

# Preface





## A New Chapter in Hong Kong Women's History

This is the first report of the Women's Commission since its inception in 2001 and it sets out to provide an overview of the Commission's work in promoting the well-being and interests of women in Hong Kong in the past three years.

The Commission is a central mechanism with a mission "to enable women to fully realise their due status, rights and opportunities in all aspects of life". By pooling the wisdom and strengths of people from various sectors of the community, the Commission believes the obstacles obstructing and holding back women can be overcome and we encourage all non-governmental, commercial and social organisations and the community to work with us in building a society where both sexes work and live harmoniously.

In the past three years, the Commission has played a strategic role, developed a long-term vision and strategy, addressed women's needs, kept under review services and issues of women's concern, and presented proposals to the Government. We have also joined forces with government policy-making bureaux, non-governmental organisations, women's groups, tertiary institutions and the media to organise activities related to women in order to better understand the range of views at large and to broaden our own perspectives.

This report seeks to provide a deeper understanding of the different aspects of the Commission and its work. It includes the background and development of the Commission, its *modus operandi*, priority areas of action and related activities, initial results, experiences of Commission's collaborators, reflections by Members of the Commission and the way forward, with important information including findings of research work provided in the Annex. In recording the early days of the Commission and the support it has received from the community, the report opens a new chapter in the history of Hong Kong women.

Special effort has gone into the presentation and design to bring out the voices of Hong Kong women today and the goals of the Commission. We hope you find the following pages enlightening and look forward to your feedback. May you have a pleasant reading journey!