

**HKABPW**

**The Hong Kong Association of Business and Professional and Professional Women  
GPO BOX 1526, Hong Kong**

**Members of the Hong Kong Legislative Council**

**Panel on Home Affairs**

**Panel on Education**

The Hong Kong Association of Business and Professional Women write to express their concern at the lack of positive action taken by the Education Department in relation to the current Secondary School Places Allocation System.

We understand that the findings of The Equal Opportunities Commission Formal Investigation into the Secondary School Places Allocation System (SSPA) concluded that the allocation of places, discriminates on the ground of sex.

We are disappointed and extremely concerned that the Education Department has not made any announcement in an attempt to remedy this crucial defect in the system. It appears wholly contrary to the Hong Kong SAR's Government Policy of Equal Opportunities.

It is disturbing that the practice of unequal treatment in allocation of school places should have existed at all let alone continue to this day, universal primary education and equal participation in secondary education requires that the allocation process does not discriminate on the ground of sex.

The foundation for women's vital role in society, the economy, politics and the family starts with education, to deprive them of the opportunity to be selected fairly and without discrimination affects the core of this development.

The practice adopted by the Education Department is clearly not only in breach of Hong Kong legislation namely the Sex Discrimination Ordinance but fails to comply with international conventions including The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights

HKABPW is committed to working for the removal of all forms of discrimination, for equal opportunities and status for women in the economic, civil and political life. To this end we urge the Education Department to implement without further delay policies for the allocation of Secondary School Places, which does discriminate on the grounds of sex.

Vandana Rajwani

President of the Hong Kong Association of Business and Professional Women

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