平等機會委員會
EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION

Equal Opportunities Commission

Hong Kong's equal opportunities ordinances prohibit discrimination against a person on the grounds of sex, marital status, pregnancy, disability, family status and race.

What is the EOC?

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) is a statutory body set up in 1996 to implement the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (SDO), the Disability Discrimination Ordinance (DDO), the Family Status Discrimination Ordinance (FSDO) and the Race Discrimination Ordinance (RDO).

Equal opportunities legislation

It is unlawful under the SDO to discriminate against a person on the grounds of sex, marital status or pregnancy in the following areas of activities:

- employment
- education
- provision of goods, services or facilities
- disposal or management of premises
- eligibility to vote for and to be elected or appointed to advisory bodies
- participation in clubs
- activities of the Government

The SDO also protects a person from sexual harassment in the areas of employment, education, provision of goods, services or facilities and disposal or management of premises.

Similarly, under the DDO, it is unlawful to vilify a person with a disability in public, or discriminate or harass a person on the ground of disability in the following areas of activities:

- employment
- education
- provision of goods, services and facilities
- access to premises
- disposal or management of premises
- participation in clubs and sporting activities
- activities of the Government

Under the FSDO, it is unlawful to discriminate a person on the ground of family status. Family status means the status of having a responsibility for the care of an immediate family member. Immediate family member, in relation to a person, means someone who is related to the person concerned by blood, marriage, adoption or affinity. The areas of activities for which a person may lodge a complaint under the FSDO are the same as those under the SDO.

The Race Discrimination Ordinance (RDO) protects people against discrimination, harassment and vilification on the ground of their race.

Race in relation to a person means the race, colour, descent, national or ethnic origin of the person. Under the RDO, it is unlawful to discriminate, harass or vilify a person on the ground of his/her race. The RDO offers protection in the following areas:

- employment
- education
- provision of good, facilities or services
- disposal or management of premises
- eligibility to vote for and to stand for election to public bodies
- participation in clubs

What can the EOC do for you?

If you are unlawfully discriminated against in respect of the above areas of activities because of your sex, marital status, pregnancy, disability, family status or race, you may lodge a complaint with the EOC. The EOC may investigate into the complaint and endeavour, by conciliation, to effect a settlement of the matter. If settlement cannot be reached, you may apply for other forms of assistance, including legal assistance. You may also initiate legal proceedings before the District Court under the four ordinances.

For more information about the Commission and the four ordinances, you may refer to the EOC home page on the internet at http://www.eoc.org.hk, or contact the EOC office:

Equal Opportunities Commission

19/F, Cityplaza Three
14 Taikoo Wan Road, Taikoo Shing, Hong Kong
Tel: 2511-8211

Office hours:

Monday to Friday 8:45 a.m. - 5:45 p.m.

(English version)

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