

**Public Opinion Programme  
The University of Hong Kong**

**Hon Cyd Ho Sau-lan, Legislative Councillor**

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***Survey on Hong Kong Public's  
Attitudes Towards Rights of People  
of Different Sexual Orientations  
2013***

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**Research Report**

**Compiled by**

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### **Contact Information**

Date of survey	: 18 to 19 October 2013
Survey method	: Telephone survey conducted by telephone interviewers
Target population	: Hong Kong residents aged 18 or above who speak Cantonese
Sampling method	: Telephone numbers were selected randomly from residential telephone directories and mixed with additional numbers generated by the computer. If more than one subject had been available, the one who had his/her birthday next was selected.
Sample size	: 505 successful cases
Overall response rate	: 68.5%
Standard error	: Less than 2.2% (at 95% confidence level, the maximum sampling error of all percentages should be no more than +/-4.4 percentage points)

**Part I. Overall contact information and response rate**Table 1 *Contact information*

	Frequency	Percentage
<b>Respondents' ineligibility confirmed</b>	<b>1,435</b>	<b>26.0%</b>
<i>Fax/ data line</i>	113	2.0%
<i>Invalid number</i>	1,153	20.9%
<i>Call-forwarding/ mobile/ pager number</i>	11	0.2%
<i>Non-residential number</i>	136	2.5%
<i>Special technological difficulties</i>	11	0.2%
<i>No eligible respondents</i>	11	0.2%
<b>Respondents' eligibility not confirmed</b>	<b>1,982</b>	<b>35.9%</b>
<i>Line busy</i>	133	2.4%
<i>No answer</i>	1,459	26.4%
<i>Answering device</i>	88	1.6%
<i>Call-blocking</i>	9	0.2%
<i>Language problem</i>	71	1.3%
<i>Interview terminated before the screening question</i>	222	4.0%
<i>Others</i>	0	0.0%
<b>Respondents' eligibility confirmed, but failed to complete the interview</b>	<b>1,596</b>	<b>28.9%</b>
<i>Household-level refusal</i>	0	0.0%
<i>Known respondent refusal</i>	1	<0.1%
<i>Appointment date beyond the end of the fieldwork period</i>	1,584	28.7%
<i>Partial interview</i>	9	0.2%
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	2	<0.1%
<b>Successful cases</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>9.2%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,518</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Table 2 *Calculation of overall response rate*

Overall response rate
= $\frac{\text{Successful cases}}{\text{Successful cases} + \text{Incomplete cases}^* + \text{Refusal cases by eligible respondents}^{\wedge}}$
= $\frac{505}{505 + 231 + 1}$
= 68.5%

\* Including "partial interview" and "Interview terminated before the screening question"

^ Including "household-level refusal" and "known respondent refusal"

## Part II. **Research Background**

- 2.1 In October 2012, Hon Cyd Ho Sau-lan, Legislative Councillor commissioned the Public Opinion Programme (POP) at the University of Hong Kong to conduct the “Survey on Hong Kong Public’s Attitudes Towards Rights of People of Different Sexual Orientations” aiming to understand citizens’ attitudes towards the rights of people of different sexual orientations and related opinions. In October 2013, Hon Cyd Ho Sau-lan commissioned POP again to conduct this “Survey on Hong Kong Public’s Attitudes Towards Rights of People of Different Sexual Orientations 2013” which targeted at Hong Kong residents aged 18 or above who speak Cantonese. The survey was specifically designed to track and understand citizens’ attitudes towards the rights of people of different sexual orientations and related opinions, and to compare the results with that of the previous survey.
- 2.2 The survey questionnaire was designed independently by POP after consulting Hon Cyd Ho Sau-lan, all fieldwork operations, data collection and analysis were also carried out independently by POP, and POP would take full responsibility for all the findings reported herewith. The survey methodology and results are open to the public.

