

Subcommittee on Children's Rights

Meeting on Saturday, 4 November 2017, at 9:00 am
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex

Human rights of children under poverty
Agha, Syyeda Muneeba

Dear Members

Thank you very much for inviting us today to share our views.

My name is Muneeba. I was born in Hong Kong, I am 8 years old and studying P.3 at a local DSS School.

I was automatically put in the Non-Chinese speaking stream in Primary school where we are taught a very basic level of Chinese, and I believe I will never be able to learn Chinese fully and integrate in the mainstream society; hence, I will never be fully employable and be a productive member of society leading to poverty.

After reviewing my future choices, I requested my school to change my stream to Chinese curriculum and now I find it very difficult to cope up and me and my parents are overburdened with fees of a private tutors and extra classes.

I find it very very difficult, frustrating and feel depressed as I find no support at all from anywhere to learn Chinese, govt talks so much about this scheme and that scheme, but frankly I do not see anything available.

I also want to bring to your attention about the segregation of Chinese and non-Chinese students in school, this is wrong as it creates an invisible mental barrier between Chinese and non-Chinese students and this will continue as we grow up, causing a divided society, again indirectly making it difficult for us to gain employment and be part of the society.

The division also further limits our chances of practicing and learning Chinese language and integrating.

I would like to tell the Education Department not to divide us so that we non-Chinese speaking students can have a better chance of living in Hong Kong respectfully.

Thank you very much for listening carefully.