

# 立法會 *Legislative Council*

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## Panel on Constitutional Affairs

Meeting on 16 June 2025

### Background brief on promotion of patriotic education

#### Purpose

This paper summarizes the discussions of Members on the promotion of patriotic education.

#### Background

##### Establishment of the Working Group on Patriotic Education

2. The Chief Executive stated in the 2023 Policy Address that **patriotic education** would **be rolled out** to dovetail with the contents of the Patriotic Education Law of the People's Republic of China ("Patriotic Education Law")<sup>1</sup>, with a view to **enhancing education on our country's history, culture and current affairs** on different fronts in society, thereby **passing on and promoting the spirit of patriotism**. To this end, the Constitution and Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee ("CBLPSC") led by the Chief Secretary for Administration **established the Working Group on Patriotic Education** ("Working Group") in April 2024 to coordinate the work of government departments and non-governmental organizations in promoting patriotic education.

3. Members of the Working Group comprise relevant Directors of Bureaux and Heads of Departments, as well as members from relevant sectors in society. Four sub-groups<sup>2</sup> have been set up under the Working Group, respectively focusing efforts on exploring and proposing specific

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<sup>1</sup> The Patriotic Education Law of the People's Republic of China was adopted at the 6th session of the Standing Committee of the 14th National People's Congress on 24 October 2023, and came into effect on 1 January 2024.

<sup>2</sup> The Education Bureau, Home and Youth Affairs Bureau, Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau, and Information Services Department respectively provide secretariat support to the four sub-groups.

measures in relation to patriotic education in key aspects such as school education, local community, history, politics, economy and culture, as well as media publicity.

#### Strategies and directions for promoting patriotic education

4. The Working Group has drawn up the strategies and directions for promoting patriotic education, with the objective of **building mainstream values characterized by affection for our country and Hong Kong as its core and in line with the principle of “one country, two systems”**, thereby enabling the spirit of patriotism to take root in society and people’s hearts, such that members of the public will proactively and consciously safeguard national sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity. In addition, the Working Group will tailor to local conditions and advise on policy measures for effective implementation of patriotic education having regard to the actual circumstances in Hong Kong.

5. Article 10 of the Patriotic Education Law states that “On October 1st of each year, the National Day of the People’s Republic of China, the state and all aspects of society are to organize diverse forms of celebration, focusing on carrying out patriotic education”. As 1 October 2024 marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China, the Working Group has proposed a **short-term strategy** upon its establishment, **leveraging the 75th National Day as an entry point** with the theme of “Love our Country, Love Hong Kong, Love our Community”, and working closely with government bureaux and departments to **feature the spirit of patriotism in different National Day celebration activities**, thereby **enhancing the awareness of patriotism of the whole society**.

6. In addition, with reference to the contents of the Patriotic Education Law, the Working Group proposes to **formulate and continue to implement various medium-term and long-term measures**, and adopt diverse means **targeted at different target groups through a multi-faceted approach**, including school curriculum, out-of-classroom practical activities, experiential activities, cultural activities, museum resources, commemorative ceremonies, traditional festivals, mass media, and civil service training.

#### **Relevant discussions of the Legislative Council and the Panel on Constitutional Affairs**

7. In the 2024 legislative session, the Panel on Constitutional Affairs received an update from the Administration on 15 July 2024 on its work in promoting patriotic education, including the strategies and measures of the newly established Working Group. Relevant questions had also been

raised by Members at Council meetings. The major views and concerns expressed by Members and the Administration's responses are summarized in the ensuing paragraphs.

#### Work of the Working Group on Patriotic Education

8. Members supported the establishment of the Working Group under CBLPSC as it would enable patriotic education to be implemented in a more effective manner having regard to the actual situation in Hong Kong. Some Members were concerned whether the promotion of the Constitution of the People's Republic of China and the Basic Law would overlap with the work on patriotic education. The Administration advised that the promotion of the Constitution, the Basic Law and the Hong Kong National Security Law was undertaken by the Working Group on Constitution, Basic Law and Hong Kong National Security Law under CBLPSC, and the focus and recommendations on patriotic education were different. Therefore, the establishment of a new working group dedicated to patriotic education would not result in any overlap.

9. Some Members were of the view that among the four sub-groups under the Working Group, the "Education Sub-group" should **strengthen patriotic education targeted at teachers**, with a view to **inculcating in the younger generation a correct sense of patriotism through teachers**, and suggested **setting key performance indicators** in respect of the effectiveness of teacher training; the "Local Community Sub-group" should **strengthen cooperation with different government departments**; and the "History, Politics, Economics and Culture Sub-group" should **strengthen cooperation with local patriotic cultural and arts organizations** to jointly promote patriotic education.

10. The Administration advised that it attached great importance to the provision of good patriotic education in schools through teachers. In this connection, the "Education Sub-group" would continue to improve and deepen the relevant teacher training. Apart from schools and government departments, the four sub-groups would also collaborate with different sectors in society, including different patriotic cultural organizations, so as to combine the strengths of the whole society to jointly promote patriotic education.

