

香港婦女發展聯會

Letterhead of Hong Kong Women Development Association

The Hon Madam Choi So Yuk
Chairman of Home Affairs Panel
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the
People's Republic of China
14, Nov, 1998

According to Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China's first report submitted to the United Nations based on the 18 article of (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women), Hong Kong Women Development Association has following point of views:

The scope of HKSAR's report on the 18 article of (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women) is very extensive. According to the content, it appears that Hong Kong does not have the problem of woman discrimination. Our association does admit that the Government has made an effort to protect woman form discrimination and lay down laws concerning the equality of the sexes. However, Hong Kong woman's position is still passive and difficult, especially those in grass root and facing crisis. The rationale is those equality concept and system launched by the Government failed to understand woman's standpoint, the actual situation and whether woman in crisis know how to use those laws and resources to protect themselves.

Therefore, we think that the SAR should act in accordance of the rule of Convention : request country to set up "The Elimination of Woman Discrimination Committee" Besides enforcing Convention's Rules, the Government should lay down woman development policy for the planning of committee member's duty, running of the committee, organizational work and so on.

We recommend setting up a woman service fund for launching services.

At the moment, the report submitted by the Government claimed there are enough services for woman. These services include child-care services, family life education, retraining for woman, child abuse service, etc. But the above services are actually provided by non-government organizations. The running of the services involve certain government policies and departments. The questions of which department bare more responsibility and how to define level of back up

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is very difficult. Sometimes there are situations of shirk responsibility, it makes problems solving even more difficult. There are some necessary services such as provide services for woman in crisis. However, due to shortage of resources, those enthusiastic organizations have to put aside or hold up their plans for launching this kind of services. Due to insufficient resources, some services carry out with huge difficulties and may end up with closing. We think the present woman services lack of related policies to support. Therefore, planning committees have to act according to circumstances. It would only waste resources and it is not an ultimate solution. We recommend that the Government set up a woman services fund and encourage organizations to apply in order to provide specific services for woman. It could help woman to solve their problems and make them have the ability to tackle with crisis. And it would promote equal opportunity for both man and woman.

Yours faithfully,
HONG KONG WOMEN DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION
CHAIRMAN: YP SHUN HING