

**Bills Committee on Domestic Violence (Amendment) Bill 2009  
Police Sensitivity Training**

**Background**

The Police take a serious view on domestic violence (DV) problems and spare no efforts in enhancing frontline officers' professionalism in handling these cases, and have since November 2006 implemented a series of enhancement measures to strengthen its response at the initial handling and subsequent investigation stage of DV reports.

2. After the enactment of the Domestic Violence (Amendment) Ordinance 2008, the Police delivered a tailor-made training package to all frontline officers, between October and December 2008 focusing primarily on professional sensitivity in handling DV cases and relevant legislations.

3. In response to the Administration's endeavour to introduce the Domestic Violence (Amendment) Bill 2009 seeking to extend the scope of protection of the Domestic Violence Ordinance to same sex cohabitants, the Police will further strengthen training on officers' professional sensitivity in the handling and investigation of cases involving same-sex cohabitants.

**Sensitivity Training Package**

4. In order to enhance officers' professional sensitivity in the handling and investigation of cases involving same-sex cohabitants, the Police will deliver a training package comprising the following:

PowerPoint Presentation	Changes brought about by the passing of the Domestic Violence (Amendment) Bill 2009
Video Clips	Sensitivity in handling cases involving same sex cohabitants
Expert Advice (Police Clinical Psychologist)	Understanding same sex relationship, one's own homophobia and importance of professional sensitivity

## **Delivery of the Training Package**

5. The following communication plan will be adopted to deliver the training package, which will commence immediately after the passing of the Domestic Violence (Amendment) Bill 2009 and will be completed before the effective date of the amended Ordinance:

- Circulation of notice via Police Intranet informing Police Formations of the passing of the Domestic Violence (Amendment) Bill 2009 with details of amendments.
- Delivery of the ‘Sensitivity Training’ Package by means of Road Shows to frontline officers of all Police Regions, to be completed before end of 2009.
- Uploading the ‘Sensitivity Training’ Package onto Police Intranet for ease of access by police officers.

## **Handling Procedures**

6. The Police handle all DV cases professionally and effectively, irrespective of the gender or sexual orientation of involved parties. Referencing to existing DV protocol, police are in the process of finalizing procedures for handling same sex cohabitants.

**Hong Kong Police Force**  
**November 2009**