

Submissions to the Subcommittee on Children's Rights

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

Abeer

Good Afternoon My name is Abeer and I'm a housewife with a 3 year old baby. My concerns are related to the future of my kid as well as other children of my community whom I know and whom I don't.

Together with my personal experience recently, I wanted to get my daughter admitted to a mainstream Chinese kindergarten so she can learn better Cantonese and integrate into society but when I stepped in real world I found out how being an ethnic minority is a hurdle for my daughter to get into main stream kindergarten. I was told on the door that it's a Chinese school with the expressions that I don't belong there, I insisted, they served me with a straight face as if it's a waste of time for them. I went other kindergarten, the lady came out with a rapid fire questions and confused face to know if I speak Cantonese, how will my child survive there, who will help with homework and daily notices. These attitude give an impression as if they have never seen us before or being a school or authority body they are not responsible for us.

I have few questions to ask to EDB, Hong Kong government and other authority bodies. Kindergarten is a first step of education and being a free resident why we don't have a choice like other Chinese parents? Why everything is separated and segregated starting from kindergarten itself and who is responsible for their primary and secondary education then?

EDB says we chose such schools where the Cantonese level is low and have more ethnic minority kids, I want to clarify that's not true. We have no choice, we have no information. If some parent like me can search net and sites to know best school of district, we are stopped right at the door. So where's the choice? If some children by the discretionary places, happens to go to main streams primary and secondly schools, their parents are advised best to not join that school because it's difficult for the school to cope with English speaking parents even if child is fluent in Chinese. Why, when and who will take this responsibility of equal rights education to all HongKongers? Why does my color or face decides if my child is eligible for your school or not? Now, we have examples of different EM of different background to excel in their profession if they happen to become one, why their example is not enough to think that by providing equally opportunities from kindergarten level, we can do much better and contribute like a citizen.

Thank you.