

COUNTRY REPORT OF BPW HONG KONG

Public Affairs Committee

1 Rape Crisis Centre's threatened closure

We have made 2 submissions (Nov 05 and June 06) to Hong Kong's Legislative Council Social Welfare Committee urging a reluctant government to support Hong Kong's only one-stop rape crisis centre. We have appealed for public donations to prevent its closure. In April 2007 the centre was granted funding for a further year by a local charity.

2 Huge Female Prison Population

We visited 2 women's prisons in May and June 2006 - Hong Kong has the world's highest ratio of female prisoners of whom 66% are illegal immigrants from Mainland China. We believe these women are victims, some probably trafficked. With 10,000 such women being detained a year the legal system 'bundles' their cases together and each defendant's case takes on average 3 minutes.

We have held 2 public meetings and written to the government and the press to raise public awareness of possible breaches of Human Rights.

3 Networking with other NGOs

We regularly attend meetings with other organisations in Hong Kong to try to find some solutions to the problems mentioned above and to address the issues of discrimination against non-Chinese racial groups, against Mainland women, against victims of domestic violence and against sex workers. We make representations to the Hong Kong government when proposed legislation or policies fail to address these issues.