

Our Response to the Policy Address 2019

While the Chief Executive mentioned the needs of children of different backgrounds in her policy address, we believe the Government should focus more on the formulation of comprehensive policies for children. The Government should strengthen all measures to ensure full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child into law and fulfill its obligations under the Convention. We would like to draw the Government's attention to the following for deliberation:

1. Strengthen the Functions of the Commission on Children

The Commission on Children has been established for over a year. The Government should review the performance and effectiveness of the Commission and strive to strengthen its role and functions, supporting it to become an independent entity with authority and legal mandates.

We recommend more working groups should be set up under the Commission, covering a more extensive range of issues affecting children in Hong Kong, including mental health for children and online safety. We also urge the Commission to ensure children's participation in its processes.

2. Formulate Comprehensive Children Policies

To formulate more comprehensive child-centred policies and services, the Government should allocate a clear budget to serve the interests of children, as well as set up a Central Data Bank for Children.

3. Establish an Open Dialogue with Young People

The Government should establish a constructive and open dialogue with the youth to better understand and address the concerns of the younger generation, ensuring the consultative mechanism can take the youth's views and suggestions into consideration during the process of policy formulation.

4. Promote Positive Parenting

We believe enhanced parent-child relationships will better enable children to grow up happily and healthily. These relationships can be improved through providing parents with the knowledge to parent positively without using violence and through improved parent-child communication. The Government should implement the recommendations put forward in the Task Force on Home-school Co-operation and Parent Education and allocate resources to promote positive parenting in Hong Kong.