



**Hong Kong Unison's Suggestions on
the Census and Statistics (2016 Population Census) Order**

1. Accurate and accessible census data is crucial for policy formulation and planning and for assessing the situations and diverse needs of ethnic minorities in Hong Kong. Given the rapidly increasing ethnic minority population size and recent increase in social resources dedicated to ethnic minorities, the 2016 By-Census ("16BC") is also particularly important in policy planning.

Underestimation of ethnic minority population

2. Ethnic associations have long casted doubts on the accuracy of census data regarding ethnic minorities and consider the censuses to have underestimated the size of ethnic minority populations. This is possible given the small population size and the difficulties C&SD encountered in reaching ethnic and linguistic minority households during past censuses and the Survey on Households with School Children of South Asian Ethnicities in 2014.
3. To mediate the problem of under-representing minority populations, we suggest that the C&SD oversample ethnic minority populations.
4. The C&SD should also ensure that census officers identify and report all ethnic and linguistic minority households that cannot complete the survey in Chinese or English, and follow-up with visits accompanied by interpreters provided by the C&SD.
5. The C&SD should also compile reports on the number and characteristics of households that need language support so that it can work with community organizations to continue to improve minority participation in future censuses.

Promotion and public education

6. To increase ethnic and linguistic minority participation, the C&SD should also strengthen the promotion of upcoming censuses targeted to these communities. Below are suggestions on the targeted promotions:



- a. Posters in minority languages, displayed in places frequented by ethnic and linguistic minorities, such as places of worship, specialty shops and schools.
 - b. Television advertisements through providers of foreign language satellite television channels.
 - c. Audio promotional messages through loudspeakers in areas frequented by ethnic and linguistic minorities.
 - d. Outreach through service providing agencies and community, religious and neighbourhood centres to promote the upcoming by-census.
7. Linguistic minorities and new immigrants may be particularly unfamiliar with their duties and rights under the Census and Statistics Ordinance, making them more hesitant to respond to census officers. For example, some may not be aware that the data collected will be kept in strict confidence and will not be released to any other parties including government departments. Thus, the above promotions should include, in layman terms in minority languages, information on how the collection of census data benefits them through better policy planning, and their right to confidentiality.

Addition of new data items

8. We suggest adding “Religion” as a data item.
9. We suggest collecting information on the country from which they obtained their highest level of education.

Definition of “Nationality”

10. The current definition of “nationality” is ambiguous and confusing. According to the 2011 Census codebook, “nationality may be related to a person’s place of residence, ethnicity or place of birth. It may not necessarily be related to a person’s travel document.”
11. The census already collects data on ethnicity, which is determined by self-identification. Nationality should have a clearer definition in the census. We suggest that the census aligns its definition of nationality with common usage of the term and define it as the nationality listed in ones’ travel documents or other official records. This is important particularly



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because there are cases in which ethnic minorities experience differential treatment based on their nationality.

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November 2015