

**Hong Kong Christian Institute's Submission to the Legco's Bills Committee on
Legislative Council (Amendment) Bill 2003**

May 29, 2003

One of the objectives of the Hong Kong Christian Institute (HKCI) is to assist Christians to actively engage in putting their faith into practice. In the past 14 years, HKCI has tried to advocate the Christian values of justice, equality and compassion through our witness in Hong Kong and express our stance on political and socio-economic issues. It is in this context that we make this submission on the Legislative Council (Amendment) Bill 2003.

Based on our Christian beliefs, which are also reflected in the U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), we hold that all people are equal and that the democratisation and humanisation of the government is a precondition for respect for and the protection of rights. Thus, people must have the equal right to participate in public affairs through electoral and other decision-making and implementing processes.

Regarding the composition of the Legislative Council (Legco) after the expiry of its current term of office, we welcome the Legislative Council (Amendment) Bill's proposal to abolish the Election Committee beginning from the third term of Legco since allowing a small proportion of the electorate to select Legco members violates the principle of one person, one vote.

Although the bill proposes that there will be an increase from 24 to 30 in the number of seats directly elected in geographical constituencies, this will only increase the number of directly elected members of Legco to half of the total seats. However, the other half of the Legco members, which are elected through functional constituencies, will allow only 170,000 voters to participate in the election because many functional constituencies only allow one vote to represent the whole sector. Thus, this system further marginalises the majority of the people, who are primarily women and from the grassroots. It benefits, however, the rich and elite professionals. This voting system again violates the one person, one vote principle.

We are also against the proportional representational voting method because in Hong Kong's context, compared with the one seat, one vote method, it will permit those candidates who receive less votes to win a seat that does not reflect the true strength of their support in the community.

To conclude, we urge the Bills Committee to speed up the process of evaluating Hong Kong's electoral system, to abolish functional constituency elections and to introduce a fully democratic system, which is a system based on one person, one vote, in Hong Kong for the 2007 chief executive elections and 2008 Legco elections.

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