

# Pushed to the Margins

## Trans people in Hong Kong: health, well-being and legal recognition.

**August 24<sup>th</sup> (Sat.) 2013, 9.30 - 12.30**  
**KB115 (Knowles Building, 1/F, Lecture Room 115)**

The recent Court of Final Appeal decision in the case of 'W' is a watershed moment for the local trans (transgender and transsexual) community. Trans women in Hong Kong now know that, if they undergo what is commonly called 'sex reassignment surgery', they will be recognized as women for the purposes of marriage.

But, as we all know, there is much more to life than marriage. So what are the other challenges facing Hong Kong trans people – in regard to their health, well-being and quality of life? And why is gender recognition (not only in the area of marriage, but in other areas of life too) important for all trans people (trans women and trans men), regardless of whether they have undergone surgery?

This symposium brings together clinicians and trans community members from Hong Kong, as well as researchers from Hong Kong and overseas. Together they throw a spotlight on the experiences of trans people in Hong Kong, and the role that absence of gender recognition can play in undermining health, wellbeing and quality of life, and in reducing opportunities for respect, equality and dignity for trans people.

This symposium is intended to complement a subsequent conference on 'The Legal Status of Transsexual and Transgender Persons' (September 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>), to take place at the Hong Kong University Faculty of Law.

*All are welcome. Contact Sam Winter at [sjwinter@hkfu.hk](mailto:sjwinter@hkfu.hk) or at 9681-6310, if you would like to have further information.*

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### PROGRAMME

**9.30:** Sam Winter, Associate Professor, University of Hong Kong. *Hong Kong after 'W': a watershed moment?*

**9.40:** Kaspar Wan. Project Coordinator, Transgender Resource Center. *Why is gender recognition important to trans people?*

**10.05:** Greg Mak. Specialist in Psychiatry. *The mental health and the wellbeing of trans people: some clinical reflections, and implications for the gender recognition debate.*

**10.30:** Chario Chan. Resident Psychiatrist, Shatin Hospital. *The mental health and wellbeing of trans people: some research, and implications for the gender recognition debate.*

**10.55 to 11.10: break**

**11.10:** Jaime Grant and Jack Harrison-Quintana. Researchers, and Co-authors of the National Transgender Discrimination Study. *Some recent US research findings: the NTDS and what it tells us about the importance of gender recognition.*

**11.45:** Sam Winter. *Trans people in Hong Kong: the way forward.*

**11.55:** Open Q and A and discussion.

### ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

**SAM WINTER** is a researcher, advocate and educator on trans health and rights. Among other roles he is a member of the Board of Directors for The World Professional Association for Transgender Health, and of the WHO Geneva Working Group for Sexual Disorders and Sexual Health.

**KASPAR WAN** is a transgender activist and educator in Hong Kong, and Project Coordinator at Transgender Resource Center, the most active trans community group in Hong Kong. He speaks frequently to students and to the general public on trans health and rights issues.

**GREG MAK** is a specialist psychiatrist, and Associate Consultant at Castle Peak Hospital. He is also an honorary clinical assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry of the University of Hong Kong. He has been working with trans people who have presented with a variety of mental health issues. He has also offered lectures and teaching to medical students of two local universities, and to junior doctors and other health disciplines regarding transgender issues in health care.

**CHARIO CHAN** is a resident psychiatrist at the Shatin Hospital (Hong Kong), working in the Gender Clinic, since 2011 and is currently conducting research on the mental health and wellbeing of trans people.

**JAIME GRANT** is executive director of the Arcus Center for Social Justice Leadership and Kalamazoo College. Previously she was the director of the Policy Institute at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. She is lead author of the report *Injustice at Every Turn: A Report of the National Transgender Discrimination Survey* and a contributing author to *Outing Age 2010: Public Policy Impacting Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Elders*. Jack's other work covers topics ranging from sexual liberation to racial justice and genderqueer-inclusive survey design.

**JACK HARRISON-QUINTANA** is a queer US Latino activist, currently serving as the manager of the Policy Institute at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force in Washington, DC. He is one of the authors of the 2011 report *Injustice at Every Turn: A Report of the National Transgender Discrimination Survey* and a contributing author to *Outing Age 2010: Public Policy Impacting Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Elders*. Jack's other work covers topics ranging from sexual liberation to racial justice and genderqueer-inclusive survey design.

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