## Part III. **Research Design**

- 3.1 This was a random telephone survey conducted by interviewers under close supervision. To minimize sampling bias, telephone numbers were first drawn randomly from the residential telephone directories as “seed numbers”, from which another set of numbers was generated by computer, in order to capture the unlisted numbers. Duplicated numbers were then filtered, and the remaining numbers were mixed in random order to produce the final telephone sample.
- 3.2 All data were collected by our interviewers using a Computer Assisted Telephone Interview (CATI) system which allowed real-time data capture and consolidation. To ensure data quality, on top of on-site supervision, voice recording, screen capturing and camera surveillance were used to monitor the interviewers’ performance.
- 3.3 The target population of this survey was **Hong Kong residents aged 18 or above who spoke Cantonese**. When telephone contact was successfully established with a target household, one person of age 18 or above who spoke Cantonese was selected. If more than one subject had been available, selection was made using the “next birthday rule” which selected the person who had his/her birthday next.

- 3.4 Telephone interviews were conducted during the period of **18 to 19 October 2013**. A total of **505** eligible Hong Kong residents were successfully interviewed. As shown from the calculation in Appendix 1, the overall response rate of this survey was **68.5%** (Table 2), and the standard sampling error for percentages based on this sample was less than 2.2 percentage points. In other words, the sampling error for all percentages using the total sample was less than plus/minus 4.4 percentage points at 95% confidence level.
- 3.5 To ensure representativeness of the findings, the raw data collected have been weighted according to provisional figures obtained from the Census and Statistics Department regarding the gender-age distribution of the Hong Kong population in 2013 mid-year. All figures in this report are based on the weighted sample.
- 3.6 Statistical tests of “difference-of-proportions” and “difference-of-means” have been employed whenever applicable, in order to check for significant changes over time. Figures marked with double asterisks (\*\*) indicated that the variation has been tested to be statistically significant at  $p < 0.01$  level, whereas those with single asterisk (\*) denoted statistical significance at  $p < 0.05$  level. However, readers please note that whether numerical differences are statistically significant or not is not the same as whether they are practically useful or meaningful.

## Part IV. Survey findings

Table 3 [Q1(i)] As far as you know, is there any existing ordinance in Hong Kong protecting *individuals of different sex* from being discriminated against?

	<b>2012</b>		<b>2013</b>	
	Frequency	Percentage (Base=503)	Frequency	Percentage (Base=505)
<b>Yes</b>	337	<b>67.0%</b>	314	<b>62.1%</b>
No	93	18.5%	110	21.8%
Don't know / hard to say	73	14.5%	81	16.1%
Total	503	100.0%	505	100.0%

Table 4 [Q1(ii)] As far as you know, is there any existing ordinance in Hong Kong protecting *disabled individuals* from being discriminated against?

	<b>2012</b>		<b>2013</b>	
	Frequency	Percentage (Base=503)	Frequency	Percentage (Base=505)
<b>Yes</b>	398	<b>79.1%</b>	400	<b>79.2%</b>
No	63	12.5%	61	12.2%
Don't know / hard to say	42	8.4%	44	8.6%
Total	503	100.0%	505	100.0%

Table 5 [Q1(iii)] As far as you know, is there any existing ordinance in Hong Kong protecting *individuals of different races* from being discriminated against?

	<b>2012</b>		<b>2013</b>	
	Frequency	Percentage (Base=503)	Frequency	Percentage (Base=505)
<b>Yes</b>	365	<b>72.5%</b>	349	<b>69.0%</b>
No	86	17.1%	91	18.1%
Don't know / hard to say	53	10.4%	65	12.9%
Total	503	100.0%	505	100.0%

Table 6 [Q1(iv)] As far as you know, is there any existing ordinance in Hong Kong protecting *working individuals from being discriminated against because of family status*?

	<u>2012</u>		<u>2013</u>	
	Frequency	Percentage (Base=503)	Frequency	Percentage (Base=504)
<b>Yes</b>	249	<b>49.4%</b>	239	<b>47.4%</b>
No	153	30.4%	156	31.0%
Don't know / hard to say	102	20.2%	109	21.6%
Total	503	100.0%	504	100.0%
<i>Missing</i>	--		<i>1</i>	

Table 7 [Q1(v)] As far as you know, is there any existing ordinance in Hong Kong protecting individuals of *different of sexual orientations* from being discriminated against?

	<u>2012</u>		<u>2013</u>	
	Frequency	Percentage (Base=632)	Frequency	Percentage (Base=505)
Yes	199	31.6%	121	24.0% **
<b>No</b>	297	<b>47.0%</b>	264	<b>52.2%</b>
Don't know / hard to say	135	21.4%	120	23.8%
Total	632	100.0%	505	100.0%

Table 8 [Q2] Do you think Hong Kong people in general discriminate against individuals of different sexual orientations? If yes, to what extent is the discrimination?

