

民政及青年事務局常任秘書長出席聯合國消除對婦女歧視委員會會議的開場發言全文

聯合國消除對婦女歧視委員會(委員會)今日(日內瓦時間五月十二日)於瑞士日內瓦舉行會議，審議香港特別行政區根據《消除對婦女一切形式歧視公約》提交的第四次報告。以下是民政及青年事務局常任秘書長林雪麗在會議的開場發言全文(中文譯本)：

主席女士、各位委員、女士們，先生們：

我很榮幸藉此機會就《消除對婦女一切形式歧視公約》(《公約》)在中華人民共和國香港特別行政區(香港特區)的實施情況發言。

2. 香港特區一直根據《基本法》和本地法律，包括四條反歧視法例的條文實施《公約》。

概況

3. 在香港，婦女佔人口 54%。香港特區政府一直致力推動婦女發展，並為婦女提供支援。

女童和婦女教育

4. 各項立法工作，加上為所有兒童提供的十二年免費、普及、強制教育，令青年女性能夠展翅高飛，亦令婦女在家庭、事業和社交生活中取得卓越成就。

5. 現時香港十五歲或以上女性中有接近八成達到中學或以上教育程度。在學士學位課程中，女學生佔過半人數。而在研究院修課課程中，女性學生超過六成。

女性在工作場所的狀況

6. 今天的香港婦女不但可以自由選擇職業，更能夠擔任高層職位。

7. 以公務員隊伍為例，現時越來越多女性出任高層職位。在香港特區政府十八名常任秘書長，即公務員體系的最高職位當中，十二人為女性，而所有首長級人員中亦約有 40% 為女性。在司法機構中，三分之一的法官和司法人員為女性。上述數字對比我們上次，即二零一四年向委員會報告時已經大幅上升。在私人企業方面，香港婦女亦開始打破無形的職場限制而取得成就——目前婦女在管理層中的人數比例為 30%，在執業會計師中為 50%，在律師中為 51%。

二零一四年至今的重要發展

8. 自二零一四年起，香港婦女迎來更多正面改變。我們修訂了《性別歧視條例》，保障餵哺母乳的女性免受騷擾。我們將委任政府諮詢和法定組織成員的性別基準由 25% 提升至 35%。我們亦把產假由十星期延長至十四星期。

9. 香港特區行政長官在《二零二二年施政報告》中宣布成立「婦女自強基金」，支援婦女兼顧工作和家庭。在二零二三年《財政預算案》中，政府更決定預留港幣一億元(約為一千三百萬美元)，以進一步推動婦女發展。

二零一九年暴亂

10. 主席、各位委員，過去十年香港婦女發展取得佳績。與此同時，我希望回應一些非政府組織在提交予委員會的報告中對香港特區所作的若干評論。當中很多觀點是建基於不實信息和歪曲敘述，罔顧事實，對香港的狀況作出錯誤評論。

11. 二零一九年，由反對一項法例修訂工作而引起的嚴重暴亂，對香港社會造成極大創傷。當時的暴力違法行為，在規模或嚴重程度上均是前所未見。反對派和宣揚「香港獨立」和「自決」的團體公然挑戰中央政府和香港特區政府的權威，並請求外部勢力干預香港事務，更呼籲對香港作出制裁。

12. 在如此亂局下，香港警方採取了專業且必要的行動以保障市民的生命和安全，亦有必要實施《中華人民共和國香港特別行政區維護國家安全法》（《國安法》）。我亦必須反駁某些非政府組織提交予委員會的兩項錯誤評論。

駁斥警方干犯「基於性別的暴力行為」的說法

13. 首先，有人指警方在二零一九年的嚴重暴力事件中作出「基於性別的暴力行為」。我們強烈反對這些毫無根據的無理敘述。舉例來說，有人把一齣法國電影畫面截圖改編成海報，用以虛構指警方性侵。在此，我必須強調，香港是法治社會。當發生違法行為時，警方有責任採取行動並將有關人士繩之以法。沒有人，包括警方，可以凌駕法律。

14. 香港的兩層投訴警察制度行之有效，可確保每宗投訴警察的個案能得到公平公正的處理。而投訴警察課和獨立監察警方處理投訴委員會處理投訴個案時亦持認真和專業的態度，以保障確實受侵犯的受害人。

駁斥《國安法》干預婦女政治權利的說法

15. 第二，我希望回應有關《國安法》干預婦女政治權利的惡意陳述。《國安法》在實施後，讓香港由亂變治，讓香港居民重新享有於二零一九年六月至二零二零年年初的「黑暴」期間不能享有的權利和自由。《國安法》清楚訂明，香港特區維護國家安全時應當尊重和保障人權。在《國安法》或其他本地法律下，香港

特區執法部門是根據證據，嚴格依照法律並就有關的人士或組織的行為採取執法行動，一切與其政治立場、背景、職業或性別無關。

16. 其實，很多香港人可以用親身經歷告訴你，《國安法》在實施後有效地制止香港自二零一九年六月起持續十個多月的亂局。《國安法》的實施，讓市民生活回復正常，經濟恢復動力。香港特區政府會繼續堅決履行維護國家安全的職責和義務，同時保障香港市民享有的權利和自由，並確保「一國兩制」行穩致遠。

結論

17. 香港特區政府會繼續投入資源推廣婦女在生活各方面得到應有的地位、權利和機會。我們亦會繼續堅定地澄清任何針對香港情況的無理和不實評論。最後，我想特別向領導中國代表團的黃曉薇主席致意，也必須感謝各位就香港特區政府提交的第四次報告的關注和觀察。我們期待在今天稍後的對話中，與大家分享更多我們的相關工作。

Opening statement by PSHYA at UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women meeting

The United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women held a meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, today (May 12, Geneva time) to consider the fourth report of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Following is the opening statement made by the Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs, Ms Shirley Lam, at the meeting:

Madam Chairperson, Members of the Committee, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honoured to have this opportunity to speak on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China.

