guidelines for handling domestic violence under review and recommends improvement measures.

The Subcommittee notes that the Social Welfare Department ("SWD") has set up the Working Group to strengthen co-ordination and co-operation among relevant government departments, non-governmental organizations and professionals in handling and combating intimate partner violence and sexual violence. While noting that the Working Group comprises representatives from a wide spectrum of disciplines, members express grave concern about the lack of representatives from the sexual minority groups in the Working Group. Despite the Subcommittee's repeated requests, members are disappointed at the Administration's advice that SWD has no intention to change the composition of the Working Group at the current stage, and it would meet with different sexual minority groups regularly on specific issues of concern.

To better understand the problems and specific needs of sexual minorities facing domestic violence and sexual violence, the Subcommittee strongly urges the Administration to actively reconsider the request of inviting a reasonable number of representatives from sexual minority groups to join the Working Group. As the Subcommittee will discuss the support services for sexual minorities facing domestic violence and sexual violence at the forthcoming meeting on 9 June 2015, your early reply would be most appreciated.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,



(Dr Fernando CHEUNG)  
Chairman of Subcommittee

c.c. Mr Stephen SUI Wai-keung, JP  
Under Secretary for Labour and Welfare  
(Fax No. : 2537 2751)