

**Outline of the Fourth Report of the HKSAR
under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of
Discrimination against Women**

Preamble

We will highlight in the Preamble the major developments since the Committee's consideration of the third report of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) submitted by the Government of People's Republic of China in 2012.

Main Report

2. This part of the report contains specific information relating to the implementation of Articles 1 to 16 of the Convention in the HKSAR as prescribed by the current reporting guidelines of the Committee.

**ARTICLE 1
DEFINING DISCRIMINATION**

3. We will advise the Committee that definition of discrimination against women in the Sex Discrimination Ordinance remains unchanged.

4. We will provide updates on the seven reservations and declarations entered in respect of the Convention and the justifications.

**ARTICLE 2
OBLIGATIONS OF STATES PARTIES**

5. We will address paragraphs 50 – 51 of the Concluding Observations with regard to the Women's Commission. We will inform the Committee of any significant developments in respect of areas such as

relevant provisions in the Basic Law and the Hong Kong Bill of Rights; the four anti-discrimination ordinances and changes in the other areas of the law regarding the protection of women; the work of the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC); and the work of the Women's Commission (WoC) including the provision of an enabling environment and empowerment of women, etc.

ARTICLE 3

APPROPRIATE MEASURES

6. We will advise the Committee of any new developments since the previous report in respect of areas such as the basis for protection of human rights and fundamental freedom; gender mainstreaming; and studies, research and data collection on women including the collection of sex-disaggregated statistics, surveys and researches conducted by WoC.

ARTICLE 4

TEMPORARY SPECIAL MEASURES

7. We will advise the Committee that the position in relation to this Article such as special measures provided for under the Sex Discrimination Ordinance and maternity protection, etc. remains unchanged.

ARTICLE 5

STEREOTYPING AND PREJUDICES

8. We will inform the Committee of developments since the previous report. We will also address paragraphs 54 and 55 of the Concluding Observations with regard to the comprehensive review of sexual offences being carried out by the Law Reform Commission. We will also address paragraphs 68 – 69 of the Concluding Observations regarding discrimination against lesbian, transsexual and transgender women. The section will cover topics such as public education efforts, including promotion of the Convention and the public education work of

WoC and EOC; control of pornography and sex discriminatory elements in the media; and the protection of women against violence, such as legislation and international instruments, measures to prevent and tackle domestic violence, services offered to victims of sexual violence, cross-sector collaboration on combating violence, training to professionals, etc.

ARTICLE 6

EXPLOITATION OF WOMEN

9. We will advise the Committee of new developments since the previous report in relation to this Article on prostitution and trafficking of women, including measures against women trafficking and girl-child prostitution, assistance available and protection rendered to sex workers. We will also address paragraphs 56 and 57 of the Concluding Observations with regard to the Palermo Protocol, and the government's efforts in combating trafficking in women and girls and exploitation of women for the purpose of prostitution.

ARTICLE 7

EQUALITY IN POLITICAL AND PUBLIC LIFE AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

10. We will inform the Committee of any significant developments since the previous report. We will also respond to paragraphs 58 and 59 of the Concluding Observations with regard to women's representation and participation in politics. This part will report on the participation of women in the Legislative Council, District Councils and the Election Committee for the Election of the Chief Executive of the HKSAR, Executive Council, rural elections, advisory and statutory bodies, public offices and the efforts in nurturing women leaders.

ARTICLE 8

EQUALITY IN POLITICAL AND PUBLIC LIFE AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

11. We will advise the Committee of the latest position of officers representing Government at international level. We will also provide information about women officers holding leading positions in international organisations.

ARTICLE 9

EQUALITY IN NATIONALITY LAWS

12. We will advise the Committee that the position in relation to acquisition and transmission of nationality and the Immigration Ordinance (Cap.115) remains unchanged as reported in the previous report.

ARTICLE 10

EQUALITY IN EDUCATION

13. We will advise the Committee of any significant developments in the education system in relation to promoting equality between men and women. We will also respond to paragraphs 60 and 61 of the Concluding Observations concerning access to education for women and girls with disabilities.

14. This part will include topics such as an overview of the education status of women in Hong Kong; kindergarten, primary, secondary, post-secondary, vocational and continuing education (including the Continuing Education Fund and Qualifications Framework, etc) as well as special education for girls with disabilities; education provided for designated groups; sex education; financial assistance for students; gender awareness education for teachers; and women in the teaching profession.

ARTICLE 11

EQUALITY IN EMPLOYMENT AND LABOUR RIGHTS

15. We will report to the Committee any significant developments since the previous report. We will also respond to paragraphs 62 and 63 of the Concluding Observations on maternity leave and paternity leave, and paragraphs 64 and 65 with regard to foreign women domestic workers.

16. This part will include topics such as reservations entered in respect of Article 11(2) and the justification for maintaining it; women's participation and standing in the economy; legislation against discrimination in employment; administrative measures to address discrimination in employment; retirement protection; women and poverty; employment services for women; youth training and employment programmes; retraining programmes; social enterprises; imported workers and foreign domestic helpers; childcare facilities and services; promotion of family-friendly employment practices; and equal pay for work of equal value.

ARTICLE 12

EQUALITY IN ACCESS TO HEALTH FACILITIES

17. In this section, we will inform the Committee of any major developments in healthcare system of the HKSAR for women since the previous report, including women's health status in the HKSAR such as mortality and major causes of deaths, disease incidence and prevalence, etc; access to care including preventive and promotional services, ambulatory care, and in-patient service, etc; enabling resources for care; women breastfeeding their babies; and highlights on services for women with special needs including women with disabilities, elderly women, drug abusers, sex workers, ethnic minority, imported workers and foreign domestic helpers.

ARTICLE 13

WOMEN IN ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL LIFE

18. We will report to the Committee any new major developments since the previous report. This part will include topics such as social security; tax allowance; Community Investment and Inclusion Fund; new arrival women; single parents; women with disabilities; women of ethnic minorities; elderly women; loans, mortgages and credit; recreation, sport and cultural life.

ARTICLE 14

RURAL WOMEN

19. In view of the small area of the HKSAR, it is not practicable to distinguish women in the rural areas from those who live in urban areas. This part will therefore mainly focus on major development in policies relating to the indigenous population in the HKSAR, and include topics such as the reservation entered in respect of male indigenous villagers and the justification for its continuation; definition of “indigenous” population in Hong Kong; succession of land property in the New Territories and review of land policy; and rural elections.

ARTICLE 15

EQUALITY IN LEGAL AND CIVIL MATTERS

20. We will report to the Committee new developments in relation to legal and civil matters since the previous report. This part will include topics such as the declaration in respect of Article 15(3) and the reservation in respect of immigration legislation, and the justification for their continuation; women’s legal status and civil rights including women’s rights to make contracts in their own name and to administer property, treatment of women in court and access to legal aid; appointment to the Judiciary; and women in prisons.

ARTICLE 16
EQUALITY IN FAMILY LAW

21. We will respond to paragraphs 66 and 67 of the Concluding Observations on the minimum marriage age. We will report to the Committee on the measures to protect equality in family law including rights in respect of marriage and family; matrimonial litigation; and legislation regarding guardianship, wardship and adoption of children.

Labour and Welfare Bureau
March 2018