

Existing and planned measures on the promotion of racial equality

The Legislative Council ("LegCo") Secretariat ("the Secretariat") provides administrative support and services to LegCo under the supervision of The Legislative Council Commission. The mission of the Secretariat is to provide efficient and professional secretariat, research and administrative support for LegCo, enhance community understanding of the activities of LegCo and ensure an effective avenue for redress.

The Secretariat attaches great importance to ensuring equal access by all members of the public, irrespective of their ethnic background, to the knowledge about and participation in LegCo business.

Services
Concerned

- To facilitate deputations and members of the public of different races to express views at meetings or public hearings held by committees of LegCo on issues of public concern
- To facilitate access to the services under the LegCo Redress System by deputations and members of the public of different races
- To promote the work of LegCo to people of different races

Existing
Measures¹

- Interpretation/translation services from English or Chinese (as appropriate) to eight other languages (viz. Bahasa Indonesia, Hindi, Nepali, Punjabi, Urdu, Tagalog, Thai and Vietnamese) and vice versa are provided at the requests of:
 - deputations and members of the public of different races attending meetings or public hearings of LegCo committees, or providing written submissions to committees; and
 - complainants of different races attending the scheduled meetings under the LegCo Redress System.

¹ Under special circumstances, such as the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Secretariat may suitably adjust some of the measures.

Additional
Measures
to be
Taken

- Arrangements are made to provide free three-way telephone interpretation services between English and the eight other languages mentioned above where necessary and appropriate through the Centre for Harmony and Enhancement of Ethnic Minority Residents to understand and respond to the enquiries of visitors to the LegCo Complex who speak these languages.
- Library materials on racial inclusion are made available in the LegCo Library to enable LegCo Members, Secretariat staff and other Library users to better understand the issues relating to different racial groups.
- Training on racial sensitivity and cultural diversity is included in the Secretariat's regular staff training programmes to enhance their awareness of and sensitivity to the cultures, special needs and concerns of people of different races.
- Simultaneous interpretation in English, Cantonese and Putonghua is arranged for all Council meetings and open meetings of LegCo committees. Members of the public are welcome to observe the proceedings of these meetings in the public galleries of the LegCo Complex or via the webcasts on the LegCo Website.
- All information leaflets produced by the Secretariat and all important notices on the LegCo Website are available in both Chinese and English.
- Selected notices and information leaflets compiled by the Secretariat will be translated into Bahasa Indonesia, Hindi, Nepali, Punjabi, Urdu, Tagalog, Thai and Vietnamese.

Assessment of
Future Work

- The Secretariat will assess its services and training from time to time, taking into consideration the feedback and suggestions from members of the public, LegCo Members and Secretariat staff, so as to further enhance its services.

Enquiries/complaints

Members of the public may contact Senior Council Secretary (Administration)² of the LegCo Secretariat at Tel. No. 3919 3077 or by email (adm@legco.gov.hk) for enquiries/suggestions relating to the measures taken by the Secretariat in respect of promotion of racial equality.

Legislative Council Secretariat
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