	<u>2012</u>		<u>2013</u>	
	Frequency	Percentage (Base=632)	Frequency	Percentage (Base=505)
A large extent)	60)	9.5%)	52)	10.3%)
A certain extent) <b>Discri -</b>	158) 479	25.1%) <b>75.8%</b>	111) 399	22.0%) <b>79.0%</b>
<b>A small extent) mination</b>	261)	<b>41.2%)</b>	236)	<b>46.8%)</b>
No discrimination at all	105	16.5%	60	11.9%*
Don't know / hard to say	49	7.7%	46	9.1%
Total	632	100.0%	505	100.0%

Table 9 [Q3] Do you think you discriminate against individuals of different sexual orientations? If yes, to what extent is the discrimination?

	<u>2012</u>		<u>2013</u>	
	Frequency	Percentage (Base=628)	Frequency	Percentage (Base=503)
A large extent)	23)	3.7%)	18)	3.7%)
Certain extent) <b>Discri -</b>	25) 169	4.0%) <b>26.9%</b>	16) 150	3.1%) <b>29.8%</b>
<b>A small extent) mination</b>	121)	<b>19.2%)</b>	116)	<b>23.0%)</b>
No discrimination at all	449	71.5%	340	67.5%
Don't know / hard to say	10	1.6%	13	2.6%
Total	628	100.0%	503	100.0%
<i>Missing</i>	--		2	

Table 10 [Q4] Whether or not there is currently such an ordinance, do you think there should be a legislation in Hong Kong to protect individuals with different sexual orientations from being discriminated against? (Interviewer probe intensity)

	<u>2012</u>		<u>2013</u>	
	Frequency	Percentage (Base=519)	Frequency	Percentage (Base=503)
Very much should	114	22.0%	111	22.1%
Somewhat should <b>) Yes</b>	217 ) 331	<b>41.8%</b> <b>)63.8%</b>	220 ) 331	<b>43.8%</b> <b>)65.8%</b>
Half-half	59	11.4%	36	7.1%*
Somewhat should not	39	7.5%	50	9.9%
Totally should not <b>) No</b>	36 ) 75	6.9% ) 14.4%	39 ) 89	7.8% ) 17.7%
Don't know / hard to say	54	10.4%	47	9.4%
Total	519	100.0%	503	100.0%
<i>Missing</i>	--		2	
Mean^	3.7		3.7	
Standard error	0.05		0.06	
Base	465		456	

^ The mean value is calculated by quantifying all individual responses into 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 marks according to their degree of positive level, where 1 is the lowest and 5 the highest, and then calculate the sample mean.



Table 11 [Q5] To what extent do you support or oppose to the legislation of same sex marriage or registered partnerships? (Interviewer probe intensity)

	<u>2012</u>		<u>2013</u>	
	Frequency	Percentage (Base=641)	Frequency	Percentage (Base=502)
Very much support )	67	10.5%	41	8.3%
<b>Somewhat support</b> Support	143	22.3%	125	<b>25.0%</b>
Half-half	119	18.5%	69	13.8%*
Somewhat oppose )	101	15.8%	120	24.0%**
<b>Very much oppose</b> <b>Oppose</b>	148	<b>23.1%</b>	96	<b>19.1%</b>
Don't know / hard to say	63	9.8%	50	9.9%
Total	641	100.0%	502	100.0%
Missing	--		3	
Mean^	2.8		2.8	
Standard error	0.06		0.06	
Base	578		452	

^ The mean value is calculated by quantifying all individual responses into 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 marks according to their degree of positive level, where 1 is the lowest and 5 the highest, and then calculate the sample mean.

