

The Rights of the Individual

Detailed Progress

I Keep under review the rights of the individual

To achieve results in this area, various initiatives have been undertaken in the past years. Details are set out below —

Initiative *	Target #	Present Position †
<p>To submit reports to the United Nations (UN) under the UN treaties and attend the related hearings</p> <p><i>(Home Affairs Bureau (HAB))</i></p>	<p>To submit the first Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Report under the Convention on the Rights of the Child as part of China's report by end-2001</p> <p><i>(2001)</i></p>	<p>Report to be submitted to the Central People's Government with a view to completing action by end-2002.</p> <p><i>(Action in Progress : Behind Schedule)</i></p>
<p>To revisit the question of legislation against racial discrimination</p> <p><i>(HAB)</i></p>	<p>To complete consultations and determine the way forward by early 2002</p> <p><i>(2001)</i></p>	<p>The consultations are complete and we are now considering the way forward in the light of their findings. The process has taken longer than anticipated because of the need to balance conflicting considerations.</p> <p><i>(Action in Progress : Behind Schedule)</i></p>
<p>To find out the extent of discrimination relating to equal pay for work of equal value in the public and private sectors</p> <p><i>(Equal Opportunities Commission)</i></p>	<p>To decide on the scope and commission a study in 2000-2001</p> <p><i>(2000)</i></p>	<p><i>(Action Completed)</i></p>

* the bracketed information denotes the agency with lead responsibility for the initiative

the bracketed information denotes the year in which the target was set

† the bracketed information denotes the status of the target

2 Create and maintain necessary legal and administrative measures

To achieve results in this area, various initiatives have been undertaken in the past years. Details are set out below —

Initiative	Target	Present Position
To clarify the existing provisions of the Sex Discrimination Ordinance and the Family Status Discrimination Ordinance and to rectify defects in the existing legislation (Home Affairs Bureau (HAB))	To introduce amending legislation into the Legislative Council in 2002 (2001)	(Action in Progress : On Schedule)
To empower the court to impose surcharges on maintenance arrears (HAB)	To introduce amending legislation into the Legislative Council in early 2001 (2000)	(Action Completed)
To relax the requirements for all judgment summonses for recovering maintenance arrears to be served personally (HAB)	To introduce amendments to the relevant subsidiary legislation in early 2001 (2000)	The draft amendments are being fine-tuned to address some fine legal points identified during the course of drafting. We will consult relevant professional bodies on the final draft in the first half of 2003. The amendments will be tabled at the Legislative Council when finalised. (Action in Progress : Behind Schedule)

Initiative	Target	Present Position
<p>To amend the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance to address difficulties that have been encountered in its operation</p> <p><i>(HAB)</i></p>	<p>To have an amendment bill ready by end-1999 for introduction into the Legislative Council</p> <p><i>(1998)</i></p>	<p>The proposed amendments turned out to be more complicated than envisaged. We are still drafting the amendment bill.</p> <p><i>(Action in Progress : Behind Schedule)</i></p>

3 Build community awareness and ownership

To achieve results in this area, various initiatives have been undertaken in the past years. Details are set out below —

Initiative	Target	Present Position
To publicise the new measures of the Attachment of Income Order Scheme <i>(Home Affairs Bureau (HAB))</i>	To revise the Attachment of Income Order Scheme booklets by mid-2002 <i>(2001)</i>	<i>(Action Completed)</i>
To publicise the revised judgment summons procedures <i>(HAB)</i>	To produce information leaflets on the revised judgment summons procedures after the enactment of the necessary legislation <i>(2001)</i>	<i>(Action in Progress : On Schedule)</i>
To develop and publish an E-Privacy booklet which gives practical guidance on how to conduct Privacy Impact Assessment <i>(Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCO))</i>	To publish the booklet in the first quarter of 2002 <i>(2001)</i>	The PCO is reviewing the draft of the booklet to take into account the latest developments on the subject. <i>(Action in Progress : Behind Schedule)</i>

