

Bills Committee on Marriage (Amendment) Bill 2014

**List of follow-up actions arising from the discussion
at the meeting on 10 June 2014**

Members noted the concern expressed by some religious bodies that, upon passage of the Bill, if a minister refuses to celebrate a marriage when the minister reasonably believes that one of the parties to the marriage is a post-operative transsexual, such act may be considered to be discriminatory under the Disability Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 487) and/or the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 480). These religious bodies have requested that an exemption provision be added to the Bill to the effect that religious bodies would not be obliged to celebrate marriage for a post-operative transsexual if they do not wish to do so.

2. The Administration is requested to clarify whether refusal by religious bodies to celebrate a marriage to which one of the parties is a post-operative transsexual on the ground of religious beliefs will be considered to be discriminatory act under Cap. 487 and/or Cap. 480 should the Bill be passed; and if so, to advise on the Administration's consideration of the request of the religious bodies for including an exemption provision into the Bill.