



**Hong Kong Unison's proposed list of issues**  
**on the implementation of ICESCR in Hong Kong**  
**for the pre-sessional working group session in May 2013**

**Article 13**

**Chinese language education**

1. Please comment on the effectiveness of the education policy for ethnic minorities given the poor education outcome<sup>1</sup> despite the measures on the Chinese learning of ethnic minorities mentioned in the Government's report.
2. Please provide information on the timetable and budget for the recommendations made by the EOC<sup>2</sup>.
3. Please explain the delay of implementing a "Chinese as a Second Language" curriculum, which has been promised in the election manifesto of the Chief Executive. The Working Group on Education for Ethnic Minorities of the Equal Opportunities Commission in 2011 also

---

<sup>1</sup> According to the Report on the Working Group on Education for Ethnic Minorities of the Equal Opportunities Commission in 2011 (retrieved at <http://www.eoc.org.hk/eoc/Upload/UserFiles/File/EducationReportE.pdf>), ethnic minorities account for 0.59% of the student population at the post-secondary level. This is not commensurate with their proportion in the corresponding age group. According to the 2011 Census, ethnic minorities constitute 2.19% of the population of the age group 18 to 24.

<sup>2</sup> Please refer to the appendix "Submission to Education Bureau" to the Report on the Working Group on Education for Ethnic Minorities of the Equal Opportunities Commission in 2011, retrieved at <http://www.eoc.org.hk/eoc/Upload/UserFiles/File/EducationReportE.pdf>.



urged the Government to reconsider the case for an alternative curriculum<sup>3</sup>.

4. In light of the fact that Chinese is not the mother tongue of ethnic minorities in Hong Kong, please explain whether the Government has set any stage learning targets for ethnic minority students' Chinese learning and mechanisms for monitoring whether such stage targets are met.
5. Please provide information on how the Government monitor kindergartens' Chinese language teaching for ethnic minority students, including the frequency of any school visits and whether the Government has any specific parameters in this aspect for ethnic minority students in kindergarten.
6. Please explain how the Government ensures ethnic minority students with learning disabilities are accurately identified and assessed despite the language barrier and cultural difference.
7. Please explain measures taken to ensure that adult education is equally accessible to members of all races, including those who only speak English but not Chinese.

### **De facto racial segregation across schools**

---

<sup>3</sup> Page 7 of the appendix "Submission to Education Bureau". retrieved at <http://www.eoc.org.hk/eoc/Upload/UserFiles/File/EducationReportE.pdf>.



Please explain how the Government will combat the de facto racial segregation across mainstream and “designated” schools<sup>4</sup> to protect the best interests of the children.

### **Human rights education**

Please explain measures in terms of education taken to ensure Hong Kong residents, especially ethnic minorities, understand various human rights mechanisms and the rights specified in ICESCR and other international treaties.

### **Article 2**

#### **Legislation against race discrimination**

1. Please indicate any measures taken to ensure that the Race Discrimination Ordinance specifically applies to every respect of the exercise of the powers and the performance of the functions of the Government.
2. Please indicate legislative measures taken to combat discrimination on the grounds of language, religion and nationality, in light of the fact that a piece of equal opportunities legislation against discrimination on the ground of language, religion and nationality will add to the existing protection against such discrimination provided by the Basic Law and Bill of Rights.

---

<sup>4</sup> Instead of “designated schools”, the Education Bureau now calls these schools “schools provided with recurrent funding by the Bureau to enhance school-based support in servicing the needs of non-Chinese speaking students” in some of its documents, seemingly to avoid criticism and possible lawsuits against the related de facto racial segregation.



3. Please explain any measures to make the Administrative Guidelines on Promotion of Racial Equality a statutory document with a sanction mechanism.

### **Equal Opportunities Commission**

Please explain how the appointment procedures of the EOC chairperson will comply with the Paris Principles, including how the independence of Selection Board is ensured and revolving door practice avoided.

### **A comprehensive race policy**

Please explain if the Government will formulate a comprehensive race policy to ensure racial and religious harmony and equal opportunities in various aspects, such as employment, education, social welfare, for members of all races.

### **Ethnicity data**

Please explain measures taken to ensure that ethnicity data collected by the Government, including those submitted to various United Nations treaty bodies, are accurate and adequate for implementing policies for equal opportunities of members of all races.