

Proposed Research Outline

Human rights commissions in selected places

1. Background

1.1 At its meeting on 22 June 2007, the Subcommittee on Human Rights Protection Mechanisms of the Panel on Home Affairs requested the Research and Library Services Division (RLSD) to conduct a research on the functions, powers, and operation of human rights commissions in selected places.

2. Proposed outline

Part 1 — Introduction

- (a) background information of the research
- (b) overview of human rights protection in the selected places

Part 2 — Regulatory framework

- (a) legal basis
- (b) mandate and functions
- (c) jurisdiction of human rights commissions

Part 3 — Organizational design and operational arrangements

- (a) composition and organizational structure
- (b) financial and human resources
- (c) operational autonomy and accountability

Part 4 — Functions and powers

- (a) participation in legislation drafting
- (b) investigation and prosecution of complaints relating to human rights violations
- (c) involvement in legal proceedings, including mandatory and recommendatory powers

- (d) education and enhancement of public awareness, including action plans and training programmes
- (e) relations with other organizations, including international, governmental and non-governmental organizations
- (f) review and evaluation conducted

Part 5 — Analysis

comparison of the various attributes of the selected human right commissions

3. Places to be studied

3.1 RLSD published a research report, "Monitoring Mechanisms for the Implementation of International Human Rights Treaties in the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Canada" in 2004. At its meeting on 22 June 2007, the Subcommittee on Human Rights Protection Mechanisms suggested RLSD to further study the human rights commissions in Northern Ireland, Australia, South Korea, and India. The research on the proposed places is expected to offer more experiences for comparison purpose, especially in the Asia Pacific region.

4. Proposed completion date

4.1 RLSD proposes to complete the research by November 2007.

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