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協助少數族裔人士使用法律援助服務 Enhancing Ethnic Minorities' Access to Legal Aid Services

在香港,任何人不論種族或居留身分,只要通過 經濟審查及案情審查便可獲批法律援助(法援)。 為確保少數族裔人士有平等機會使用法律援助署 提供的法援服務,本署已制定多項有效措施,方 便少數族裔人士申請法援服務。

向少數族裔人士提供的協助

1. 在申請階段提供免費傳譯服務

本署向不懂中英文的申請人提供免費傳譯服務, 以協助他們辦理法援申請手續。

2. 在法律援助上訴聆訊時提供免費傳譯服務

未能通過經濟審查及/或案情審查的申請人,有 權向高等法院司法常務官上訴。如申請人表示擬 提出上訴,但不懂中英文,本署除會協助申請人 提交上訴通知書及定出聆訊日期外,亦會通知司 法機構安排傳譯人員於法援上訴聆訊時為申請人 提供免費傳譯服務。

3. 法律援助證書涵蓋傳譯服務

如少數族裔人士獲批法援以提出訴訟或抗辯,外 委律師為妥善進行訴訟而支付的合理傳譯及翻譯 服務費用,會列入訴訟開支,由本署墊支,以令 訴訟順利進行。

4. 提高少數族裔對法援服務的認識

a. 以10種少數族裔語言印製的法援服務小冊子

為提高少數族裔對可獲得的法援服務的認識,本 署以10種少數族裔語言,包括孟加拉語、印度 語、印尼語、尼泊爾語、菲律賓語、旁遮普語、 In Hong Kong, legal aid is available to all eligible persons who satisfy the means and merits tests regardless of their race or residency. To ensure ethnic minorities to have equal access to the legal aid services provided by the Legal Aid Department, the Department has in place various effective measures to facilitate ethnic minority applicants to gain access to the legal aid services.

Assistance to Ethnic Minorities

1. Free Interpretation Service at Application Stage

The Department provides free interpretation service for applicants who do not speak English or Chinese to help them with the legal aid application process.

2. Free Interpretation Service at Legal Aid Appeal Hearings

For applicants who fail to pass the means and/or merits tests, they have a right of appeal to the Registrar of the High Court. If an applicant who does not speak English or Cantonese indicates his/her intention to appeal, apart from assisting the applicant in filing a notice of appeal and fixing a hearing date, the Department will also notify the Judiciary to arrange the service of an interpreter at the legal aid appeal hearing for the applicant free of charge.



泰米爾語、泰語、巴基斯坦語及越南語,印製了 一系列有關法援服務的小冊子。本署除在各辦事 處放置上述小冊子以供取閱外,亦將小冊子上 載至本署網站,讓市民可快捷容易地瀏覽。為作 進一步宣傳,本署亦把有關小冊子派發予經常為 少數族裔人士提供協助或服務的各個機構,包括 有關領事館、司法機構無律師代表訴訟人資源中 心、無律師代表訴訟人民事程序法律諮詢計劃 (程序諮詢計劃)辦事處、警署、公立醫院、民政 事務總署諮詢服務中心、勞工處、懲教署和社會 福利署。



b. 以10種少數族裔語言印製的海報

本署已在各辦事處等候區的當眼位置張貼載有上 述10種少數族裔語言的海報,以進一步提醒法 援申請人,少數族裔人士在申請過程中可獲取免 費傳譯服務。

c. 與非政府機構合作教育學生

本署持續透過探訪學校及非政府機構與學生接 觸。二〇一五年九月,本署探訪地利亞修女紀念 學校(協和),與少數族裔學生會面,並向他們介 紹本署的服務。此外,在二〇一六年六月及十二

月,以及二〇一七年十一月,本署與 明愛青少年及社區服務 "多元文化夢 飛翔計劃"的成長嚮導同盟合作,安 排來自11所中學共6組非華語學生參 觀本署。參觀活動包括在高等法院旁 聽案件審訊,介紹法律援助律師及律 政書記的日常工作,以及安排問答遊 戲,讓非華語學生更深入認識本署的 服務及運作。本署更獲教育局與明愛 青少年及社區服務處頒發 "2016/17

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3. Legal Aid Certificates cover Interpretation Service

When legal aid is granted to persons of ethnic minority origins to institute or defend court proceedings, the Department will pay in advance the interpretation and translation expenses reasonably incurred by the assigned lawyers for the proper conduct of the case as litigation expenses to facilitate smooth conduct of the proceedings.

4. Raising Ethnic Minorities' Awareness of Legal Aid Services Available

a. Leaflets on Legal Aid Services in 10 Ethnic Minority Languages

To raise the awareness of legal aid services available to the ethnic minorities, the Department has published a series of leaflets on legal aid in 10 ethnic minority languages including Bengali, Hindi, Indonesian, Nepali, Tagalog, Punjabi, Tamil, Thai, Urdu and Vietnamese. In addition to making them available at all the Department's offices, these leaflets have also been uploaded to the Department's website to enable guick and easy access by the public. To further promote publicity, these leaflets were also distributed to various organizations from which the ethnic minorities frequently seek assistance or services, including relevant consulate offices, the Judiciary's Resource Centre for Unrepresented Litigants, Office of Legal Advice Scheme for Unrepresented Litigants on Civil Procedures (Procedural Advice Scheme), police stations, public hospitals, public enquiries service centres of the Home Affairs Department, premises of the Labour Department, the Correctional Services Department and the Social Welfare Department.

b. Poster in 10 Ethnic Minority Languages

A poster in the abovementioned 10 ethnic minority languages has been posted conspicuously in the waiting area of the Department's office premises to further alert legal aid applicants about the free interpretation service available to ethnic minorities during the application process.

c. Education through Collaboration with Non-Government Organisations (NGOs)

As an on-going effort, the Department reaches out to the community through visiting schools and NGOs. Following a visit to Delia Memorial School (Hip Wo) in September 2015 to meet ethnic minority students and briefed them on the Department's services, in June and December 2016 and November 2017, the Department in collaboration with the Caritas Youth & Community Service's Mentorship Alliance of "Multicultural

Dream Pursuit Project", arranged a total of six groups of non-Chinese speaking (NCS) students from 11 secondary schools to visit the Department. The visits comprised a case hearing at the High Court, a briefing on the daily work of Legal Aid Counsel and Law Clerk as well as a quiz game through which NCS students would have a more in-depth understanding about the Department's services and operation. In recognition of the Department's excellent work and commitment in providing career-related talks for the NCS students, the Department was awarded the "Outstanding 及2017/18年度傑出成長嚮導同盟大獎",以 表揚本署致力為非華語學生舉辦就業講座,成績 卓越。

d. 持續提升服務

為持續改善服務,本署定期收集並考慮受助人的 意見,包括少數族裔人士的意見。此外,本署安 排人員出席有關《種族歧視條例》的講座以及個 案分享工作坊,以加深他們對少數族裔需要的認 識,以及對《種族歧視條例》的了解。 Mentorship Alliance Award 2016/17 & 2017/18" by both Education Bureau and the Caritas Youth & Community Service.

d. Continuous Enhancement of Service

For continuous improvement of the services, the Department regularly collects and considers feedback from aided persons including those of ethnic minority origins. Besides, the Department has arranged staff to attend talks on the Race Discrimination Ordinance (RDO) and cases sharing workshops to increase their awareness of ethnic minorities' needs and to enhance staff's understanding of RDO.

