

27 May 2008

The Secretary

The Committee on the Domestic Violence Ordinance (Amendment) Bill 2007

Dear Secretary,

I write to support the stance of the Committee that Domestic Violence Ordinance should include a provision to include cohabitating same-sex couples. Whether such relationships receive at any stage in the future official sanction or no, you are right to recognise that in reality they exist and that the partners in such relationships are at the same risk of domestic violence as are those in relationships of different sexes.

The high number of recorded cases of domestic violence in same-sex partnerships make it imperative that protection is extended to them. Victims of domestic violence are victims of crimes and need protecting in the same way as if they were victims of murder, assault or burglary. As no cognisance of a person's 'moral' standing is taken by society when they are a victim of crime, so none should be taken when they are a victim of domestic violence.

Yours sincerely,

Nigel Collett

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