**Part V. Demographics**

Table 12 Gender

	<b><u>2012</u><sup>[1]</sup></b>				<b><u>2013</u></b>			
	<b><u>Raw Sample</u></b>		<b><u>Weighted Sample</u></b>		<b><u>Raw Sample</u></b>		<b><u>Weighted Sample</u></b>	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Male	395	38.6%	466	45.6%	222	44.0%	230	45.5%
Female	627	61.4%	556	54.4%	283	56.0%	275	54.5%
Total	1,022	100.0%	1,022	100.0%	505	100.0%	505	100.0%

Table 13 Age

	<b><u>2012</u><sup>[1]</sup></b>				<b><u>2013</u></b>			
	<b><u>Raw Sample</u></b>		<b><u>Weighted Sample</u></b>		<b><u>Raw Sample</u></b>		<b><u>Weighted Sample</u></b>	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
18 – 19	36	3.6%	28	2.8%	17	3.4%	14	2.7%
20 – 29	133	13.1%	162	16.0%	63	12.7%	78	15.6%
30 – 39	103	10.2%	188	18.6%	37	7.4%	92	18.5%
40 – 49	174	17.2%	202	20.0%	82	16.5%	96	19.3%
50 – 59	253	25.0%	197	19.5%	113	22.7%	99	19.9%
60 – 69	191	18.9%	115	11.4%	104	20.9%	60	12.0%
70 or above	122	12.1%	120	11.8%	82	16.5%	59	11.9%
Total	1,012	100.0%	1,012	100.0%	498	100.0%	498	100.0%
Missing	10		10		7		7	

[1] Due to technical problems, the 2012 survey had interviewed a total of 1,022 Hong Kong citizens in two phases and the sub sample for each question was from 503 to 641.

Table 14 Education Attainment

	<u>2012<sup>[1]</sup></u>				<u>2013</u>			
	<u>Raw Sample</u>		<u>Weighted Sample</u>		<u>Raw Sample</u>		<u>Weighted Sample</u>	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Primary or below	201	19.7%	157	15.4%	83	16.5%	60	11.8%
Secondary	487	47.8%	462	45.3%	243	48.2%	233	46.2%
Postgraduate or above	330	32.4%	400	39.3%	178	35.3%	212	42.0%
Total	1,018	100.0%	1,018	100.0%	504	100.0%	504	100.0%
<i>Missing</i>	<i>4</i>		<i>4</i>		<i>1</i>		<i>1</i>	

Table 15 Occupation

	<u>2012<sup>[1]</sup></u>				<u>2013</u>			
	<u>Raw Sample</u>		<u>Weighted Sample</u>		<u>Raw Sample</u>		<u>Weighted Sample</u>	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Professionals and semi-professionals	211	21.0%	269	26.8%	91	18.2%	116	23.1%
Clerk and service workers	184	18.3%	200	20.0%	92	18.4%	121	24.2%
Production workers	73	7.3%	78	7.8%	31	6.2%	33	6.5%
Students	70	7.0%	72	7.2%	29	5.8%	29	5.8%
Housewives	205	20.4%	161	16.1%	82	16.4%	77	15.4%
Others	263	26.1%	223	22.2%	176	35.1%	125	25.0%
Total	1,006	100.0%	1,002	100.0%	501	100.0%	501	100.0%
<i>Missing</i>	<i>16</i>		<i>20</i>		<i>4</i>		<i>4</i>	

[1] Due to technical problems, the 2012 survey had interviewed a total of 1,022 Hong Kong citizens in two phases and the sub sample sizes for the questions ranged from 503 to 641.

# Appendix

# Questionnaire

**Public Opinion Programme  
The University of Hong Kong**

**Hon Cyd Ho Sau-lan, Legislative Councillor**

Jointly conduct

***Survey on Hong Kong Public's Attitudes  
Towards Rights of People of Different  
Sexual Orientations 2013***

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**Questionnaire (Final)**

16 October 2013

## Part I Introduction

Hello, my name is X. I'm an interviewer from the Public Opinion Programme of the University of Hong Kong. We would like to ask for your opinion on equal rights which would only take you a few minutes, and you can choose to terminate the interview any time. Please rest assured that your phone number is randomly selected by our computer and your information provided will be kept strictly confidential and used for aggregate analysis only. If you have any questions about the research, you can call xxxx-xxxx to talk to our supervisor. If you want to know more about the rights as a participant, please contact the University of Hong Kong (full name: Human Research Ethics Committee for Non-Clinical Faculties of the University of Hong Kong) at xxxx-xxxx during office hours. For quality control purpose, our conversation may be recorded but will be destroyed shortly after our quality control process is complete. Is it okay for us to start this survey?

