A Barrier Free World

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has entered into force for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. As Hong Kong citizens, we all share equal responsibilities to implement the Convention. Through a series of public education and promotion activities, we strongly encourage all Hong Kong citizens to promote and effectively advance the provisions of the Convention together with the Government, in order to create a barrier-free society where persons with disabilities can pursue their goals, dreams, and live freely without discrimination.

A barrier-free world starts with equality for all!

We have the confidence to perform well at work!

At the age of 18, Hong Lam Yu suffered from a medical condition that made her short in stature. However, her disabilities did not stop her from working as an assistant teacher at a local school. With her love and positive attitude, she always gives the best to her students. In 2019, she was selected as one of the “Outstanding Disabled Achievers” by the Labour Department.

The Convention guarantees the right of persons with disabilities to work on an equal basis with others. We should help to build more inclusive employment opportunities and ensure persons with disabilities can participate in the labour market.

I can have the freedom to pursue my dreams!

So What? was born with cerebral palsy, but his enthusiasm for athletics led him to participate in the Hong Kong Paralympics Team in 1994. Since then, he has competed in several Paralympic Games across the world, including the AAPI World Championships. So What? has also been involved in different social events and his story reminds us the importance of “Waterboy”.

Everyone is equal. Persons with disabilities shall have the freedom to pursue their dreams. We should appreciate and admire their abilities and contributions.

I can develop my own interests!

Inclusion is equal. Persons with disabilities shall have the freedom to enjoy their own interests and all aspects of life. The Convention ensures persons with disabilities can freely participate in recreational, cultural and sporting activities and enjoy full access in cultural mediums.

Persons with disabilities are encouraged to express their views, ideas and recommendations without barriers. For example, persons with visual impairments can use Braille music scores to learn music.

We can openly communicate with each other!

The Convention ensures persons with disabilities can enjoy the right to freedom of thought, belief and opinion, including the freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas. For example, sign language, lip-reading and hearing aids can be used to communicate with persons with hearing impairments. By utilizing appropriate aids, everyone can openly communicate with one another without barriers.

I can travel around the world!

To affirm the spirit of the Convention, the Hong Kong Disability Summit has been established to ensure the highest level of interpretation for persons with disabilities to receive professional assistance at public facilities. To enhance the convenience for persons with disabilities, better than facilities are now installed at many service establishments. Various materials, measures and other actions are implemented.

I can go anywhere I want!

We shall take appropriate measures to ensure persons with disabilities are able to use public transport with full access to their physical environment and use the same means of communication as other persons. For example, buses, trams and trains with life-van access for wheelchair users, tactile guide poles and Braille signages are installed for persons with visual impairments. Inclusive toy systems are installed for persons with hearing impairments.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was adopted at the 4th session of the United Nations General Assembly on 13 December 2006. Upon the ratification of the Convention by all 5 Asian states, the Convention entered into force for the People’s Republic of China, including the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region on 24 August 2006. The purposes of the present Convention is to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment by all persons of human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity.

Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may prevent them from fully participating in everyday life on an equal basis with others.

If you would like to know more about the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, please visit the Labour and Welfare Bureau website at www.labours.gov.hk.