

THE

## LAW SOCIETY HONGKONG

香港律師會

**Practitioners Affairs** 

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Christine W.S. Chu 朱穎雪 30 September 2014

Clerk to Bills Committee on

Sex Discrimination (Amendment) Bill 2014

Legislative Council Secretariat, Legislative Council Complex, 1 Legislative Council Road, Central, Hong Kong.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Sex Discrimination (Amendment) Bill 2014 ("the Bill")

The Law Society has reviewed the Bill and has the following comments:

- 1. The Law Society agrees that there is a lacuna in the current sex discrimination law regime, in that the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (Cap.480) does not render unlawful any sexual harassment of a service provider by a customer.
- 2. We in principle support the Bill, as we consider that provisions should be made available to the victims of such harassment.
- 3. We have considered the issue of jurisdiction as provided for under the Bill. Under the proposed section 41(7), the proposed section 40(1A) could be applied to cover service providers and customers who are sexually harassed on board Hong Kong registered ships or aircraft while outside Hong Kong. The extension of scope of application is welcome.





## The Law Society of Hong Kong

4. The Law Society notes that the proposed amendment refers to a "woman" being sexually harassed by a person (section 40(1A)). We believe that this would be equally applicable to a "man". The Administration might wish to harmonize the gender being canvassed in the proposed amendment legislation.

Yours faithfully,

Kenneth Fok

Director of Practitioners Affairs The Law Society of Hong Kong