Bills Committee on Discrimination Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2018

List of follow-up actions arising from the discussion at the meeting on 9 December 2019

Regarding the Administration's draft proposed amendments to Part 5 of the Bill, under which harassment at a common workplace involving, among others, volunteers and interns, is proposed to be rendered unlawful under the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 480), Disability Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 487) and Race Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 602) ("RDO"), the Administration was requested to provide a written response to the following issues raised by members and the Legal Adviser to the Bills Committee:

- (a) in respect of the proposed definition of "volunteer (義工)" (i.e. "volunteer (義工) means a person who performs volunteer work other than in the capacity of an employer or employee" / "義工 (volunteer) 指 並非以僱主或僱員身分進行義工工作的人"), the reason(s) for using the expression "volunteer work (義工工作)" rather than "voluntary work (義務工作)" in the proposed definition; and the difference in meaning as well as scope of coverage between the two expressions "volunteer work (義工工作)" and "voluntary work (義務工作)"; and
- (b) whether the Administration would, in order to address some members' concern, consider reviewing the drafting of the proposed definitions of "internship (實習)" and "intern (實習人員)" (both the English and Chinese texts), with a view to improving the clarity of these two terms.
- 2. The Administration was requested to provide a full set of the finalized draft amendments to the Bill (in Chinese and English) proposed by the Administration for consideration by members and incorporation into the Bills Committee's report. The document should (a) incorporate any further amendments to be proposed to the Bill by the Administration after considering the matters referred to in paragraph 1 above and (b) correct the minor typographical error (i.e. "an volunteer") in the English version of the Administration's proposed amendments to Part 5 of the Bill Division 3 in relation to the proposed new section 47A(6) of RDO as pointed out by the Legal Adviser to the Bills Committee.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
12 December 2019