

What can you do?

We need a law that can effectively combat racial discrimination and protect your rights. To make sure the Bill will be amended to properly address race discrimination and racial inequalities in Hong Kong, you should voice your concerns by writing to the Bills Committee of the Legislative Council at: Legislative Council Secretariat, Legislative Council Building, 8 Jackson Road, Central, Hong Kong.

You should also write to your local Legislative Councillor and District Councillors to ask them to voice your concerns to the Bills Committee and the Government.

How to obtain further information?

You can read or download the Race Discrimination Bill at <http://legco.gov.hk/yr06-07/english/bills/b0612011.pdf>

Who can you contact for help and further inquiries?

1. Hong Kong Unison

A non-profit making charitable organisation of helping ethnic minorities in HK.

Tel: 2789 3246 email:

service@unison.org.hk www.unison.org.hk

2. Hong Kong Human Rights Monitor

Tel: 2811 4488

email: contact@hkr\hrm.org.hk

www.hkhrm.org.hk

Good News...

After a long delay, the government has finally produced a Race Discrimination Bill in December 2006. At this stage, the Bill is only a draft version of a new law to prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, colour, descent, and national and ethnic origin. This Bill will still have to be discussed and passed by the Legislative Council before it becomes law.

Bad news...

The Bill is supposed to be a positive step in the right direction but unfortunately, there are many problems with its contents. If this Bill becomes law, it could actually have the opposite effect by legalising race discrimination and racial inequalities!

This pamphlet will use a few common but serious examples of race discrimination to show you why the Bill is a big concern!



Hong Kong Unison



Hong Kong Human Rights Monitor

Race Discrimination Bill



**Good news?
Or
Bad news?**



A rose, no matter how its name is changed,
is still fragrant.

Humans, no matter what their colors are,
have the same dignity.



Current situation...

1. Education

a) I'm Nepalese and my daughter is studying in a Chinese Medium Instructed (CMI) school. She understands very little Chinese and doesn't know how to do her homework. All school circulars are written in Chinese and I don't understand them.



Will the Bill change this situation?

NO! (See sections 4.5, 20.2b & 58 of the Bill for more detail.)



b) I'm Pakistani and my son is studying in a non-Chinese speaking school. He is learning French but I want him to learn Chinese because it is more useful. My son tells me that Chinese is very difficult to learn and he can't follow the school curriculum.



Is there an easier and officially recognised Chinese curriculum and exams for my son and other ethnic minority students?

NO! (See sections 4.5, 20.2b & 58 of the Bill for more detail.)

What should the race discrimination bill provide for...

1a) The Education and Manpower Bureau should provide more resources to schools, eg. hiring ethnic minority persons as teaching assistants, and provide some basic translation to assist parents.

1b) There should be a "Chinese as second language" policy, which include a systemic curriculum and a recognized public exam, so that my child and other ethnic minority students can learn an acceptable proficiency level of Chinese and have a better chance of getting into universities.

2. Vocational Training



a) I'm Indian and I have 2 children who are F.5 graduates. One wants to be a primary school teacher and the other one wants to apply for Project Yi Jin, because he wants to get passes in 5 subjects to qualify for further studies. BUT both of them have been rejected because they don't know how to read and write Chinese.



Will the Bill change this situation?

NO! (See sections 4.5, 20.2b & 58 of the Bill for more detail.)

b) I'm Nepalese and I have been a construction worker for more than 7 years. I want to get more training so that I can have more chances of being promoted or doing different jobs to earn more money. But most of the training courses are in Chinese.



Will the Bill change this situation?

NO! (See sections 4.5, 20.2b & 58 of the Bill for more detail.)



What should the race discrimination bill provide for...

2a) Vocational training institutes should have more tailor-made English vocational training courses for ethnic minority people.

2b) All vocational training / re-training institutes, eg. CITA, VTC, ERB, etc. should provide more tailor-made English courses for ethnic minority people, or provide basic translation during the course.



3. Public Services



3a) I'm Filipino and live on a public housing estate. All the important notices on temporary suspensions of electricity supply and water supply are in Chinese. We don't understand and so couldn't prepare ourselves, which causes me and my family a lot of troubles and inconvenience.



Will the Bill change this situation?

NO! (See sections 4.5 & 58 of the Bill for more detail.)

3b) I'm Nepalese and have been unemployed for more than half a year. I know there are many job vacancies published in Chinese newspapers but I can't read Chinese. I go to the Labour Department for help but job requirements and duties of the job vacancies on the English websites are written in Chinese too. So I still haven't been able to find any work.



Will the Bill change this situation?

NO! (See section 58 of the Bill for more detail.)

3c) I'm a Pakistani woman and I don't understand Chinese or English. I can't communicate with doctors and I don't have money to hire my own interpreter. My husband and friends often can't help because they have to work. My health is getting worse even though I have been to the hospital many times. I don't know what is happening, I don't understand my health problem and I feel very depressed.



Will the Bill change this situation?

NO! (See section 58 of the Bill for more detail.)



What should the race discrimination bill provide for...

3a) All important notices should have both Chinese & English versions.

3b) The Labour Department should translate all job vacancies into English to give us equal access to information. They should also have special service counter to serve non-Chinese users in order to help improve their employment situation.

3c) Hospitals should provide a translation and interpretation service because health problems could be matters of life and death.

