



Press Release by Hong Kong College of Paediatricians on 19 November 2013

The Concluding Observations on the combined third and fourth periodic reports of China (including Hong Kong and Macau SARs) adopted by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child issued three weeks ago was discussed at the Panel on Constitutional and Mainland Affairs at the Legislative Council on 18th November.

The Hong Kong College of Paediatricians strongly support the call of the UN Committee to establish a children's commission in Hong Kong with a clear mandate to monitor children's rights, adopt a comprehensive policy on children, develop coordinated plans of action with clear objectives, define strategic budgetary lines for children and set up centralized disaggregated data collection systems. The government's view that different Bureaux are already taking care of a wide range of policies regarding children under the Chief Secretary of Administration, or the Family Council and Children's Rights Forum purporting to serve the functions of a children's commission had not been accepted by the UN Committee.

Amidst the apparent affluence of Hong Kong, we have many preventable deaths identified by the Child Fatality Review Panel. Had data been disaggregated, it would have revealed that under-5 mortality is 4 to 8 times higher in some parts of Hong Kong compared with the average figure. Provisions for child care services are unevenly distributed and not necessarily user friendly, especially for the child. Despite satisfactory average numbers, there are still gaps to be filled. The government is still condoning violence against children without explicitly banning corporal punishment as repeatedly asked by the UN Committee. While the UN Committee stressed the importance of exclusive breastfeeding and baby friendly hospitals, data on exclusive breastfeeding in maternity units are not yet systematically collected by the government and 22 years after WHO / UNICEF put forth the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative, no date is set by which all maternity units in Hong Kong will be "baby friendly". Although there will be a Centre of Excellence in Paediatrics (children's hospital), equal attention should be paid to all existing health services serving now, and in future, most of the children in Hong Kong.

Hong Kong cannot continue to subsume child issues under other interests. The UN Committee asks that there should be no delay in establishing a Children's Commission. To ensure a healthy productive younger generation for Hong Kong, we should start by supporting our children to develop to their full potential.

NB. The full submission of the Hong Kong College of Paediatricians to the Panel of Constitutional and Mainland Affairs is attached.

http://www.paediatrician.org.hk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=50&Itemid=27

For more enquiries, please contact:

Dr CB Chow

Spokesperson of Hong Kong College of Paediatricians

Email: chowcb@netvigator.com



香港兒科醫學院新聞稿件

聯合國兒童權利委員會最近發表了對中國包括香港澳門特別行政區的第三、四份定期報告的審議結論。立法會的憲制事務委員會已於本月十八日舉行聽政會。

本學院強烈支持聯合國兒童權利委員會的呼籲,在香港成立兒童事務委員會 (Children Commission)。兒童事務委員會需要有清晰的職能去監察本港兒童的權利、全面制定政府對兒童的政策、推動在政府的週年計劃及預算案中清楚訂定改善兒童權利的具體行動方案、並成立全港的及分類的資料庫去監察兒童權利改善的進展。聯合國委員會認為現在的政府架構,包括政務司和家庭議會都不能統籌各政策局以確保所有政策都符合兒童權利。

雖然本港表面富裕,兒童死亡個案檢討委員會的報告指出很多可避免的個案。如果數字經分類分析,可顯示有些地區的五歲以下兒童死亡率比平均數字高出四至八倍。我們不能只滿足於平均數字而忽略最差的地區。應為有需要的家庭提供托兒服務,這些服務仍然不足及不一定適合家長及孩子的需要。委員會更呼籲禁止對兒童的體罰。雖然世界衛生組織在二十二年前已經提倡全母乳喂養及成立愛嬰醫院。本港政府現在還沒有掌握各醫院的全母乳喂哺率,更沒有制定為全港愛嬰醫院認證的時間表。我們歡迎計劃中的兒童醫院,但更急切的,是改善現有的全港兒童醫療衛生服務。

香港不應視兒童政策低於其它關注。聯合國兒童權利委員會要求政府盡快成立兒童事務委員會。為確保本港有健康及有生產力的下一代,我們應成立兒童事務委員會以支援我們的下一代可全面發展他們的健康和潛力。

備註:香港兒科醫學院就聯合國報告向立法會政制事務委員會提交的建議可在下列連結下載

http://www.paediatrician.org.hk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=50&Itemid=27

如有進一步查詢,傳媒朋友請聯絡:

香港兒科醫學院發言人

周鎮邦醫生

電郵地址: chowcb@netvigator.com