

**Extract of minutes of the 2nd meeting of the
Bills Committee on Domestic Violence (Amendment) Bill 2007**

**Bills Committee on
Domestic Violence (Amendment) Bill 2007**

**Minutes of the 2nd meeting
held on Friday, 28 September 2007, at 2:30 pm
in Conference Room A of the Legislative Council Building**

“5. Deputy Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare)1 (DSLW(Welfare)1) said that-

- (c) it was not feasible to criminalise stalking only in domestic context before the Government had completed its study on the report on stalking by the Law Reform Commission of Hong Kong for the following considerations-
 - (i) as a matter of legal principle, the law should be coherent and consistent. If it was decided that stalking behaviours should be penalized as a crime, all stalking behaviours, whether in domestic or non-domestic context, should be subject to the same treatment and liable to the same level of criminal sanction under the law. In the same vein, victims of stalking, whether in domestic or non-domestic context, should be entitled to the same level of protection; and
 - (ii) to make stalking a criminal offence only in domestic context might also give rise to significant enforcement problems. When the Police received report of stalking acts, the frontline Police officers would have to ascertain the relationship between the complainant and the alleged offender before they could take any further action under the proposed provision;”