

(Translation)

Motion on
“Requesting the Government to set up crisis support centres for
sexual violence victims and abused children in public hospitals”
moved by Dr Hon Pierre CHAN
at the Council meeting of 12 December 2018

Motion as amended by Hon Alice MAK and Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG

That, despite the Government’s provision of support services for sexual violence victims and abused children over the years, the number of cases of sexual violence and child abuse in Hong Kong in recent years has seen a rising trend; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to allocate additional resources to the Hospital Authority for, in accordance with the Guidelines for medico-legal care for victims of sexual violence issued by the World Health Organization, setting up a crisis support centre in public hospitals respectively in the New Territories, on Hong Kong Island and in Kowloon to provide sexual violence victims and abused children (‘victims’) with 24-hour one-stop comprehensive services; details of recommendations are as follows:

- (1) designating a suitable place with high privacy protection for setting up a 24-hour one-stop crisis support centre in three public hospitals, thereby allowing victims to receive treatment and follow-up services and undergo necessary procedures, including medical treatment, forensic examinations, reporting to the Police, statement taking (with the provision of facilities for the Police to take statements from victims by way of video-recorded interview), receiving support and counselling from social workers, in the same place;
- (2) providing professional and adequate manpower at one-stop crisis support centres to enable victims to expeditiously access comprehensive assistance and support, including emotional and psychological counselling and legal advice;
- (3) properly maintaining overall statistics on victims receiving diagnosis and treatment or undergoing examinations, giving statements to the Police and undergoing forensic examinations in public hospitals;
- (4) instructing the Social Welfare Department to review the existing procedural guide for regulating the handling of child abuse cases while clarifying its coordination role to foster cooperation with the Police,

health care personnel and other departments, in order to provide abused children with timely assistance and follow-up;

- (5) providing frontline personnel (including police officers and social workers) with professional and specialized training to enhance their sensitivity and skills in handling cases of sexual violence and child abuse involving different genders, backgrounds, cultures and sexual orientations;
- (6) establishing in the Police a special investigation team dedicated to handling cases of sexual violence and child abuse to complement the relevant investigation work of one-stop crisis support centres, thereby abating the enormous pressure faced by victims in having to repeatedly recount the incidents due to a change of investigation teams by the Police; and
- (7) formulating uniform standards of interpretation and translation services for languages of various ethnic minorities, improving the procedure and guidelines for provision of interpretation services in public hospitals, reviewing the application formalities for interpretation services, and deploying resident medical interpreters in public hospitals and providing training for them to ensure that they, while protecting the privacy of victims, render interpretation and translation services to ethnic minorities victims in a professional and impartial manner;
- (8) expeditiously convening multi-disciplinary case conferences for child abuse cases to formulate long-term plans in the best interests of abused children, while significantly increasing the number of residential placements for children to shorten the time of abused children overstaying in hospitals; and
- (9) putting in place feedback and complaint mechanisms for interpretation and translation services.