

CIVIL HUMAN RIGHTS FRONT  
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION TASK FORCE

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QUESTIONS TO THE OUTLINE OF HKSAR SECOND REPORT  
UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE  
ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION  
(ICERD)

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) is now preparing the outline of its second report under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD). With reference to the proposed Race Discrimination Bill, we would like to ask certain questions on the development of legislating against racial discrimination, and policies to achieve racial harmony.

**The Right to Education and Training**

Non-Chinese speaking (NCS) children of ethnic minorities are currently under the same umbrella of the central curriculum of Chinese Language curriculum as native Chinese speakers, and we would like to seek your clarification on the rights of education of NCS students under Article 5.

1. Any research on the education of NCS students has been conducted by the Government?
2. Is there a pool of specialists and additional resources in the design of an alternative Chinese curriculum, building on the experience of current school-based curricula?
3. Will the services of the Learning Support Centre be extended to primary schools? If so, when will it be extended?
4. Will the Government adopt an alternative examination in Chinese proficiency for NCS students? If so, when will it be introduced?

Regarding vocational training, we would like to clarify with the Government on the medium of instruction and other support by vocational training institutes:

1. Do vocational training institute provide any course in English?
2. Number of courses conducted in English from 1996 to 2006. Which courses are they?
3. Any support to accommodate the needs of NCS students when they access to vocational training?

**The Right to Public Health, medical care, social security and social services**

Public services are essential to ethnic minorities, especially medical care service, the application of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme, employment information and vocational training. Therefore, we would like to seek official statistics of the following:

1. Number of full-time and part-time interpreters in public services from 1996 to 2006 respectively
2. Number of interpretation services provided from 1996 to 2006

We strongly urge the Government to safeguard the rights of ethnic minorities to access post-secondary education or vocational training through all kinds of efforts.

We sincerely hope Legislative Councilors could make appropriate action with universal standards under the ICERD, so as to preserve ethnic minorities from all forms of racial discrimination in Hong Kong. Once again, the Civil Human Rights Front urges the Government to answer the questions listed above.