Initiative	Target	Present Position
<p>To make available to the public a range of comprehensive and updated materials on equal opportunities</p> <p><i>(Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC))</i></p>	<p>To establish an on-line bilingual Resource Centre on Equal Opportunities in 2001-2002</p> <p><i>(2001)</i></p>	<p><i>(Action Completed)</i></p>
<p>To promote equal opportunities for the disadvantaged groups in the enjoyment of information technology through the removal of accessibility barriers</p> <p><i>(EOC)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In partnership with the IT industry, to issue guidelines on web design and to conduct promotional programmes to improve web access for disabled persons. These initiatives will be implemented in 2001-2002 ● In 2001-2002, to work with the banking industry on an action plan to remove the barriers that may be encountered by persons with a disability in the use of electronic banking services <p><i>(2001)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>(Action Completed)</i> ● <i>(Action in Progress : On Schedule)</i>

Initiative	Target	Present Position
<p>To promote equal opportunities practices in the business sector</p> <p>(EOC)</p>	<p>To produce a self-assessment information kit for small and medium-sized enterprises in 2000-2001</p> <p>(2000)</p>	<p>(Action in Progress : On Schedule)</p>
<p>To organise 100 public and in-house seminars to promote understanding of and compliance with the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance</p> <p>(PCO)</p>	<p>To conduct the seminars in 2001</p> <p>(2000)</p>	<p>(Action Completed)</p>
<p>To develop and publish an “Aid to the Interpretation of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance”</p> <p>(PCO)</p>	<p>To publish the first version of the “Aid to the Interpretation of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance” in the last quarter of 2001</p> <p>(2000)</p>	<p>The PCO is finalising the draft. The booklet is expected to be available in early 2003.</p> <p>(Action in Progress : Behind Schedule)</p>
<p>To drive home the message that a person is responsible for the maintenance of his/her child(ren) and ex-spouse even after divorce; and to inform maintenance payees of their rights and of the services available to them when they fail to receive maintenance payments</p> <p>(HAB)</p>	<p>By mid-2001, to mount publicity measures to –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● review existing publicity materials available to single parents and prospective divorcees with a view to incorporating our messages in them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● (Action Completed)

Initiative	Target	Present Position
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● design new publicity materials on the legal and administrative measures affecting persons eligible for maintenance ● conduct at least one seminar, to familiarise both Government and non-governmental organisation personnel with the measures affecting persons eligible for maintenance <p>(2000)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>(Action Completed)</i> ● Timing of seminar deferred, pending the legislative amendments concerning interest on maintenance arrears and judgment summons proceedings. <p><i>(Action in Progress : Under Review)</i></p>

4 Pursue legislative and administrative arrangements to protect the rights of the individual

To achieve results in this area, various initiatives have been undertaken in the past years. Details are set out below —

Initiative	Target	Present Position
<p>To enhance our work in handling racial issues and in providing practical assistance to the ethnic minorities in Hong Kong</p> <p><i>(Home Affairs Bureau (HAB))</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To plan to establish a dedicated unit in 2002-2003 to enhance services ● To form a joint non-governmental organisation (NGO)/ Government committee on race-related public education and publicity in 2002 ● To produce new editions of each version of the service guidebooks for migrant workers every two years <p><i>(2001)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>(Action Completed)</i> ● <i>(Action Completed)</i> ● <i>(Action in Progress : On Schedule)</i>
<p>To enhance our funding support to NGOs for carrying out activities under the “Equal Opportunities Funding Scheme”</p> <p><i>(HAB)</i></p>	<p>To increase funding for the “Equal Opportunities Funding Scheme” in 2002-2003</p> <p><i>(2001)</i></p>	<p><i>(Action Completed)</i></p>

Initiative	Target	Present Position
<p>To introduce on a pilot basis a “mobile information service” at the Airport for non-Chinese new arrivals</p> <p><i>(HAB/The International Social Services)</i></p>	<p>To start providing this service by mid-2002</p> <p><i>(2001)</i></p>	<p><i>(Action Completed)</i></p>
<p>To revamp government websites to facilitate accessibility by people with disabilities and people with less powerful computer equipment</p> <p><i>(HAB)</i></p>	<p>To revamp at least half of all government websites by end-2001 and the remainder by end-2002</p> <p><i>(2000)</i></p>	<p><i>(Action Completed)</i></p>