



*Action for REACH OUT*

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Action for REACH OUT is a sex workers' concern group established in 1993. Besides providing service and support to female workers in the sex industry, we also strive for lobby women's rights and women's personal development. We are very concerned of the impact and harm that women have due to sexual violence.

We are disappointed that government is only working out short-term contingency measures to handle an issue of major social concern, i.e. victims of sexual violence who are suffering from both physical and mental harm. We have reservation about the adequacy of the service provision by government. We request the government to disclose the number of cases handled by government and how it is compared with the number of cases handled by RainLily. We are concerned that the mechanism to respond to victims is not handled by workers with the expertise required to deal with victims of this kind. The measures as suggested by government are not a one-stop service that the government had commented as important.

In terms of funding, we wish to raise our concern that the government is not putting adequate efforts for these victims and tries to shift the focus and responsibility to other sectors. A HK\$2M operating cost for a team of expertise providing important, professional and valuable social services to women in need should not be a "burden" to the government.

We request the government to present a long-term plan to public. If there is a need to conduct a review about the long-term arrangement of this important social service, temporary subvention should be granted to RainLily in order to continue its service while the government conducts its review. The review should be participated by stakeholders from various sectors and conducted with transparency.