#### Overall promotion strategies and directions

11. Members were of the view that the Administration should **adopt a soft approach in promoting patriotic education to the younger generation** and avoid formalization or sloganeering. The Administration pointed out that patriotic education should be implemented in a diversified

manner, and the Government considered it worthwhile to promote certain slogans or forms of activities if they could achieve good results. On Members' enquiries as to whether the Government would make reference to the Patriotic Education Law implemented in the Mainland early this year and formulate similar laws in Hong Kong, the Administration advised that it had no relevant plan for the time being.

12. Some Members suggested that the Administration should **take a more proactive role in introducing to the public the War of Resistance and other local historical events related to patriotism**, so as to enable the public to experience the fine tradition of patriotism in Hong Kong. The Administration responded that Hong Kong possessed many historical monuments and museum resources related to the War of Resistance, and the Government would give due consideration to how to make the best use of these resources to actively publicize and promote the history of the War of Resistance, as well as present patriotic stories of local history, so that students and the public could understand the role played by Hong Kong in the history of national development, thereby enhancing their sense of national pride and belonging.

13. A number of Members suggested that the Administration should **organize more high-quality cultural exchange activities in the Greater Bay Area and other Mainland cities for participation by Hong Kong people, and arrange for each primary and secondary school student to go to the Mainland at least once for exchanges and visits**, so as to **enhance their sense of national belonging** through learning about the development of the Mainland. Some Members also asked whether the Administration would step up efforts in teaching students about the history and structure of the Communist Party of China.

14. According to the Administration, through its participation in the organization of the "Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Culture and Arts Festival", the SAR Government collaborated with various cities in the Greater Bay Area to organize more than 100 cultural exchange activities each year, through which participants could learn about national development and achievements, thereby enhancing their sense of pride and belonging. In addition, patriotic education would cover the political system of China, and the history of the Communist Party of China had already been taught in the existing secondary school curriculum.

#### Commemorative activities for the 80th anniversary of victory in the War of Resistance

15. The year 2025 marked the 80th anniversary of victory in the War of Resistance, and Members noted that the Working Group would

**coordinate various relevant policy bureaux and departments in launching a series of commemorative activities for the 80th anniversary of victory in the War of Resistance**, so as to enhance the spirit of patriotism. In response to Members' enquiries about **the progress of preparation for such activities**, the Administration advised that **the preparatory work for various activities were progressing steadily**, and such activities would covered a memorial ceremony, thematic exhibitions, educational activities for the public and students, enhancement of hiking trails and related tourism supporting facilities, as well as production of thematic videos for extensive promotion, etc., with a view to enabling the public to remember history and pay tribute to martyrs. Details of various activities would be announced in due course.

16. Members asked whether consideration would be given to **combining the publicity work for the 15th National Games ("15th NG") and the commemorative activities for the 80th anniversary of victory in the War of Resistance** to achieve a synergy effect, thereby **creating a widespread atmosphere of affection for our country and Hong Kong**. According to the Administration, the 80th anniversary of victory in the War of Resistance and 15th NG were excellent entry points for promoting patriotic education. Winning the War of Resistance was a great victory of the national spirit with patriotism at its core, which was of great historical significance and was an essential component for patriotic education. On the other hand, 15th NG was a national mega sports event. The co-hosting of the event by Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao would strengthen bonding among people, and was an excellent opportunity to disseminate the message of patriotism. The SAR Government would do a good job in publicizing the two events under the overarching theme of patriotic education, with a view to disseminating the message of patriotism and ensuring that patriotic sentiments would take root in the hearts of the public. Considering that the 80th anniversary of victory in the War of Resistance and 15th NG had their own distinctive meaning and publicity focus, the SAR Government would launch targeted publicity on the relevant thematic events at different points in time and in an orderly manner.

### **Relevant Council questions**

17. Questions were raised at Council meetings on issues relating to the promotion of patriotic education. The relevant hyperlinks are in the [\*\*Appendix\*\*](#).

## **Relevant papers**

18. A list of relevant papers which are available on the Legislative Council website is in the [Appendix](#).

Council Business Divisions  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
12 June 2025

## Promotion of patriotic education

### Relevant papers

Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
Panel on Constitutional Affairs	15 July 2024	<a href="#">Agenda</a> item III: The rolling out of patriotic education <a href="#">Minutes of meeting</a>

Council meeting	Paper
3 July 2024	<a href="#">Question 15</a> : Patriotic education
23 October 2024	<a href="#">Question 9</a> : Commemorating “Uprising of the Two Airlines”
23 October 2024	<a href="#">Question 20</a> : Activities in celebration of the National Day and exhibitions relating to patriotic education
6 November 2024	<a href="#">Question 11</a> : Raising public’s Putonghua standard
11 December 2024	<a href="#">Question 1</a> : Taking forward patriotic education
22 January 2025	<a href="#">Question 20</a> : Revitalizing air-raid shelters
26 February 2025	<a href="#">Question 6</a> : Commemorative activities for 80th anniversary of victory in War of Resistance
21 May 2025	<a href="#">Question 16</a> : Commemorative activities for 80th anniversary of victory in War of Resistance