

**WOMEN'S COMMISSION**  
**Secretary's Report**

**INTRODUCTION**

This paper informs Members of the activities undertaken by the Women's Commission (WoC) and the Women's Division since the 29<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 11 August 2005.

**ACTIVITIES HELD SINCE THE LAST MEETING**

2. The activities held since the last meeting are as follows-

- 11 August 2005 : The Convenor of the Working Group on Gender Mainstreaming represented the Women's Commission to receive an interview by a post-graduate student on the work of the Commission.
- 19 August 2005 : The Women's Commission issued a letter to the Editor of the South China Morning Post about an advertisement billboard showing a whipped person, which implicitly encouraged the use of violence. The Commission advocates a zero tolerance stance against violence and considers that violence against any person is a violation of human rights and should be condemned.
- 24-25 August 2005 : The Convenor of the Working Group on Gender Mainstreaming and a staff member of the Women's Division attended the 10<sup>th</sup> Women Leaders Network Meeting of APEC in Daegu, Korea. The main theme of the Meeting was "Prosperity of Women Enterprise through Innovation; New Vision for Women Entrepreneur".

- 29 August – 1 September 2005 : Beijing 2005: The Tenth Anniversary Commemoration of the Fourth World Conference on Women, co-organised by the National Working Committee on Women and Children under the State Council, the All-China Women's Federation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the United Nations Offices in China, was held in Beijing. Eight Members of the Women's Commission joined the 30-strong HKSAR delegation led by the Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food to participate in the conference. Representatives of the Equal Opportunities Commission, the Employees Retraining Board, local women groups and women-related services organizations, Gender Focal Points and other government officials also joined the delegation.

Delegates from all over the world applauded the contributions of women in different aspects, and reaffirmed their commitments to the Beijing Declaration and the Beijing Platform for Action. The “Beijing Plus 10 Declaration: Solidarity for Gender Equality, Development and Peace” was adopted at the conference.

- 5 September 2005 : The Women's Commission issued a letter to all newspapers editors in relation to the recent media discussion on the orientation camps of local universities. The Commission encourages discussion and reflection on gender issues among university students so as to enable them to acquire a proper understanding of relationships between males and females, as well as to eliminate gender stereotyping.
- 6 September 2005 : The Women's Commission issued a press statement calling upon all sectors of the community to adopt a united stance on “zero tolerance” to domestic violence and make

concerted efforts to combat the problem. The Commission believes that domestic violence, like any other form of violence, is a violation of human rights and inflicts great harm and far-reaching impacts on the victims, their children and the community at large. It is a problem that must not be tolerated and should be dealt with head-on.

- 15 September 2005 : The Chairperson and seven Members of the Women's Commission met with the Chief Executive to express their views on the upcoming Policy Address. The Commission calls upon the Government to adopt a "zero tolerance" on domestic violence and to strengthen its policies and services to foster family solidarity and cultivate care and respect amongst family members. The Commission also urges the Government to apply gender mainstreaming to all policy areas and to continue to make efforts to facilitate women to participate in advisory and statutory bodies.
- 24 September 2005 : The Chairperson and three Members of the Women's Commission together with staff members of the Women's Division visited the Islands District and met local women personalities and representatives of local women's groups to exchange views on a wide range of women issues.
- 24 September 2005 : The Chairperson of the Women's Commission officiated at the opening ceremony of a photo exhibition organised by the Harmony House.
- 27 September 2005 : The Chairperson and seven Members of the Women's Commission had a tea gathering with the press to share the Commission's accomplishments in advancing women's interests and its plans for the coming months.

- 6 October 2005 : The Co-Convenor of the Working Group on Nurturing Family represented the Commission to officiate at the inauguration ceremony cum National Day celebration of the Wong Tai Sin Women's Federation.

### **ADVICE SOUGHT**

3. Members are invited to note the activities as outlined in paragraph 2 above.

Women's Commission Secretariat  
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