

Dear Chairman and honored government officials,

I am Rahman, Lamia Sreya.

I am currently studying at the University of Hong Kong, double majoring in American Studies and Criminology.

Today I would like to bring forth the issue of racial profiling by the police towards the Ethnic Minority community in Hong Kong through ID checks and body searches. Many of us youths and people of older generations experience such racial profiling on a first-hand basis when we are stopped by the police who conduct frequent ID checks and body searches on South Asians and Africans in particular.

We know that the police are granted the authority to stop and search us under the Police Force Ordinance, Public Order Ordinance and the Immigration Ordinance. But it cannot be denied that when youngsters like us are stopped we feel very humiliated because of the attitude of the police who treat us like suspected criminals especially in the streets of Tsim Sha Tsui, Sham Shui Po, Mong Kok and Yuen Long because of a certain way we look.

We face the issue of who to complain to when we face such issues, and those who do complain believe that no action would be taken ultimately because they are being stopped and searched even when there is no crime. This further exhibits a stereotype that Ethnic Minorities are prone to crime.

Till this date there are no official statistics to support whether this is a trend because the police do not maintain figures of arrests as a result of stop and search actions. Instead such form of racial profiling is perpetrating because the RDO does not cover government powers and functions, hence directly excusing their act of racial profiling and brings into question if anyone is protected. Frankly speaking, what can the administrative guidelines do when there so many gaps within the Racial Discrimination Ordinance?

Through this platform today, we ask that 1) the police exercise its powers reasonably and respectable manner because such form of behavior harms and creates misunderstandings in building good community relations between the government and the EM community. 2) We also want the police officials to keep a record of the people they choose to conduct ID or body searches on and publish the statistics online, that way we can increase transparency. 3) Finally, we do not want any legal loopholes because the RDO is rendered ineffective since it doesn't cover government function and powers so that the police will be more accountable for their action. Even here in today's public hearing, none of the police representatives are presents, so how can they ensure racial equality if they don't feel that it is important to come to the public hearing.

Thank you for your time!