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平等機會委員會  
EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION

## LGBTI rights and freedom of religion in Hong Kong and the European Union

**Monday, 28 November 2016, 8:45 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.**

The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Yasumoto International Academic Park, University Station  
with **English** to **Cantonese** interpretation

The **European Union Office to Hong Kong and Macao**, the **Hong Kong Institute of Asia Pacific Studies** and the **German Consulate General to Hong Kong**, with the support of the Hong Kong Equal Opportunities Commission, are delighted to invite you to a conference to discuss legal, education and religious perspectives on the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons in Hong Kong and the European Union.

**Non-discrimination and equality for LGBTI persons** are increasingly addressed in countries around the globe. The European Union, the Council of Europe and the United Nations have all served to further protect their fundamental rights. In Hong Kong the government is yet to introduce comprehensive LGBTI antidiscrimination legislation.

Globally and within Hong Kong, LGBTI persons and some religious groups have encountered challenges in finding common ground. This conference attempts to address the different perspectives and to increase awareness and knowledge of the issues and rights at stake through four panel discussions: 1) a **legal overview** of LGBTI rights in the European Union and Hong Kong, 2) the role of legislators, 3) LGBTI rights in the context of **education** and 4) the perspectives of religious figures. **Hong Kong, German, Irish, Dutch and Taiwanese** LGBTI activists, religious leaders and academics will share their expertise.

Speakers include:

- Michael Barron, campaigner for the legalisation of same-sex marriage in Ireland, director of EQUATE - advocacy for greater equality in Irish school education
- Reverend Grace Bok, the convener of the Hong Kong "Covenant of the Rainbow"
- Chang Hong Cheng, Adjunct Lecturer in Law, National Taiwan University of Science & Technology
- Boris Dittrich, Human Rights Watch's Advocacy Director for LGBT Rights
- Wielie Elhorst, initiator of the declaration of Dutch churches against physical/verbal violence against LGBTI community, author of the book "Coming out Churches"
- Cyd Ho, former Hong Kong Legislative Council member
- Prof. Isolde Karle, Head of Institute for Religion and Society, Ruhr University of Bochum, Germany

Please register by 25 November: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lgbti-rights-and-freedom-of-religion->

[in-hong-kong-and-the-european-union-registration-28941959179](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lgbti-rights-and-freedom-of-religion-in-hong-kong-and-the-european-union-registration-28941959179)

Follow Twitter conversations: #EU4LGBTI and #HKEU4LGBTI

Contact person: Bianca Baumler, Team Leader of the EU Policy and Outreach Partnership, [bbaumler@equinoccio.eu](mailto:bbaumler@equinoccio.eu)

## Draft Programme

8:45am- 9:15am	<b>Registration</b>
9:15am- 9:30am	<b>Opening remarks by partners</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EU Office to Hong Kong and Macao</li> <li>• Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies, The Chinese University of Hong Kong</li> <li>• German General Consulate to Hong Kong</li> <li>• Hong Kong Equal Opportunities Commission</li> </ul>
9:30am- 9:45am	<b>Keynote speech: “Homosexuality and the Church: No discrimination required!”</b> Prof. Isolde Karle, Head of the Institute for Religion and Society at the Ruhr University of Bochum, Germany
9:45am-11:00am	<b>Panel 1: Legal and Social framework</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Jolita Pons, Head of the Political Section, EU Office to Hong Kong and Macao</li> <li>• Peter Reading, Legal Counsel, Hong Kong Equal Opportunities Commission</li> <li>• Prof. Suen Yiu Tung, Associate Director of the Gender Research Centre at the Chinese University of Hong Kong</li> </ul> <p>- Open discussion and questions</p>
11:00am-11:15am	<b>Coffee and networking</b>
11:15am-12:45pm	<b>Panel 2: Moving forward, the role of legislators</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cyd Ho, former Hong Kong Legislative Council member</li> <li>• Boris Dittrich, Advocacy Director for Human Rights Watch’s LGBT Rights Programme</li> <li>• Hong Kong lawmaker tbd</li> </ul> <p>- Open discussion and questions</p>
12:45pm – 2:00pm	<b>Lunch</b>
2:00pm – 3:30pm	<b>Panel 3: Education and LGBTI – creating space for discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Michael Barron, campaigner for the legalisation of same-sex marriage in Ireland, director of EQUATE - advocacy for greater equality in schools</li> <li>• Chang Hong Cheng, Adjunct Lecturer in Law, National Taiwan University of Science and Technology, Taipei</li> <li>• Ryan Lee Chun Yin, Queer Straight Alliance, Hong Kong LGBTI student organisation</li> </ul> <p>- Open discussion and questions</p>
3:30pm – 3:45pm	<b>Coffee and networking</b>
3:45pm – 5:15pm	<b>Panel 4: Religious perspective, embracing diversity</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wielie Elhorst, initiator of the declaration of Dutch churches against physical/verbal violence against LGBTI community, author of the book “Coming out Churches”</li> <li>• Prof. Isolde Karle, Head of the Institute for Religion and Society at the Ruhr University of Bochum, Germany</li> <li>• Reverend Grace Bok, the convener of the Hong Kong “Covenant of the Rainbow”</li> </ul> <p>- Open discussion and questions</p>
5:15pm – 5:30pm	<b>Panel 5: Closing remarks and lessons to be learned</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chairperson of the Equal Opportunities Commission</li> <li>• Head of EU Office to Hong Kong and Macao</li> <li>• Director of the Gender Research Centre, Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies, The Chinese University of Hong Kong</li> </ul>