



Hong Kong Unison Limited
香港融樂會有限公司

14th Nov, 2016

Dear Hon. LegCo Member,

Re: Issues Concerning Children's Rights

Hong Kong Unison is a non-government organization that serves ethnic minority residents in Hong Kong. We aim at eliminating all forms of racial discrimination in Hong Kong through policy advocacy, and we focus on fighting for equal rights to education for ethnic minority children.

As the Subcommittee on Children's Right ('Subcommittee') under the House Committee will be convening soon, we would like to bring your attention to the following issues related to the rights of ethnic minority children, especially on equitable education so that children reach their full potential regardless of their ethnic and language background.

In the latest Concluding Observations on the combined third and fourth periodic reports of China adopted by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child in October 2013, the Committee calls for:

- (1) Urgent abolition of the system of "designated schools" for children of ethnic minorities and reallocate resources to promote their access to education in mainstream schools;
- (2) Intensifying its efforts to implement legislation and policies on bilingual education at all levels of education, ensuring high-quality education in Chinese as a second language.

In the latest Concluding Observations on the third periodic report of Hong Kong adopted by the Human Rights Committee in March 2013, the Committee recommend Hong Kong intensify its efforts to improve the quality of Chinese language education for ethnic minorities and non-Chinese speaking students with an immigrant background and to encourage the integration of students of ethnic minorities in public school education.

Accordingly, we hope the Subcommittee could include the below agenda items for discussion in the upcoming meetings:

- (1) Chinese language learning for ethnic minority children:
 - a. Monitoring framework to ensure effective language learning support measures for ethnic minority children in 2017/18 **Free Kindergarten Policy**; and



- b. Effectiveness of ‘Chinese Language Curriculum Second Language Learning Framework
- (2) Support measures for ethnic minority children in mainstream schools:
- a. Suitability of using **Putonghua as the medium of instruction in Chinese language** (PMIC) for ethnic minority children;
 - b. **Support for other subjects** which are taught in Chinese
 - c. Accountability, transparency and effective use of recurrent **school-based funding**.
- (3) Promotion of integration and elimination of de facto racial segregation in the public school system
- a. Provision of information on schools and school place allocation procedure for **informed and real school choice**;
 - b. Compulsory **teacher training** on cultural sensitivity to promote and ensure integration and non-discriminatory environment in school; and
 - c. Timetable and outcome indicators to eliminate **de facto racial segregation** in schools
- (4) Provision of appropriate assessment and service to **ethnic minority children with special education needs**.

Please do not hesitate to contact our Project Officer, Ms. Mandy Cheuk at 27893246 or email at project@unison.org.hk to schedule a meeting with us or if you have any questions on the proposed discussion items for the Subcommittee.

Yours sincerely,

Phyllis Cheung

Executive Director, Hong Kong Unison