

**HKCSS  
Seminar**

# ***Policy and Measures to Achieve Social Cohesion***

***(HKCSS Seminar on Racial Discrimination Bill February 2007)***

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# ***Policy to achieve social cohesion***

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**Citizenship and Democracy**



**Core values education (social development, family cohesion)**



**Employment & social policies**



**Reduction of poverty and inequality**

# ***SAR Racial Discrimination Bill 2006***

A late-comer

It is  
rather  
complex





Provide basic  
protection  
against racial  
discrimination

Legal  
measures  
not  
comprehensive

Educational  
and  
Community  
means are  
important to  
foster social  
cohesion but  
they remain  
unclear at  
this stage

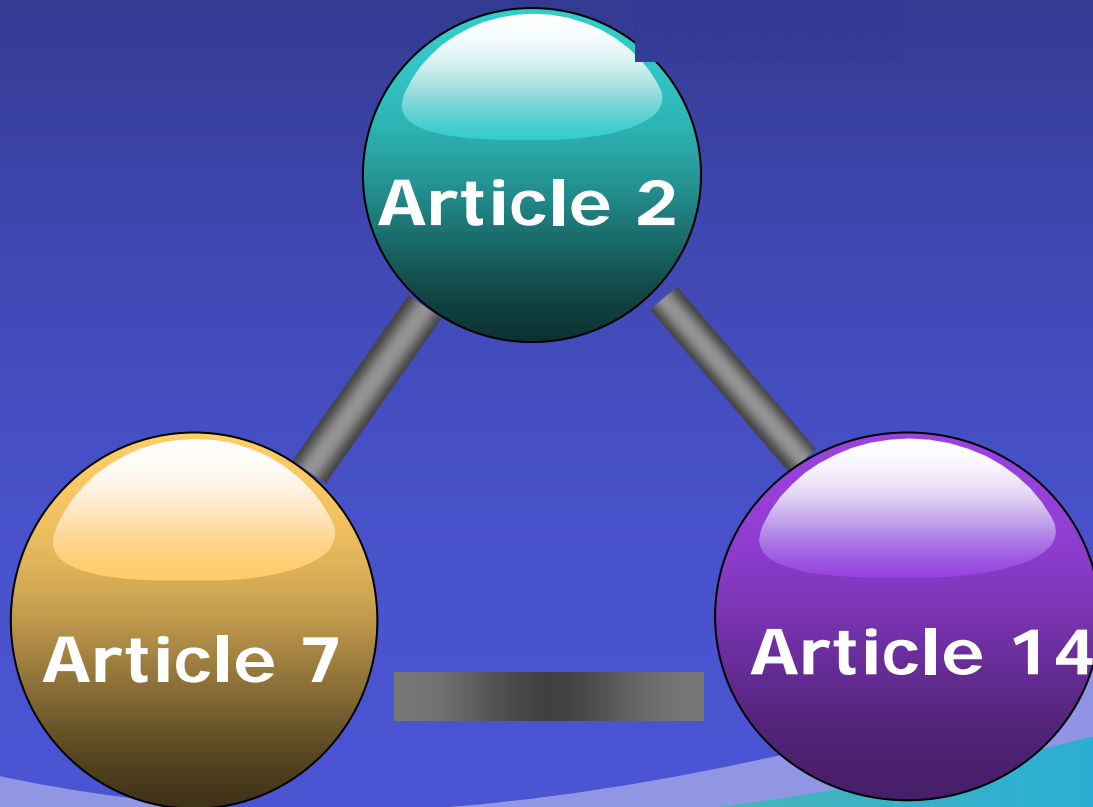
# ***A Discrimination-Free Society for Hong Kong?***

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-  **1 Anti Discrimination law is essential**
-  **2 But one cannot rely on legal measures alone**
-  **3 Maintain a proper balance between law (Articles 2) and education (Article 7)**
-  **4 Pursue individual means of complaint (Article 14)**

# ***International Legal Basis for Race Discrimination Bill***

International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial  
Discrimination 1969



# ***Article 2***

States Parties condemn racial discrimination and undertake to pursue by all appropriate means and without delay a policy of eliminating racial discrimination in all its forms and promoting understanding among all races, and, to this end:

**(a) Each State Party undertakes to engage in no act or practice of racial discrimination against persons, groups of persons or institutions and to ensure that all public authorities and public institutions, national and local, shall act in conformity with this obligation;**

**(b) Each State Party undertakes not to sponsor, defend or support racial discrimination by any persons or organizations;**

**(c) Each State Party shall take effective measures to review governmental, national and local policies, and to amend, rescind or nullify any laws and regulations which have the effect of creating or perpetuating racial discrimination wherever it exists;**

**(d) Each State Party shall prohibit and bring to an end, by all appropriate means, including legislation as required by circumstances, racial discrimination by any persons, group or organization;**

**(e) Each State Party undertakes to encourage, where appropriate, integrationist multiracial organizations and movements and other means of eliminating barriers between races, and to discourage anything which tends to strengthen racial division.**

## ***Article 2 (cont'd)***


# ***Article 7***

States Parties undertake to adopt immediate and effective measures, particularly in the fields of **teaching, education, culture and information**, with a view to combating prejudices which lead to racial discrimination and to promoting understanding, tolerance and friendship among nations and racial or ethnical groups, as well as to propagating the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and this Convention.