[S1] Is the telephone number here xxxx-xxxx?

Yes

No (skip to end)

## Part II Selection of Respondents

[S2] Are there any **Hong Kong residents aged 18 or above** in your household? (If no one is eligible, interview ends: thank you for your cooperation, bye-bye)

Yes → Interview begins [If the qualified family member is not at home, interviewer please arrange another time for interview]

Yes, more than one, \_\_\_\_\_ (exact number) → S3

No → Interview ends, thank you for your cooperation, bye-bye.

Refuse to answer → Interview ends, thank you for your cooperation, bye-bye.

[S3] Since there is more than one available, we hope that all qualified family members have the equal chance to be interviewed, I would like to speak to the one who will have his / her birthday next. (Interviewer can ask: "is there anyone whose birthday is in October/November or the coming three months?") Is it okay for us to start now?

Yes - The one answered the phone is the respondent → Start the interview

Yes - Another family member is the respondent 【 interviewer please repeat the self-introduction】 → Start the interview

The qualified family member is not at home / not available 【 interviewer please arrange another time for interview】

No - Family member refuses to answer → Interview ends, thank you for your cooperation, bye-bye.

No - Respondent refuses to answer → Interview ends, thank you for your cooperation, bye-bye.

## Part III Opinion Questions

[Q1] As far as you know, is there any existing ordinance in Hong Kong ... (Interviewers read out options i-v, order to be randomized by the computer)

	Yes	No	Don't know / hard to say	Refuse to answer
i. protecting individuals of different sex from being discriminated against				
ii. protecting disabled individuals from being discriminated against				
iii. protecting individuals of different races from being discriminated against				
iv. protecting working individuals from being discriminated against because of family status				
v. protecting individuals of different of sexual orientations from being discriminated against				

[Q2] Do you think Hong Kong people in general discriminate against individuals of different sexual orientations? If yes, to what extent is the discrimination?

Yes, a large extent

Yes, a certain extent

Yes, a small extent

No discrimination at all

Don't know / hard to say

Refuse to answer

[Q3] Do you think you discriminate against individuals of different sexual orientations? If yes, to what extent is the discrimination?

Yes, a large extent

Yes, a certain extent

Yes, a small extent

No discrimination at all

Don't know / hard to say

Refuse to answer

[Q4] Whether or not there is currently such an ordinance, do you think there should be a legislation in Hong Kong to protect individuals with different sexual orientations from being discriminated against? (Interviewer probe intensity)

Very much should

Somewhat should

Half-half

Somewhat should not

Totally should not

Don't Know / hard to say

Refuse to answer

[Q5] To what extent do you support or oppose to the legislation of same sex marriage or registered partnerships? (Interviewer probe intensity)

Very much support

Somewhat support

Half-half

Quite oppose

Somewhat oppose

Don't know / hard to say

Refuse to answer



## Part IV Demographics

We would like to ask you some personal information for aggregate analyses. Please rest assured that your information provided will be kept strictly confidential.

[DM1] Gender

Male  
Female

[DM2a] Age

\_\_\_\_\_ (Exact age)  
Refuse to answer

[DM2b] 【For those who do not want to tell their exact age】 Age interval (Interviewer can read out the intervals)

18 – 19  
20 – 29  
30 – 39  
40 – 49  
50 – 59  
60 – 69  
70 or above  
Refuse to answer

[DM3] Education Attainment

Primary or below  
Secondary  
Matriculation  
Tertiary, non-degree  
Tertiary, degree  
Postgraduate or above  
Refuse to answer

[DM4] Occupation

Managers / administration staff  
Professional  
Associate professional  
Clerk  
Service worker and Shop & market sales worker  
Skilled agricultural & fishery worker

Craft & related trade worker  
Plant & machine operator / assembler  
Unskilled worker  
Students  
Homemakers  
Retired  
Unclassified  
Others (Unemployed and non-workers included)  
Refuse to answer

*Thank you for your time. If you have any questions regarding this interview, you can call xxxx-xxxx to talk to our supervisor, or the Human Research Ethics Committee for Non-Clinical Faculties of the University of Hong Kong at xxxx-xxxx during office hours to verify this interview's authenticity and confirm my identity. Good-bye!*