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榮譽顧問

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顧問

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鄧葉秀容 丘瑞真

蕭陳玉梅

法律顧問

勞潔儀

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劉麗輝

歐陽寶珍

To: Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food Bureau
Dr. YEOH Eng Kiong, JP

From: Chairperson of Hong Kong Women Development Association
Ms. IP Shun Hing, MH

26th October 2002

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women

In September, we received a draft report outline of second report under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women from your Bureau, and our association generally agree with the proposal. Therefore, we hope the government will seriously consider opinions from the public when drafting the report in detail. Also, the contents should comply with the situation of Hong Kong. Nevertheless, we sincerely hope that the government will implement, review and appraise the report, in order to follow up the process.

Otherwise, we would like to give some opinions in the two aspects:

(1) To increase the number of Hong Kong women politicians

Nowadays, the percentage of Hong Kong women take part in the politics is still very low. Now the government's accountability system which for the principal officials and the members in the Executive Council, only have 3 women take part in, it means only 11.5%. In the Legislative Council's 30 functional constituencies, just 5 seats are women, it means only 16.7%. The figures cannot meet the international standard seriously.

After the consultation meeting held on 12th October, we have understood the government is positively to find a way to promote and train women among the government department. Therefore, we request that the government should offer a reliable schedule, figure and implemented policy, in order to increase the number of women participants in politics.



(2) To encourage continuing education for women in response to demand

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From the point of women continuing education, the government and many social service organizations have offered relevant curriculums. However, we found that these have not much choices and always just focus on employment training such as home helper, computer typing. It is lack of promoting the women's educational and academic level. Also, many curriculums are not flexible to suit the time of women who need to take care of their families.

According to our research "The Opinion of Hong Kong Women towards Continuing Education and Life-long Learning" which was conducted in 2001, it showed that 62.2% Hong Kong women wanted to continue studying, over 50% expressed that "lack of curriculum they like to study". And 12.5% thought the most difficult reason for them to continue studying was "low academic level", 21% "did not have time" to continue studying.

For the situation above mentioned, the government should provide more assistance. For example, to develop continuing education center in community base, to increase various curriculums with flexible time and contents which can improve women's educational level and comply the need of those housewives. Otherwise, the government should standardize the subjects' qualification and the academe level, in order to increase the public recognition of the community continue education center.

We would like to request the government to set up the suitable measures that can comply the women's need on continuing education, in order to increase the women's quality, this is closely bound up with the problem of women participating in politics and the poverty on women.