# ***Article 14 (Individual Complaint)***

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 Establishes a procedure that makes it possible for an individual or a group of persons claiming to be the victim of racial discrimination to lodge a complaint with the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial (CERD) against the State concerned.

 This may only be done if the State is a party to the Convention and has declared that it recognizes the competence of CERD to receive such complaints.

# ***Addressing the root causes***

- ❖ **The Importance of Education (Article 7)**
- ❖ **But countries continue to treat this factor as marginal**

# ***Goals and Vision***

- ❖ Respect for racial and ethnic difference lie at the heart of the debates on “good life” and “plural society” (multicultural diversity)
- ❖ Ending racial prejudice and promoting understanding
- ❖ Racist ideas are not inborn but transmitted
- ❖ “Thou shall not oppress a stranger” versus “Thou shall treat a stranger as a brother”

# ***Multiple Interventions: PECMR***

- ❖ Wider **publicity** of the new racial discrimination law
- ❖ **Educational programs** against racism (e.g., curriculum for school children, sensitivity training for police, teachers, judges, professionals or human service workers)
- ❖ **Community programs/efforts** against racism
- ❖ **Monies** for anti-racism initiatives
- ❖ **Research** on racial discrimination and means of combating racism (benchmarking and monitoring)

# ***Example of Canada***

**The British Columbia  
Human Rights  
Commission (HRC)**  
offered educational  
programs and workshops  
to schools, businesses,  
employers, community  
organizations, law firms,  
and labor groups.

The HRC has supported  
creative endeavors such  
as the production of  
plays with anti-  
discrimination themes

# ***Other Measures***

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Government's educational role include the organization of provincial anti-racism forums, youth anti-racism forums, anti-racism poster campaigns, training for teachers and school administrators on equity and anti-racism issues, student workshops, and support of theatrical productions with anti-discrimination themes ("Goodbye Marianne - A Dynamic Theatrical Approach to Combating Racism in BC Schools").

## ***(A) Importance of School Education***

1. Incorporate multicultural and anti-racism materials and principles into all education programs.
2. Funding to review curricula and resources for anti-racism components
3. Incorporation of anti-racism resources into the Learning for Living curriculum and the development of a Planning Guide for Multicultural and Anti-Racism Education to assist teachers.

- 4. Funding was provided to the Centre for Curriculum and Professional Development to ensure anti-racism and diversity themes were included in curriculum development.
- 4. The Ministry of Education incorporated multiculturalism and anti-racism themes into all Integrated Resource Packages developed for teachers in the Kindergarten-to-Grade-12 public education system.



## ***(B) Community Education in Canada***

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The annual March 21 Campaign (the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination) underscores Canada's unique approach to combating racism and fostering values of respect, equality and diversity



Initiated in 1989, the Campaign has evolved into a multi-faceted, public education initiative that utilizes social marketing to maximize its outreach, particularly to youth between the ages of 12 and 18.

# ***Use of Movie Theatres***

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**Powerful  
advertisements on  
the theme of racism  
were screened over  
a four-week period,  
reaching  
approximately 1.5  
million Canadians**

**The development  
of advertising for  
movie theatres  
across the  
country.**

# ***Use of Posters***

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**Posters on  
the theme "Understanding is the  
Key to Eliminating Racism--Put  
Yourself in the Other Person's  
Shoes" were mounted in transit  
shelters, subways and shopping  
malls across the country.**

# ***Info and Resource Kits***

- ❖ March 21 information and resource kits are distributed to every school across Canada as well as to a broad range of community organizations
- ❖ It facilitated the holding of regular events aimed at eliminating racism in schools, communities and places of work.

# ***Use of Video Competition***

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1

**The Stop  
Racism  
National Video  
Competition  
was launched**

2

**The government invited  
youth to form teams of  
three to five persons with  
a view to producing a  
short video and  
expressing their ideas on  
how to eliminate racism.**

# ***(3) The Canadian Race Relations Foundation***

- ❖ Established in 1996, it received a one-time endowment of \$24 million from the government.
- ❖ The Foundation has undertaken a number of initiatives across Canada that focus on public education to dispel myths, to oppose stereotypical portrayals, and to present positive images of racial minorities and indigenous peoples.
- ❖ It has established a research program to further the understanding of racism and to identify potential solutions.

# ***Action Plan against Racism***

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1

**5 year  
commitment  
(2001-06),  
spending over  
56 million**

2

**Assist victims and groups,  
combat hate and racism,  
promote diversity,  
educate children and  
youth, strengthen civil  
society, strengthen  
regional and international  
collaboration**

# ***What happens if these community and educational efforts are not made?***

1

**National Reporting:** It is important to report the shortcomings to the CERD when the time comes

2

**NGOs can submit their own shadow reports to the United Nations**

3

**It is important to improve upon both educational and legal means of combating racial discrimination**



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***Thank You!***  
***Comments Welcome***

