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9 July 2010

Panel on Constitutional Affairs
Legislative Council
8 Jackson Road
Central
(Attention: Miss Flora TAI)

Dear Miss Tai,

**Outline of the topics in the third report on the
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region under the Convention on
Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)**

The Equal Opportunities Commission (the EOC) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the captioned outline document, preparatory to the drafting of the third report on Hong Kong under the Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

In 1999, the EOC submitted a report to the Government proposing 14 amendments to the then existing anti-discrimination ordinances, one of which include the power to apply for declaratory or injunctive relief. These amendments, though included in a draft bill in 2003, were not further pursued. The EOC urges the government to update the general public in its report about the review process under Article 2 and to introduce proposed amendments to the Sex Discrimination Ordinance as soon as possible.

For Article 7, Equality in political and public life at national level, under-representation of women in Advisory and Statutory Bodies (ASBs) remains a matter to be resolved by the Hong Kong SAR Government. In his Policy Address 2006-07, the Chief Executive had set a gender benchmark of 25% as an initial working target for appointment of women to ASBs. After four years, a slightly upward adjusted working target of 30% is set. The progress is

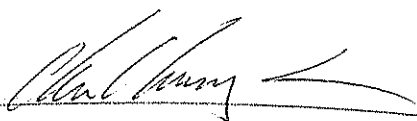
considered too slow by women groups and stakeholders. The EOC urges the Government to review the working target regularly and to enhance it to an appropriate level commensurate with our level of social/economic development and the education attainment of our women.

The lack of baby care facilities including secluded venues for breastfeeding in public places have been attracting regular attention from local women's groups. The EOC urges the Government to provide an update for the general public in relation to its policy towards the requirements for baby care facilities in commercial and public buildings and its plan for improvement under Article 13 of the Convention.

The Small House Policy under Article 14 has always been a matter of concern for the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. Though the government promised to review the policy in 2003, the matter had not been further pursued and up till today, women and non-indigenous persons are still excluded in the Small House Policy. The EOC urges the Government to update the public about the review process and also expedite its decision on the Small House Policy and to ensure that any possible options to resolve the matter do not discriminate on the ground of sex.

I would be attending the meeting on 19 July 2010 at 2:30pm on behalf of the Equal Opportunities Commission.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ferrick Chu', is written over a horizontal line.

Ferrick CHU
Head, Policy and Research
Equal Opportunities Commission