

## **Existing and Planned Measures on the Promotion of Racial Equality**

### **Office of the Communications Authority (including Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration)**

The Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA) was established on 1 April 2012, through merging the former Office of the Telecommunications Authority (OFTA) and the relevant divisions of the former Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority. OFCA serves as the executive arm of the Communications Authority (CA) and assists the CA in the enforcement of relevant regulations.

The Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration (OFNAA) is set up on the same date to perform functions in relation to film classification, control of obscene and indecent articles and newspaper registration. OFNAA is responsible for enforcing a system of film classification according to the Film Censorship Ordinance (Cap. 392) through a censorship scheme; controlling the publication of obscene and indecent articles by enforcing the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance (Cap. 390); and registering local newspapers under the Registration of Local Newspapers Ordinance (Cap. 268).

#### **Services Concerned**

- Under the Film Censorship Ordinance (Cap. 392), all films intended for exhibition in Hong Kong shall be submitted to the Film Censorship Authority for approval. The purpose of the film classification system is to give adults the opportunity to see a wide range of films dealing with the realities of the adult world, but at the same time restricts children and youth from viewing what could be harmful to them.

#### **Existing Measures**

- The Film Censorship Ordinance requires the censor to take into consideration, among other things, whether the film denigrates or insults any particular class of the public by reference to the colour, race, religious beliefs or ethnic or national origins or the sex of the members of that class when he decides on the suitability of the film for public exhibition and the appropriate classification to be given to the film. The aforementioned legal principle is also specified in the Film Censorship Guidelines for Censors.

- A censor could refuse to approve a film for public exhibition if he considers that the film has been made with the intention of inciting hatred or denigration on racial differences.
- Assessment of Future Work
- The prevailing ordinance and the relevant film censorship guidelines have been effective in preventing the exhibition of films which incite racial discrimination. The above measures will continue to be strictly enforced.
- Additional Measures Taken/To Be Taken
- For films which feature contents which may cause racial discrimination concerns, depending on the circumstances, special viewing sessions will be considered to be arranged for the relevant racial groups to collect their views before the censor decides on the suitability of the film for exhibition.
  - OFCA will arrange staff members to attend relevant training courses and experience sharing sessions to enhance their awareness of, and sensitivity to racial equality.
  - OFCA will endeavour to offer placement under the Internship Programme for non-ethnic Chinese (NEC) university students to enable young NECs to gain work experience and enhance their competitiveness in job seeking.

For enquiries concerning the above existing and planned measures on the promotion of racial equality, please contact Mr Alden LAM, Executive Assistant (Film) via the following channels -

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