

Submission to the Subcommittee on Rights of Ethnic Minorities

Meeting on 8 March 2017

**Submissions from individuals on difficulties faced by ethnic minorities
in gaining access to healthcare, accommodation and support services**

Nebra

Good afternoon, I'm Nebra, a secondary 4 student of Delia Memorial School Broadway and I am very grateful for this opportunity.

Health related information for ethnic minority

Firstly, I would like to talk about the difficulties faced by ethnic minorities regarding healthcare. Due to the language barrier between ethnic minorities and the Chinese people, ethnic minorities tend to ask their relatives for opinions on how to cure a particular disease. The ill ones might even receive the wrong treatment told by their relatives and therefore, their health is undermined. Regardless of having posters put up in hospital lobbies and public areas, it is still not enough to educate the ethnic minorities. The posters put up are usually in Chinese which makes the ethnic minorities hard to understand the message behind the poster. Some posters contain graphic design for educating illiterate readers but the graphic posters still fail to show a clear message to the readers.

The government should allow some public education teams to be in charge of doing researches and surveys in finding the common diseases among ethnic minority groups. The Food and Health Department would be a suitable choice in helping the public education teams. From the findings, there can be some prevention methods put out for the public including the ethnic minorities to know how to prevent particular health problems. Then, the prevention methods put up on posters would be much more helpful for people with different diseases. The posters can also be sent to support centres since that's where most illiterate ethnic minorities gain knowledge.

Support service centres

Secondly, I would like to talk about the services provided by support centres. From my observation, I have realized that many ethnic minorities tend to go to these centres just to

become a member and be able to go to different places including theme parks without paying a penny. This attitude is not right. The aim of these support centres which is to educate people is fading away. There is nothing wrong in providing leisure activities to them. But what's even better is to make timetables. For example, the support centres should organize public education workshops for example workshops where ethnic minorities learn about Hong Kong's culture. These workshops should aim at helping the ethnic minorities to integrate to Hong Kong's society. And in order to go to different places, the ethnic minorities have to first attend these workshops. This way, they can gain knowledge and have fun at the same time.

Housing problems for ethnic minority

Accommodation is another problem faced by ethnic minorities. With a high population density and a limited supply of properties. Average rents in Hong Kong have long been more expensive than in other high-profile cities. This problem is also faced by the Chinese residents in Hong Kong but what's different is that ethnic minorities also face the problem of in-work poverty. Studies found that many South Asian families in Hong Kong only have one family member working which is usually the father. The father is usually the only one who is working for the whole family. Some fathers even do two jobs in order to satisfy their whole family's basic needs. Long hours of work by these fathers is very common. Some families refuse to apply for the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance in fear of having low self-esteem and some families don't even know about it.