

**Submissions to the Subcommittee on Children's Rights**

**Meeting on 25 March 2017  
Submissions from individuals**

*Patrick*

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone for this opportunity to speak here. I am Patrick Pena, a student of Delia Memorial School (Broadway), and a person of Filipino descent.

I am here to address Children's Issues, specifically Ethnic Minority Children's' Issues.

One issue I have seen quite often is the reluctance or inability of Ethnic Minority Children to speak Chinese. I myself am also not very good at Chinese, I find myself lacking the fluidity and a diverse vocabulary in Chinese, limiting how much I can express when speaking in Chinese. I feel that this is an issue many Ethnic Minority Children have in common. I personally think that Ethnic Minority Children need more interaction with the Local Chinese students, this way they can be more acquainted with Chinese and be much more willing to learn and speak Chinese, and will also foster communication between the two. One way of achieving this is to allocate more ethnic minorities into schools with the local Chinese students, another way is to hold events for the ethnic minorities and the local Chinese to interact more.

Another Issue I would like to address is the handling of Children with Mental Disorders such as depression, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and a whole slew of others. I have been to the Tuen Mun Child and Adolescent Mental Health Centre in the Tuen Mun hospital. From what I've observed there, the psychiatrists have extremely tight schedules and have little time to talk to the Children. I have been told that they have to fill up a quota and thus they have to work very quickly with the Children. I do not think this is a good way to treat Children, even Adults with mental disorders. I feel that they need more time to understand and to help the Children, rather than having to fill up a large quota of children every day.

These two issues are very important to me, as I myself am an Adolescent that has been affected by these issues. Thankfully I have been treated well by my psychiatrist despite the lack of time, but there are children who are not as resilient and need more help. Thank you for your attention. And I hope these issues can be solved.