2. The HKSAR has all along been implementing CEDAW in accordance with the provisions of the Basic Law and the local laws, including the four pieces of anti-discrimination legislation.

An Overview

3. Women make up 54 per cent of Hong Kong's population and the HKSAR Government has all along been committed to promoting women's development and providing support to women.

Girls and Women in Education

4. All the legislative efforts, together with a free, universal and compulsory 12-year education that we offer to all children, equip girls with wings to fly high, and women with tools to excel in family, career and social life.

5. Today, nearly 80 per cent of females aged 15 or above in Hong Kong have attained secondary education or above, and females now account for more than half of our student enrolments in undergraduate programmes and over 60 per cent of the students in taught postgraduate programmes.

Women in Workplace

6. Women in Hong Kong nowadays are not only free to choose to work in the labour market, but are also taking high positions.

7. Using the Civil Service as an example, women are now filling more senior positions. Twelve of our 18 permanent secretaries, the highest civil servant positions in the Government, and around 40% of all directorate officers are women. In the Judiciary, more than one-third of our judges and judicial officers are women. These figures, comparing to 2014 when we last reported to the Committee, have all increased significantly. Looking at the private businesses, we see women in Hong Kong breaking the glass ceiling and attaining success - More than 30% of management positions, 50% of public accountants, 51% of solicitors are now women.

Key Development Since 2014

8. There are more positive changes for Hong Kong women since 2014. We have since amended our Sex Discrimination Ordinance to provide protection against harassment of breastfeeding women. We have since raised our gender benchmark for appointment to government advisory and statutory body to 35% from the previous 25%. We have also extended the maternity leave from 10 weeks to 14 weeks.

9. The Chief Executive of the HKSAR announced in his 2022 Policy Address that we will set up a Women Empowerment Fund to support women in balancing job and family commitments. The Government has further decided to set aside 100 million HKD (approximately 13M USD) in the 2023 Budget to promote women's development further.

The 2019 Riot

10. Chairperson and members, apart from celebrating Hong Kong women's achievements in the past decade, I would also like to take the chance to address certain comments against HKSAR in some NGO submissions to the Committee. Many of the statements in these submissions are based on false information and distorted narratives regardless of the truth, with flawed comments on the situation in Hong Kong.

11. The Hong Kong community was traumatised during the serious violence in 2019 arising from the opposition to a proposed legislative amendment exercise. The scale and level of violent illegal acts were unprecedented. The opposition forces and organisations advocating "Hong Kong Independence" and "self-determination" blatantly challenged the authority of the Central Authorities and the HKSAR Government, pleaded for interference in Hong Kong's affairs by external forces and even begged for sanctions against Hong Kong.

12. It is in light of this chaotic context that our Police have taken professional and necessary actions to protect citizens' lives and safety, and that there is a necessity to enact the Hong Kong National Security Law (NSL). I must also rebut two false claims that certain NGOs have presented to the Committee in this respect.

Rebuttal of “gender-based violence” by Police

13. First, on the so-called “gender-based violence” alleged to be committed by our Police during the serious violence in 2019, we strongly oppose such ungrounded narratives. An example of such baseless claims was that a screenshot of a French movie was edited and turned into a poster to fabricate sexual assault allegations against the police. I must stress that Hong Kong is a society that upholds the rule of law. When someone breaks the law, Police officers are duty bound to arrest them and bring them to justice. No one, including the Police, is above the law.

14. The two-tier police complaint handling mechanism is operating effectively to ensure that every complaint against the Police is handled in a fair and impartial manner. The Complaints Against Police Office and the Independent Police Complaints Council handle cases with a serious and professional attitude to protect victims who are genuinely abused.

Rebuttal of NSL Interfering with Women's Political Rights

15. Second, I wish to respond to the malicious claim that NSL has interfered with women's political rights. Following the implementation of the NSL, chaos stopped and stability has been restored in Hong Kong, allowing the enjoyment of rights and freedoms which many people in the HKSAR had been unable to enjoy during the period of serious violence

between June 2019 and early 2020. The NSL clearly stipulates that human rights shall be respected and protected in safeguarding national security in the HKSAR. All law enforcement actions taken by Hong Kong law enforcement agencies under the NSL, or indeed any local legislation, are based on evidence, strictly in accordance with the law and for the acts of the people and entities concerned, and have nothing to do with their political stance, background, occupation, and gender.

16. Indeed, many Hong Kong people could tell you from their own experience that the implementation of the NSL has effectively ended the chaotic situation in Hong Kong in the ten months or so since June 2019. Thanks to the implementation of NSL, livelihood was resumed to normal while economy revived. The HKSAR Government will continue to resolutely carry out its duties and obligations to safeguard national security and, at the same time, protect the rights and freedoms that Hong Kong residents enjoy, ensuring the steadfast and successful implementation of the “one country, two systems” principle.

Conclusion

17. The HKSAR Government would continue to dedicate resources to promote the realisation of women's due status, rights and opportunities in all aspects of life. We will also continue to firmly dispel any unfounded and false allegations against the situation in Hong Kong. Last but not least, I would like to thank Madam Huang Xiaowei for her leadership of the Chinese delegation and must also thank you for your interest and observations on our Government's Fourth Report submitted in 2018. We look forward to sharing with you more about our efforts in our dialogue later today.

Word Count: 1140 words